Welcome to GRACE HILL ELEMENTARY

Home of the Huskies



PARENT INFORMATION PACKET

2025-2026

GRACE HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 901 N. DIXIELAND ROAD ROGERS AR 72756

Phone: 479/631-3670 Fax: 479/202-9089

Christina Meister
Principal
Christina.Meister@rpsar.net

Miguel Flores
Assistant Principal
Miguel.Flores@rpsar.net

Grace Hill Huskies Lead the Way!

Our Mission

Grace Hill Elementary School is a student-centered learning community where collaborative teamwork is utilized to achieve academic excellence and life-long learning.

Our Values

Students Come First
Relationships Matter
Safe and Supportive Environment
Collaboration is Key
High Expectations and Learning for All

Our Vision

To be a collaborative community of life-long learners and independent thinkers that strives beyond academic excellence and contributes to our society, our world, and our future.

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

As principal, I want to work with you in making this year your child's best year ever! Please call me whenever I can assist you. If you ever have a concern, <u>please</u> begin by contacting your child's teacher to discuss the concern and develop a solution. If I am needed after that discussion, I will certainly do my best to help!

Please read over the following carefully. A folder will come home with your child every Tuesday. Parents are asked to look over the contents of the folder for important notifications and information. Please, return the folder to school the next day and include anything that needs to be signed, as well as signing the sheet attached to the folder indicating that you have reviewed the contents of the folder. This folder will serve as our home-school communication tool.

The teachers and I want to become partners with you in educating your child.

We are a Title 1 School. Title 1 is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools and the goal is to provide a high quality education for *every* child. Therefore, this program provides extra help for the children who need it most.

The building opens at 7:15 A.M. Breakfast in the Classroom begins at 7:30 A.M. Students are tardy after 7:45 A.M.

Dismissal begins at 2:45 P.M. - Car-riders picked up by 3:05 P.M. Office closes at 3:30 P.M.

Elementary full price student lunches are \$2.45. We encourage all parents to complete a Free/Reduced Meal Application and turn it in to the office or café. Parents are invited to come and have lunch with your student anytime! Adult lunches cost a couple of dollars more but they are still a great deal!

We ask that you not send carbonated beverages with your child!

Important Information and Procedures:

- ➤ Please come into the office when you visit school to sign our visitor/volunteer book and get a "pass-sticker" this is a safety precaution
- Parents may call before 9 A.M. for make-up work when their child has been absent for more than one day. The work will be available in the office after 2:15 P.M.
- > Children are not to bring gum, toys, pets, radios, knives, or any other personal items to school.
- > Parents need to bring medications in to the nurse in the prescription bottle and complete our Medication Form. No other medications can be given to students.
- > Parent Notes or Doctor's Notes are required when children are absent or are to go home a different way than usual.
- Nutritious foods are mandated when snacks are allowed. A list of recommended foods is available upon request. Please remember these mandates when bringing treats for special occasions.
- > Students' clothing should be comfortable and appropriate. Shorts and skirts must be at least "finger-tip" length. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, and bare midriffs are not allowed. We ask that clothing not refer to alcohol, cigarettes, or vulgarity.

- ➤ Grace Hill Elementary has a ZERO TOLERANCE for violent/aggressive behavior. All students involved will have consequences according to district policy.
- > Attendance is important! If a student misses more than ten days of school in one semester, he/she may be retained.
- Achievement Tests and State Assessments are given in March, April, and May. PLEASE do not plan any trips or appointments that will cause your child to miss school.

We look forward to a GREAT school year!

Mrs. Meister, Principal

The Rogers Public School District does not discriminate in its policies and programs on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, handicap, national origin, or ancestry. Inquiries concerning the application of Title X or Title VI may be referred to the Equity Coordinator at 500 W. Walnut, 479/636-3910.

Grace Hill Elementary School Engagement Plan 25-26

1: Jointly Developed

Grace Hill Elementary recognizes the necessity and value of a strong home/school connection. Families, administrators, teachers, and support staff must work together as a team to support high standards for all students. Our Parent Involvement Plan is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The plan is developed in collaboration with staff, parents, and community members.

