

John Brown Elementary's Parent and Family Engagement Plan, 2019-20

9/4/19

Information about our programs

The John Brown Elementary Title I Committee and the principal review the district policy for Title I Parent Involvement and our school's implementation of Title I requirements annually during our parent advisory meetings which take place monthly with our Parent and Teachers United (PTU) group. In addition, we share our JBE Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Calendar and JBE Title I Compact, eliciting and incorporating feedback from parents. The compact lists the responsibilities of the student, parent/caregiver and classroom teacher/school and can be found within our JBE Student Handbook on our school website.

Information pertaining to parent and family involvement at JBE is shared and feedback is elicited during each of our Parent Teachers United (PTU) meetings. All parents of JBE students are invited to attend these monthly meetings. Together the PTU and staff members plan family and community involvement activities, review student achievement data, and provide feedback about school policies, etc.

Annually the staff at JBE provides the opportunity for parents to learn about Title I and what it means for them as a parent and for their child. The parents' right to be involved in the school and in their child's education is reviewed. This is done at our Back to School and Family Nights in the fall and continuously through school and classroom level communication throughout the year.

JBE has a Family Night/Community Fair in which families are invited to visit classrooms and participate in a variety of activities. A "Community Fair" is held in the gym in which numerous organizations take part, providing families with information and resources. The Rathdrum Public Library, I-Care, Heritage Health, Headstart and the United Way are just some of the participants. JBE invites families to participate in a Kindergarten Coffee, Grandparents Day Lunch and Family Reading Time throughout the school year.

In addition, JBE families are invited to participate in our district's Lakeland Literacy Project which works to increase literacy skills of the adults in our community in order to promote self-efficacy and foster the achievement and success of our students. The Project also offers Digital Literacy courses for adults and opportunities for parents to learn how to read with their children. A reading program is offered for preschool aged children within the school district as well.

Frequent reports to parents on their child's progress

Opportunities for explanation of their child's curriculum, student progress measures, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet within the classroom and on state assessments are provided to parents. They are given information about their child's progress during parent teacher conferences, student led conferences and during other informal conferences throughout the school year. In addition to quarterly report cards, parents are given reports showing how their child has performed on state assessments. The process for accessing grades online is clearly explained to parents.

Shared responsibilities for high student academic achievement

JBE keeps at the forefront, the responsibility we have to partner with our families to help ensure the most success for each of our students. All staff in our Schoolwide Title I school are expected to engage parents and make them feel welcome in our school community. All ideas for involving our parents are encouraged and explored. We welcome parent and grandparent volunteers in our school and provide "Volunteer Trainings" at least twice a year.

Materials and trainings to help parents work with their child

JBE provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement and growth during the school year. Staff demonstrate a willingness to work with parents to partner in their child's education. Classroom teachers explain ways in which parents can support learning in the home through classroom newsletters and through conferencing. Parent resources are included in monthly school newsletters posted on our school website to encourage the development of parent/child work at home. Use of technology at home to enhance learning and help with homework expectations is encouraged and supported.

Importance of communication between teachers and parents

The school ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a timely manner and in a format, and to the extent possible, in a language the parents can understand, and provide reasonable alternative formats as requested. Many teachers at JBE include daily communication strategies for parents who request it or for students who benefit from this kind of involvement. Our kindergarten teachers are strong, first partners to our families. Beyond making themselves available at all times, they take their students out to meet parents who pick up their children and are available for conversation daily. Our special educators send daily notes home to parents and most staff offer communication through a Homework Folder or Agenda. Our PTU purchases these folders and agendas for us annually through their funds, because the feedback about their usefulness is so strong.