School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?
This is a plan that describes how Effingham County Middle School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Effingham County Middle School values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Effingham County Middle School will support family 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 revised?
Effingham County Middle School invited all parents to attend our annual End-of-Year Parent Input Meeting last spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through various communication formats. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute surveys twice a year, online and on paper, to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year.

Who is it for?
All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Effingham County Middle School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

Where is it available?
At the beginning of the year, the plan is distributed to parents as paper copies. The plan will also be posted on the school website and a link will be included in the school’s Fall e-newsletter. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center at Effingham County Middle School.
2018–19 District Goals

Goal #1. Increase by 3% the number of students performance performing at proficient and distinguished on the GA Milestones in all areas through professional learning communities.

Goal #2. Increase system level CCRPI score by 3% through the implementation of a district wide instructional framework.

2018–19 School Goals

Goal #1: Increase % of students performing above the “Beginning” level on the 2019 GMAS ELA subtest by 5%.

Goal #2: Increase % of students performing above the “Beginning” level on the 2019 GMAS Math subtest by 3%.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Effingham County Middle School and our families will develop a school-parent compact. This is an agreement 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 during the Building Bridges event and End-of-Year Parent Input Meeting. The school-parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and other events throughout the school year.

Let’s Get Together!

Effingham County Middle School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. All meetings for parents and family members will be offered in the morning and in the evening, when applicable.

Building Bridges Night – August 14, 2018
Parents of ECMS can follow their child’s schedule of academic classes and get answers about ECMS directly from the academic teachers. This program is for all grade levels.

Annual Title I Meeting – September 17, 2018
We invite you to join us for an opportunity for learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement plan, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compact. Invitations will be sent home with students, emailed via Messenger, and posted on the school’s marquee.

Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences – October 4, 2018 & February 13, 2019
Scheduled updates on your child’s progress.

Parent Math Cafe – October 4, 2018 (during Parent Teacher Conferences)
Find out what’s happening in the ECMS math department to help your student this school year.

Family Engagement Month – November 27, 2018
The month of November is Family Engagement Month in the state of Georgia, a time to collectively recognize and honor the contributions of parents and families to student success.

- Bring Your Parents to School Day
- Parent Empowerment Online Learning Community

Grandparents as Parents Fellowship – January 7, 2019
This is a special fellowship for grandparents parenting ECMS students. Guest speaker will offer tips on how to help your grandchild flourish in school.

"Math at the Movies"- January 24, 2019
Join us for an educational and enjoyable experience with a math-themed movie, concessions, and more!

Parent Math Cafe – February 13, 2019 (during Parent Teacher Conferences)
Learn strategies and obtain resources to help your student improve his/her math skills.

GMAS Panther Pride Night & Ice Cream Social – April 4, 2019
Join us for a celebration of family engagement and the recognition of its impact on school and student success.

ECMS Math & Science Night- May 2, 2019
Celebrate science, technology, engineering and math through interactive activity booths and exhibits!

End-of-Year Parent Input Meeting – May 9, 2019
A forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions with the principal and staff regarding the schoolwide plan, parent and family engagement plan, school-parent compacts, and the family engagement budget.
Parent Resource Center
Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.
  Wednesday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Parent and Family Engagement
Effingham County Middle School believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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 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.

Effingham County Middle School is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this plan. Please call or email us if you need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

Rehan McNeil,
Family Engagement Specialist
(912) 772-7001 ext. 1425 or rmcneil@effingham.k12.ga.us

ECMS is Branching Out!
Effingham County Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members 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 Spanish, when applicable, posted on the school website, and included in the quarterly school newsletter for all families.
- Provide monthly quarterly trainings for staff on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with reading and math activities for our students outside of the classroom.
- Partner with elementary schools and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- Share information in English and Spanish (as applicable) on school-to-home communication for parents to understand the school’s academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child’s progress and work with educators.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through phone messages, school marquee, social media, and flyers.
- Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child’s achievement.

- Offer math and technology resources for parents and family members to help further enhance their various educational levels.
- Use our School Council to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement plan.
- Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events, place input forms in front office in order to review and provide feedback to the Title I, Part A documents both at the school and district levels.
Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Effingham County Middle School and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school’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

Join the Parent Advisory Council

Effingham County Middle School invites all parents to join the District Title I Parent Advisory Council or School Council. Parents are able to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The ECMS School Council will meet at least four times during the school year. The District Title I Parent Advisory Council meets a minimum of two times during the school year. However, parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at most school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the District Title I Parent Advisory Council or ECMS School Council, please contact the principal at (912) 772-7001 or Rehan McNeil, Family Engagement Specialist at (912) 772-7001 ext 1425.

ECMS Annual Title I Parent Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2018 @ 6pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

☐ Yes, I am attending the Annual Title I Parent Meeting at
☐ No, I am not able to attend the meeting, but please contact me so I can learn more about Title I programs at ECMS
☐ Please send me notifications about future meetings and other ECMS events

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Child’s Name and Grade: ____________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________________________________

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students’ and the school’s goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) ____________________________________________________

Telephone Number: (optional) ________________________________________

________________________________

________________________________