In order to allow all parents including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children the full opportunity to participate in their child's education, Grace Hill will:

- to the extent possible-provide information in a language and format that parents understand
- provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as:
 - o state's academic content standards
 - o state academic achievement standards
 - o requirements of Title I
 - o how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
 - o how to monitor their child's progress
- provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement
- · educate staff
 - o value the importance of parent contributions
 - o ways in which to communicate more effectively with parents
 - o how to build the appropriate ties between parents and the school
- coordinate and integrate-to the extent possible-parental involvement programs and activities with groups such as, but not limited to, Head Start, Rogers Pre-School Programs,

Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request

2: Communication

The Parental Involvement Plan is made available to parents and local community members at the beginning of each school year, during the fall parent/teacher conferences or anytime upon request. The Grace Hill Parental Involvement Plan is revisited in the spring of each school year by a committee of parents, administrators, teachers, and support staff. Should the Parental Involvement Plan be unsatisfactory to parents, parents have the opportunity to submit any comments to the school and the Grace Hill Parent Involvement Committee. To the extent possible, responses to concerns and comments will be addressed as quickly as possible.

Communication with parents is another requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan. The Grace Hill Parent Involvement Committee and Grace Hill Elementary Staff believe that in order for parent/teacher communication to be beneficial it should be open, two-way, and to the extent possible, in a language and format that the parent can understand. It is believed that only through effective communication can each child's success be assured. Parents are encouraged to call the school to speak with their child's teacher should they have any questions or concerns. Parents are also welcome to set up a time for a conference at which teachers can give their undivided attention to the parent's concerns and questions. Phone and e-mail contact information is located at the back of the Parental Involvement Plan.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are offered twice during each school year. These conferences are important times for teacher and parents to share the responsibility to make decisions concerning each child's education. During these conferences, teachers will share information concerning each child's progress towards meeting the state's high academic standards. Assessments to measure progress and the level at which proficiency is expected will also be shared during this meeting. Academic Improvement Plans will be addressed as needed. These conferences are offered at flexible times in order to accommodate as many parents as possible.

Other forms of communication available to Grace Hill parents include but are not limited to:

- Website
- Grace Hill Parent Involvement Plan
- Grace Hill Parent Information Packet

- Announcements
- Tuesday Communication Folders
- SMORE Monthly Newsletter
- Grace Hill Facebook page and Instagram
- Parent Square Communication app

3: Building Staff Capacity

An important requirement of the Grace Hill Involvement Plan includes the component of continued staff development in the area of parent involvement. Training will be held with topics such as ways to communicate effectively with parents, methods by which parents can become more involved in the school, and how to bridge the home-school connection. It is the goal of the Grace Hill Parent Involvement Committee for professional development to provide staff with the necessary skills needed to partner with all parents in order to assure each child's academic success.

4: Building Parent Capacity

All parents are also encouraged to be aware of the many resources available to their help child. One such resource is the Internet. Parents might want to check out these valuable websites:

- Rogers Public School's Main Website: <u>www.rogersschools.net</u>
- Grace Hill Elementary School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Arkansas Department of Education: <u>www.arkansased.org</u>
- Arkansas State Parent Information and Resource Center: www.parenting-ed.org
- Parent Teacher Association: www.pta.org

Another resource available to parents is the Grace Hill FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER and we have suggestions for activities to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a selection of books and videos available to be checked out. Our parent facilitator, Lea Austin, will be available to help you. You are welcome to contact her at the school by calling 479.631.3670 or email at lea.austin@rpsar.net.

Parent Training Nights are another means by which parents can be active in their child's education. These trainings are offered by a variety of resources including:

- Grace Hill Elementary School
 - o Parent Nights
 - o Open House
 - o Orientations
- Rogers School District
 - o REACH Department (Gifted Education)
 - o English as a Second Language Department
 - Special Education Department
- Community Groups
 - Local Support Groups (including but not limited to the Benton County Sheriff's office, Child Advocacy Center, Arisa Health, etc...)
 - Northwest Arkansas Community College

5: Coordination

At Grace Hill we welcome visiting parents and encourage parents to have lunch with their students and volunteer in classrooms. We invite and encourage parents to participate in our Parent Teacher Organization and to attend all education, information and award events. We enjoy the visits of former students who come to see the school and teachers or administrators that they remember from their time at Grace Hill. Former students reach out to volunteer in our school: reading with students and helping in the classrooms. We invite parents and community members to serve on our School Improvement Plan committee, to become involved in PTO, and to work with other Grace Hill groups. We have partnerships with community organizations that come to our school to support students including Rogers

Christian Church, Grace Hills Church, and Keypoint Church. We have a partnership with the SOAR after school program who works with our students and parents by providing a free after-school program that supports families with homework completion and student's individual academic goals. Community leaders and local businesses support Grace Hill through donations and through other special projects.

