Administrative Rule 530 – Involvement of Parents and Guardians

Parents of children participating in the Title I program will be invited to attend a district annual meeting. Parents will receive information on the Title I program and the services their child is receiving from Title I staff. In addition, the parental involvement component will be reviewed and parental rights will be explained at this annual meeting. This meeting is currently held in the spring at Lawrence-Lawson Elementary in conjunction with a Title I Fair hosted by district Title I staff.

All parents are invited to attend several meetings/activities/events at the schools throughout the year. Such activities included parent organization sponsored events, parent-teacher conferences, education fairs, school programs, etc. The school and PTO are viewed as equal partners in the education of children.

Parents are also provided time at parent-teacher conferences to express concerns and issues relative to the education of their child(ren). Title I and Special Education staff and other specialists attend these meetings with parents as needed and/or requested. Child care is often provided at the schools so that parents can attend the parent-teacher conferences.

Parents will be occasionally surveyed to solicit input on various school activities. When parent-teacher conferences are scheduled, teachers work with the parents in establishing an agreed upon conference time. Parents are periodically asked to provide input to their child’s teacher in making changes to improve the academic performance of their child.

Each school has a parent-teacher organization and parents are encouraged to attend meetings of these organizations. Meetings are usually held in the evenings throughout the school year. School personnel provide information and solicit feedback from parents. Parents have direct input into the short and long term goals and activities of the PTO and the school. Parents are members of the school’s Strategic Planning Committee.

Parents are kept informed of programs and activities that their children are directly involved in via timely newsletters, arranged daily home-school communications and information posted on the school and teacher websites. Parents and staff communicate with each other via emails and written notes on a regular basis as needed.

At times, special meetings are held involving several members of the school staff and the parents/guardians. At these meetings, parents have direct communications with the staff in developing programs to match the needs of their child.

Open House and Lighted Schoolhouse activities are held frequently throughout the school year after school and/or in the evening to accommodate family schedules.

Parents have the right to bring issues directly to the building/district administration when they feel their involvement is needed in addressing their child’s needs.

Parent volunteers at school are an integral part of our programs. Participation is highly encouraged. Criminal background checks are made on all school employees and volunteers to ensure that the children are safe.
Shared Responsibilities Information

It is the policy of the Sparta Area School District that the school, students and parents equally share the responsibilities for improving student achievement.

Students’ Responsibilities

- The student will complete all assignments made by their teacher(s).
- The student will work cooperatively with their parents in completing their homework when needed.
- The student will openly share information about school with their parents/guardians.
- The student will follow all school rules.
- The student will strive to do their very best at all times.
- The student will treat others with respect.
- The student will be a good steward of the school and its contents.

Schools’ Responsibilities

- The school will provide the very best education for each child that is possible with the resources provided.
- The school will provide licensed professionals and well-trained support personnel to work with the children, parents and community.
- The school will work cooperatively with parents/guardians and seek input in determining how to best meet the individual needs of the child.
- The school will use various forms of communication in meeting the requests of the parents/guardians in keeping them informed about their child’s progress.
- The school will provide a safe and healthy learning environment for the children.
- The school will provide the necessary instruction and learning materials to the child so they can learn and develop to their fullest potential.
- The school will develop programs that meet the educational standards and other requirements established by the State of Wisconsin and the Sparta Board of Education and will share this information with the parents as needed.

Parents’/Guardians’ Responsibilities

- The parents/guardians will provide staff with needed background information that will be helpful in teaching their child.
- The parents/guardians will contact the child’s teacher whenever they have a concern, issue and/or question.
- The parents/guardians will attend meetings/conferences at the school when a mutually agreed upon time has been established.
- The parents/guardians will follow the plans that are jointly developed, and mutually agreed upon, with the school/teacher(s).
- The parents/guardians will be actively engaged in their child’s education and recognize that this is an important part of their responsibility in being a good parent.
- The parents/guardians are to see that their child attends school on a regular basis and complies with the Sparta School District attendance policies and the State of Wisconsin Truancy Laws.
• The parents/guardians will provide a safe, nurturing and supportive home environment for the child.

Being a good parent is one of the hardest and most challenging jobs that we will ever have in our lives. As good parents, we want the very best for our children. We want them to be the very best that they can be. Although there are no guarantees, if you want your child to maximize their learning, a good parent will to the following when it comes to their education:

**FIRST** of all, it is important to keep yourself informed about the district, your child’s school and what is happening in your child’s classroom.

- **Read the student/parent handbook** that is sent home each year. Information, procedures, expectations, schedules and a great deal more are included in these handbooks.

- **Read the district/school/classroom newsletters** to find out about scheduled events, classroom happenings, announcements and other important information that you need to become informed about regarding the educational experiences and activities that your child is participating in throughout the school year.

- **Explore district and school websites** for general information on the district and school, as well as, specific current happenings in your child’s classroom. If you do not have Internet access at home, you can use computers at the public library.

- **Talk to your child’s teacher(s) and other school personnel** to gain additional information about any questions or concerns you may have.

- **Talk to your child about their day at school** as often as possible. Show genuine interest in the experiences and events happening in their ‘school’ world.

**SECOND,** get involved in your child’s school.

- **Volunteer** at the school, whether on a regular basis assisting the teacher or chaperoning a field trip or assisting in planning a special event.

- **Join the parent-teacher organization** at your child’s school. These organizations meet on a regular basis to discuss a variety of topics and provide many enriching, educational experiences for families and the children. By being involved in a school organization, you are more likely to know what is happening or being planned that directly benefits your child.

- **Keep in touch with your child’s teacher.** This can include notes, phone calls, emails or just touching base when you bring your child to school or pick them up after school. It is critical that you **attend parent-teacher conferences** to not only gain valuable information about your child’s progress, but to be able to share information that would be helpful for the teacher. Both the teacher and the parent really only have one goal. We want the very best for the child. By staying in frequent contact with each other, a trusting, positive and partnering relationship can develop.
Attend events at your child’s school. There is no better way to show to your child that you are interested and involved in the place where they go to learn. It sends a message to them that they are so important to you that you are willing to place a priority on your valuable time by going to their school, because outside of home, their school is the second most important place in their lives.

THIRD, get involved in your child’s learning.

Find out about what they are learning and studying in school. Talk to them about school. Find out about the school’s grade level expectations. Have them show you what they have learned. Listen to them read. Read to them. Relate things in your child’s life that relate to what they are studying at school. Provide experiences for them to apply what they have learned. Do some school projects together. They will associate learning with having fun and spending some special time with mom AND dad.

Be a model. Set an example. Become a life-long learner yourself. If you want your child to read and to study, you should read and study too. If you demonstrate to your child that learning can and should take place outside of school, they just might become more willing to get at that homework too. Make learning a part of the culture of the home and family. You owe this to your children. It is part of the responsibility of being a good parent. The rewards that your child will give to you, not only during their school years, but also as they grow into adulthood, will be significant.

FINALLY, and most importantly, demonstrate the love you have for your child each and every day. Make sure they have the right foods and the right amount of rest. See that they are appropriately dressed for school. Celebrate their achievements and show them how to learn from their mistakes. Don’t be too critical of them, but do let them know what your expectations are for them. Be a positive role model for your child(ren) as they are watching you each and every day.