2027 Darby Middle School Engagement Plan

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

Darby Middle School recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the entire school community during the entire time the child spends in school. To support the goals to educate all students effectively, the school and community must work as knowledgeable partners. Parents are an integral component of our school's ability to provide for the educational success of our students. Darby Middle School fosters and supports active parental involvement.

Parents are invited to sit on various committees, such as parental involvement committee, needs assessment committee, counseling advisory committee, and student success plans.

Parents are invited to review Darby's process for resolving concerns should there be a breakdown in communications. Parents are encouraged to meet and discuss the latest educational technology, graduation requirements, prerequisite criteria and exit criteria.

2: Communication

The website address for Darby Middle School is http://www.fortsmithschools.org/darby/Home.aspx. This website contains information about Darby's mission, history, academics, faculty events, extra-curricular activities, policies and our school's safety guidelines. Parents will be able to locate our parent and family engagement plan on the website.

Darby has a Facebook page, twitter page and Instagram page. Parents have access to these accounts by "liking" our page and will have up to date information about events, announcements and general information.

Darby has LiveSchool to document student behavior. Parents and students have online access to the documentation.

Fort Smith School District utilizes Schoology. This program has a parent viewer which allows parents to view students' grades, attendance and next year's class selections on a daily basis. Darby will provide a list of volunteer opportunities during orientation of parents. This information is also given to the students at the beginning of the year in their information packet that is taken home to the parents.

Darby holds 4 Parent meetings a year, the first one in September 2026 to go over information with our English and Spanish speaking parents and answer any questions in their native language.

Parents can communicate with teachers and staff through social media messaging, email, phone calls and face to face.

Daily announcements are broadcasted in all classrooms and published on each student's Schoology account. Parents are sent a link to announcements daily through Parent Link.

Darby Middle School schedules two parent/teacher conferences every school year.

Report cards and mid- term grades are sent on a scheduled basis. Midterms go home every three weeks. Four PTSA meetings are held during the school year. One issue the PTSA works on is the school parent compact. The school and parents will build a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

3: Building Staff Capacity

Darby Middle School Staff can obtain training for parental involvement by participating in IDEAS Family & Community Engagement: Inviting Caregivers & Community Partners into School or The Six Components of Parental Involvement for Teachers.

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Parents are invited to review Darby's process for resolving concerns should there be a breakdown in communications. Parents are encouraged to meet and discuss the latest educational technology, graduation requirements, prerequisite criteria and exit criteria.

The parental involvement program at Darby Middle School will involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles, be comprehensive and coordinated in nature, and recognize that communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful. To encourage communication with parents, the school shall prepare an informational packet to be distributed annually to the parent of each child in the school, appropriate for the age and grade of the child. The school may plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents. The school will make efforts to promote and support responsible parenting.

The Board of Education believes that all students benefit when the relationship between the home and school is strengthened. Therefore, the Board encourages families to participate in PTA activities and other school functions that strengthen those bonds.

4: Building Parent Capacity

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Teachers and administration frequently communicate through email. Teacher's email addresses are posted on Darby's website. General homework resources, subject area resources and educational resources and links may be viewed on the Darby Middle School website. Teachers also have Schoology classrooms set up and parents can communicate through this means.

Parents are encouraged to visit a child's classroom, attend sports activities and extra-curricular events.

Darby holds 4 Parent meetings a year, the first one in September 2026 to go over information with our English and Spanish speaking parents and answer any questions in their native language.

Standardized test results are sent home while counselors serve as a resource to help parents interpret scores.

Student success plans are developed with the student, parent and trained school official having conversations about the students' interests after high school and what classes are needed in school to achieve this goal.

5: Coordination

Darby Middle School is partnered with great businesses in the community. These partner in education members, work with Darby through mentoring, students of the month activities, and various student incentive programs.

Fort Smith's community has many resources that are available to our families such as: Clearing House, library, United Way and many of the church organizations do activities for the community. Parents can participate in parenting classes, how to help your teen study classes and how to help your teens be safe.

Darby Middle School's Mentoring program has various members of the community who volunteer their time to actively engage students in relationship building activities.

A parent resource center is stationed in the counseling office. The center provides information about programs and resources within the community which provide support services to families. Materials to assist parents in their child's academic achievement are in the center, as well as materials which involve the growth and development of adolescence and related adolescent issues

(Drug use, depression, etc.) Many of the materials are free while others may be checked out. Parents are made aware of the center and its contents through discussions at PTSA meetings.

The community participates in ICAN expo and Career Days. These days businesses showcase their business where students learn about opportunities available in the community.

Four PTSA meetings are held during the school year. One issue the PTSA works on is the school parent compact. The school and parents will build a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

6: Annual Title 1 Meeting

Darby Middle School will hold its annual open house on August 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Open House gives parents the opportunity to meet the teachers and be informed on teacher/classroom expectations. Other information obtained at the open house include: a report on the state of the school, an overview of what students will be learning, how students are assessed, parental expectations and parental involvement opportunities.

Darby will provide a list of volunteer opportunities during orientation of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. Each family is provided with a Darby handbook which contains information concerning Darby's policies and procedures. Families are also provided with a current district calendar which informs them of athletic events and extra- curricular activities for students and parents.

Darby Middle School has 86% of the student population receiving free or reduced lunch.

7: School-Parent Compact

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Parents can volunteer to work in the Darby school store, at extra- curricular activities and to assist our students earn volunteer hours needed for their community service class. Darby also has a mentoring program that adults from the community volunteer for this program.

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8: Reservation of Funds

Each year, Darby Middle School submits how parent involvement funds will be spent with their Title I budget sheet.

On May 20, 2026 Darby Middle School had a parent meeting where they discussed the needs of the parents, ways that the school could help the parents become more involved with their children(s) school life, ways to build relationships and how the teachers could use added support. Then Darby Middle School held a PTSA meeting on May 22, 2026 where it was discussed how to use the parent and family engagement funds to meet the needs discussed at the May 20, 2026 meeting.