6: Annual Title I Meeting (Title I schools)

Another requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan is that each school hold an annual meeting for parents. The Grace Hill Annual Title I Meeting, Open House, is held in the fall of each school year. The school principal speaks during the welcoming session. Teacher sessions allow teachers the opportunity to present parent information. The topics of the Title I Annual Meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

(As required by Act 307 of 2007)

- what students will be learning (Quarterly Expectations, Standards Based Report Card, Power Standards)
- how students will be assessed both at the state and local level
- what parents should expect for their child's education
- ways parents can assist in their child's education

(As required by Act 397 of 2009)

- provide instruction on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment including but not limited to:
 - o monthly parent newsletters with tips for parents
 - o classroom newsletters
 - o PTO newsletters
 - o Family Nights
 - Family Resource Center

Websites

(As required by Federal guidelines)

- Hold a school-wide Title I meeting at Grace Hill to inform parents:
 - o Title I information:
 - the purpose
 - an overview
 - Parent Rights
 - o Parent/School Compact
 - o Parent Involvement Committee
 - Use of Parent Involvement Funds
- School Improvement Status
 - o Current Test Results
 - o Annual Progress Status
- strategies for parents to monitor
 - o a child's progress (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
 - o standards
 - o academic assessments
 - Arkansas Department of Education Website
 - Rogers School District Website
 - Center for Effective Parenting
- materials and training provided as needed to assist parents to work with their children to improve academic achievement
- opportunities for parent involvement
 - o homeroom parent
 - o field trips

- o special projects
- o PTA
- o volunteer sign up (As required by Northside)
- Class Procedures
 - o homework
 - o testing
 - o discipline
- other pertinent information
- identify times during the day you are available for conferences or another form of two way communication

[Text box for responses]

7: School-Parent Compact (Title | schools)

[The staff of Grace Hill Elementary School believes that high student academic achievement is a shared responsibility of our staff as well as parents of our students. In order to show that shared responsibility, Grace Hill Elementary School in conjunction with the Grace Hill Parent/Teacher Organization consisting of parents of students participating in the Title I program developed a School-Parent Compact that is reviewed annually. This Compact identifies the activities of the parents, entire school staff, and the students of Grace Hill Elementary School to develop a partnership to help our students achieve the state's high academic standards. Because Grace Hill Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to parent involvement, the Grace Hill Parent School Compact is available in both English and Spanish.

The Grace Hill Elementary School-Parent Compact describes

- the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment that supports students in our school to meet the state's academic achievement standards;
- how parents can be responsible for supporting their child's learning;

- the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis through
 - o parent-teacher conferences two times a year
 - o student progress reports to parents
 - o reasonable access to staff
 - o opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class
 - o observation of classroom activities

Text box for responses]

8: Reservation of Funds (Title I schools)

Grace Hill Elementary School is a Title 1 School, and as such, receives Title 1 funds each school year for the purposes of supporting parent and family engagement. Each year, we hold a meeting in the Spring with stakeholders to review our parent involvement plan and to get feedback about how this money will be spent. Currently, this money helps pay for our Tuesday communication folders, our parent digital newsletter called SMORE, parent involvement nights, and ESGI (an online data collection tool that allows us to provide important parent-friendly reports about the progress of their students in kindergarten and first grade).

<u>Assurances</u>

Please read the following statements closely. By checking these boxes, the School understands the legal requirements and will meet them accordingly.

• A.1: The School understands that annually by August 1, the public School's Engagement Plan shall be developed, or reviewed and updated.

[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.3]

- A.2: The School understands that the following must be made available to families and the local community on the School or District website no later than August 1st:
 - The School Engagement Plan
 - A parent-friendly explanation of the School and District's Engagement Plan-
 - The informational packet
 - Contact information for the parent facilitator designated by the School.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.4]

• A.3: The School understands that a parent-friendly summary/explanation of the Engagement Plan should be included in the current student handbook.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02]

• A.4: The School understands its obligation for ensuring professional development requirements related to parent and family engagement are met and that records are maintained accordingly. (2 hours every 4 years with 2022 being a required year)

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1703(a); A.C.A. § 6-17-709; Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts July 2020 Standard 4-G.1 Professional Development (D/C)]

• **A.5:** The School understands its obligation to obtain signatures for each parent acknowledging receipt of the District's Engagement Plan summary/explanation.

