

***Camden Middle School Parent
Parent and Family Engagement
Policy and Plan for Shared
Student Success***

2017 – 2018 School Year



***Camden Middle School
James McCarter, Principal
1300 Middle School Rd
(912) 729 - 3113***

<http://cms.camden.k12.ga.us/>

***Plan Revised September 21, 2017
Plan Adopted October 19, 2017***

What is Title I?

Camden Middle is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it? This is a plan that describes how Camden Middle will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Camden Middle values the contributions and involvement of parents in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Camden Middle will support parent engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it developed? Camden Middle School welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding the plan. All parent feedback will be used to revise the plan for next year. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and provide feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey online and by student to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parent involvement.

What feedback indicated? In April 2017, Camden Middle School (CMS) asked parents to complete a Title I survey, 23% (233) of parents elected to provide feedback. Overall the results indicate satisfaction with the way CMS operates. Of the respondents, 99% responded favorably that parents feel welcome in the school, 95% responded favorably regarding the school keeping parents well informed about what children are doing at school, and 97% responded favorably when asked if CMS encourages parents to be involved in the education of their children. A weakness was indicated in the area of parent input in decision making with only 65% saying yes and another 28% saying to some degree. When asked about desired workshops/information 100 of the respondents indicated a desire for more information on testing and test preparation, and 98 on helping with homework and 94 understanding state academic standards. Based on this information, workshops will be held and informational materials will be developed and shared. Sixty-four respondents preferred evening meetings, 28 morning meetings, and only 10 lunch/noon sessions.

Who is it for? All students and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Camden Middle will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents of students with disabilities, parents of migratory children, as well as guardians of children served through the Methodist Children's Home. Camden Middle school will offer childcare and transportation to the extent practicable upon request.

Where is it available? Once adopted, the plan is posted on-line on the school website, in the school resource room, in the front office, and copies sent home with students.

Parent Resource Center

Located in the media center, each school has a parent resource center stocked with a variety of materials for parents. Contact Shan Peters, Media Specialist, for more information. *Open school days from 7:10 – 3:40.*

2017-18 District Goals

1. To increase the percentage of all students designated as proficient or higher on the ELA GMAS by three percent.
2. Increase the percentage of all students designated as proficient or higher on the Math GMAS by three percent.

2016-17 School Goals

1. Increase the literary and informational reading level of all students
2. Increase the Language Arts achievement of all students
3. Increase mathematics achievement of all students
4. Increase the science achievement of all students
5. Increase the social studies achievement of all students

Parent Involvement Standards

Camden County Schools have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the county's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are –

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Camden Middle and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers. Parents will retain a copy of the compact for their use. Additionally the compact can be viewed on-line, and will be provided to parents upon request. Teachers will review the compacts with parents during conferences.

Title I Meetings

Camden Middle invites all parents to participate in scheduled meetings, to share ideas and ways to involve other parents, and to build partnerships with school, families, and the community, and plan Parent Involvement expenditures. Meetings are held throughout the school year, but parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions during all activities and meetings as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the Title I meetings, please contact Andria Brimhall, (912) 729-3113.

Stay Informed

Please visit the CMS website: <http://cms.camden.k12.ga.us/> for information on upcoming events, school activities, parent information, Title I and school documents and to find links to teacher e-mail and websites.

Middle School Promotion Standards

- All students in grades 6 – 8 must have passing final grades of 70% or higher in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and ½ of connections classes
- 8th Grade students must also pass the Reading AND Mathematics portions of the Georgia Milestones EOG.

Parental Involvement

Camden Middle believes that parent involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- That parents have the right to know the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals
- That parents know there is a grievance procedure & how to access it
- Submitting negative feedback to the district if the Title I Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to parents
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child including Title I Stakeholder Input Meeting, Annual Title I Meeting, Monthly School Council meetings;
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

Camden Middle is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Please call or e-mail us if you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

Dr. James McCarter

(912) 729-3113

jmccarter@camden.k12.ga.us

Camden Middle is Reaching Out!

Camden Middle will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will –

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and requested languages (per home language survey), and posted on the school website and included in school newsletter for all parents.
- ✓ Conduct on-going staff development on the value and utility of parent involvement as well as practices for building ties between home and school and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.
- ✓ Share information to assist parents in understanding the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Inform parents of promotion requirements.
- ✓ Assist parents in setting up parent PowerSchool accounts and e-mail alert messages.
- ✓ Assist parents in the use of the PowerSchool smartphone app.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, via phone messages, Facebook, e-mail, and flyers.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental involvement.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Collaborate with community leaders and business groups to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities.
- ✓ Offer parent workshops and information on relevant topics.
- ✓ Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for parental involvement activities.
- ✓ Assist parents and students in transitions between elementary and middle and middle and high school.
- ✓ Promote a school-home dialogue by responding to parent calls and e-mails within 24 hours, keeping websites current (as applicable) and providing applicable resources to support home learning in a timely manner.

Let's Get Together!

Camden Middle will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

Stakeholder Input Meetings – 8/14/17 and 9/21/17

- We invite you to assist in revising elements of our Title I program including our parent involvement plan, the school-wide plan, parent involvement budget, parent activities, and the school-parent compacts.

6th Grade Walk in My Shoes –09/05/2017 5:00 – 6:30

- Spend an evening following your 6th grade child's schedule and ask the questions you didn't know you had during Open House.

Annual Title I Meeting – 10/19/2017

- We invite you to join us as we share the final versions of our Title I program including our parent and family engagement involvement policy and plan, the school improvement plan, parent involvement budget, parent activities, and the school-parent compacts.

Helping with Homework in the 21st Century – 10/19/2017

- Google Classrooms Boot Camp for Parents – wondering about Google classrooms and how to use it to support home learning? Come learn more!

National Parent Involvement Day – 11/16/2017

- We invite parents to come to school and eat lunch with their child.

Curriculum Night and Preparing for the GA Milestones Assessment - November

- Georgia Standards of Excellence
 - Standards: what are they, where can they be found, how have they changed?
- Learn about the end of grade assessments
- How do I help my child prepare?
- RI/MI – using the data at home to help with test preparation

Cougars of 2018 - 2019 Parent Night – tentative 5/3/2018

- Parents of current 5th grade students join us to learn about what to expect next year
- Tour the building
- Get answers to your questions & concerns

Quarterly Student Recognition Ceremonies

- Quarterly students are recognized for excellence in academics, exploratory classes, and character.
- Students being recognized receive invitations for themselves and family members to attend.

Book Fairs - October 13-20, 2017 and tentative April 27 – May4, 2018

Book Fair Parent night – 10/19/2017 and tentative 5/3/2018

Band concerts – 12/5/2017 and May 8, 2017