 $[A.C.A. \S 6-15-1704(a)(3)(B)]$

- A.6: The School Principal understands their obligation to designate and pay a licensed staff member to serve as Parent Facilitator:
 - to help organize meaningful training for staff and parents,
 - to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere, and
 - to undertake efforts to ensure that engagement is recognized as an asset to the School. [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(c)(1)]
- A.7: The School understands its obligation to incorporate the Engagement Plan into the School Improvement Plan.

[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.2]

- A.8: The School understands its obligation to schedule regular parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the School and an overview of:
 - What students will be learning
 - How students will be assessed
 - What a parent should expect for his or her child's education
 - How a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.

 $[A.C.A. \S 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(i)(a-d)]$

• A.9: Any School serving high school students understands its obligation to educate parents about their role in decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(7)(B)(ii)]

• A.10: The School understands its obligation to welcome parents into the School, and more specifically, not have any school policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the School or from visiting a child's classrooms.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)]

- A.11: The School understands its obligation to reserve at least 1 percent of its Title I, Part A allocation for engagement purposes should such total allocation amount to \$500,000 or more. Nothing limits LEAs from reserving more than 1 percent of its allocation for engagement purposes. [ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(A)]
- A.12: The School understands that all Title I, Part A funded engagement activities and strategies should remain consistent with all information set forth in this parent and family engagement plan. [ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)]
- A.13: The School understands its obligation to submit to the State any comments from parents who
 deem the Title I Schoolwide Plan unsatisfactory. These comments can be sent to
 ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov

[ESSA § 1116(b)(4)]

• **A.14:** The School understands its obligation, if requested by parents, to provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to

the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

[ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(C)]

References

State

- Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701 et seq.
- Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement

Federal

• Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, 114 P.L. 95, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312,6318, 6320

School Name:	Grace Hill Elementary
School Engagement Facilitator Name:	Lea Austin
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	May 2025
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	
District Level Approval Date:	

Committee Members, Role

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Role (Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)	
Christina	Meister	Principal	
Lea	Austin	Counselor	
Samantha	Echols	PTO President	
Jennifer	Post	PTO Vice President	
Ashley	Hutchens	PTO Treasurer	
Katie	Williams	PTO Event Coordinator	
Amanda	Lykins	PTO Secretary	
Haley	Carson	Parent	
Sarah	Brunner	Teacher	

(Find additional guidance on the <u>DESE Parent and Family Engagement Requirements</u> webpage. For any questions about completing this form or meeting legal compliance, please contact the DESE Engagement Unit at <u>ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov</u> or 501-371-8051.)

Grace Hill Elementary Parent Friendly Plan



Parental involvement is a critical component of a child's success in school.

Grace Hill Elementary is committed to frequent and meaningful, two-way communication with our parents including, but not limited to weekly communication folders, Class Dojo communication app, and parent teacher conferences twice per year. We recognize parents as the first and most important teacher in each child's life and will seek to support parents in this role through facilitating information on parenting. We will provide opportunities for training in strategies and activities that can be used at home to support academic achievement. Additionally, we encourage parents to volunteer in a variety of roles and to offer input to procedures, practices, and decisions through the use of surveys and conferences.

Grace Hill Elementary School jointly developed, with stakeholders, the following school parental involvement plan that describes how the school will carry out parental involvement requirements according to Arkansas Act 1002 of 2011. Grace Hill's written parental involvement plan is made available to parents and the local community. Each year, an advisory committee consisting of parents, teachers, and community members will review and update the Parent Involvement Plan, develop school goals and address specific student needs, reflecting the commitment to facilitating parental involvement.



Rogers Public Schools

where all belong, all learn, and all succeed

500 West Walnut Street ● Rogers, AR 72756 ● www.rogersschools.net ● (479) 636-3910 • Fax (479) 631-3504

Dr. Jeff Perry, Superintendent

Dear Parent:

In December 2015, former President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act into law. Parents continue to have the same rights as they did under "No Child Left Behind".

Under ESSA, parents have a right to know the professional qualifications of their children's teachers(s). This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the state of Arkansas has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches (Note: We are also required to send a notice to parents affected if the teacher is not fully licensed, so if you haven't received such notice, your child's teacher(s) is/are fully licensed.)
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status through which state licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- If any time your student has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified, then you will be notified by the school.

You also have the right to request information regarding the qualifications of the paraprofessional(s) assisting your child's teacher(s). If your child is receiving Title I, Part A services from a paraprofessional, then our district or school is able to provide you with the following information:

- 1. Whether the paraprofessional has completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education.
- 2. Whether the paraprofessional has completed an associate's degree (or higher).
- 3. Whether the paraprofessional has met a rigorous standard of quality through our state's certification procedure for determining the quality of paraprofessional staff.
- 4. Whether the paraprofessional has: (a) the knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics or (b) the knowledge of and the ability to assist in learning activities, such as homework, reading readiness, writing, mathematics, and other support as appropriate.

If you would like to receive specific information about your child's teacher or paraprofessional, please visit our office at 500 West Walnut Street to fill out a Parent Request Form. A response will be mailed to you within ten working days from the date of the request. Our office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Our district is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger Hill

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Grace Hill Elementary

PARENT-SCHOOL COMPACT 2025-2026

It is our goal to have school and parents as full-time partners in the education of children in a meaningful and productive way. Each year, we will be using this Parent-School Compact so that each of our roles is clearly defined. The mutual responsibilities of parents and school are to support children in reaching high standards.

Please review this information. Your willingness to participate in this compact will determine the growth of your child's educational experience. Your signature, your child's name and the date are required on this form. Please return this to your child's teacher.

Feel free to conference with your child's teacher or principal concerning this compact. We want to work with you in supporting your child's educational growth and success.

TITLE 1 PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMPACT

Believing that high student performance is a shared responsibility, Grace Hill Elementary School and the parent/guardian of agree to this Compact:					
THE S	SCHOOL WILL:				
✓ H cc ✓ C p p ✓ P n ✓ P ti ✓ P a	rovide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that vill enable all children, with the involvement of parents/guardians, to meet state academic standards; lold an annual meeting to inform parents of their right to be involved and explain the Title 1 program, this ompact, the importance of their involvement, our curriculum, assessments, and proficiency levels; offer meetings at flexible times for parents/guardians to provide timely information and training so that arents/guardians can be effective partners in their child's learning; rovide frequent reports to parents/guardians on their child's academic performance and progress toward neeting state standards; rovide parents reasonable access to staff by school email and meeting times during teacher's planning ime, during parent-teacher conferences, or by appointment/request; rovide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom ctivities by request when appropriate; rovide timely responses to parents'/guardians' recommendations.				
THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL:					
Be responsible for their child arriving on time each day and attending school every day possible;					
Lim	it programs and time spent watching television;				
Read and respond to communications from the school;					
Make sure that homework is completed in a neat and proficient way and is turned in on time;					

Support their child in all school functions;

Make sure their child gets at least 9 hours of sleep each night.

Volunteer Opportunities At Grace Hill Elementary Sign-up 2025-2026

We need you! Listed below are some areas where we love to have volunteers help out our school. Please check any areas of interest and we will share this information with your child's teacher and with the PTO. We look forward to seeing you at school!

Student's Name (Please Print):	
Teacher:	Grade:
Parent's Name (Please Print):	
Phone Number:	Email:
I would like to help by (check all that	t interest you):
I would like to help with special events in Valentine's Party, or other special classro	n the classroom such as the winter party, the pom events.
I can supply supplies for classroom partie products, treat items.	es, such as store bought cupcakes, drinks, paper
I can supply purchased items for special of	class projects.
I can go on field trips.	
I can help by cutting out items or assemb	oling items for the class.
I have a special talent or interest that I ca	an share with the class.
I would like to be a part of PTO and work float, and fund raising projects.	on their projects such as the homecoming

Please return this form to your student's teacher or to the office. We are excited that you want to be a part of our team.

I acknowledge the receipt of:

2025-2026

The Grace Hill Elementary Parent Information Packet which includes the

The Title I Parent/School Compact

The Parent Summary Letter Reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Plan for Grace Hill Elementary

And

The Volunteer Opportunities Sign-up

Student's Name (please print):					
Date:	Teacher:	Grade:			
Parent/Guard	ian (signature):				

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO GRACE HILL!

Feel free to send the Volunteer form at the end of this packet back with this form.

The rest of the packet is yours to keep for future reference.