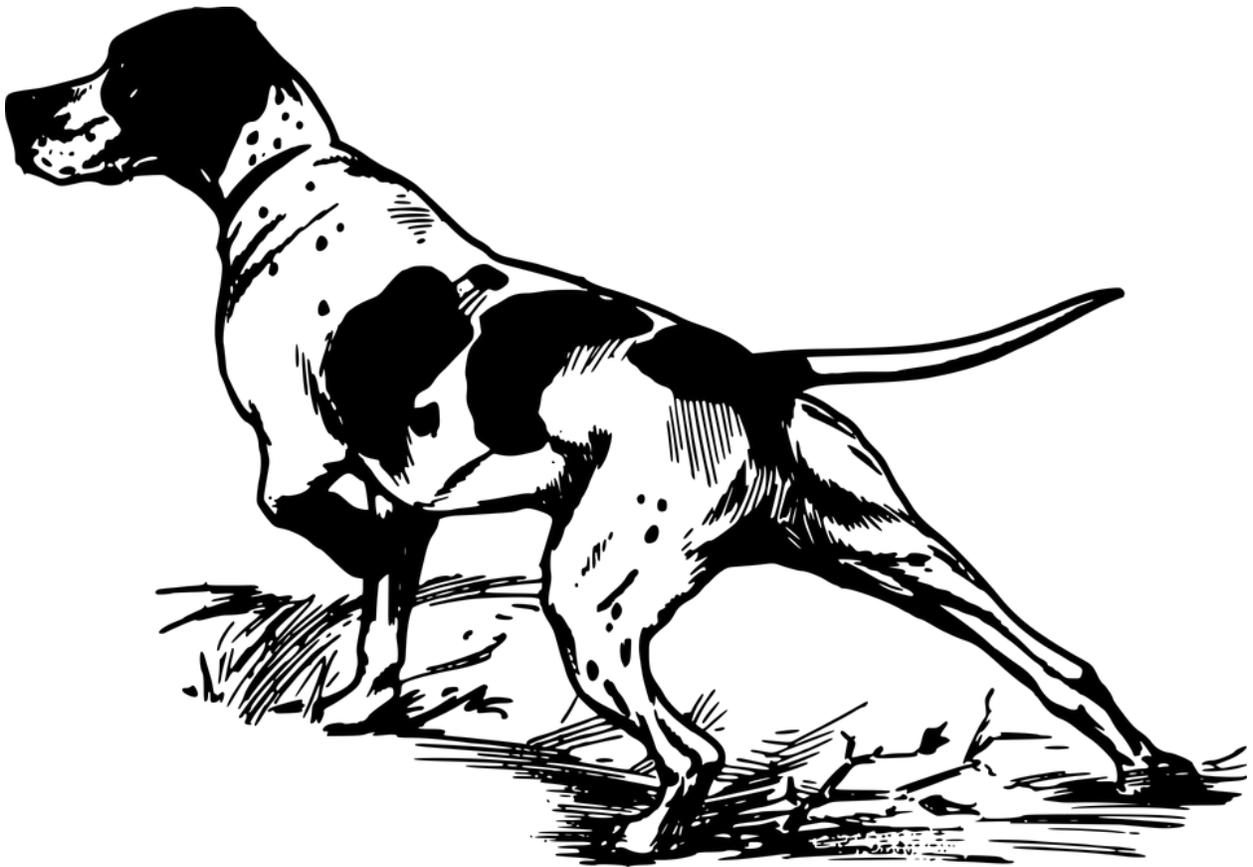


Van Buren High School
Parent Involvement Packet

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Eddie Tipton, Principal
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Dusti Hurst, Parent Involvement Facilitator

2020-2021 School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

School Name:

Van Buren High School

Facilitator Name:

Dusti Hurst

Plan Review/Revision Date:

July 31, 2020

District Level Reviewer, Title:

Karen Allen, Assistant Superintendent

District Level Approval Date:

08-01-2020

Committee Members, Role:

Dusti Hurst, Parent Involvement Facilitator

Kimberly Holman, Assistant Principal

Joany Porter, Teacher

Payton Radley, Teacher

Stacy Seeger, Teacher/Parent

Lindsay Bonilla, PTA President/Parent

Krishna Myers, Parent

1: Jointly Developed

The Parental Involvement Committee, consisting of school parent coordinator, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members, meets to analyze data from surveys as well as to have discussions with teachers, administrators, parents, and community members in order to create open communication between all shareholders.

All shareholders on the committee will participate in an annual review of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

If at any time a parent of a Van Buren High School student finds any portion of our Title I Schoolwide Plan to be unsatisfactory, those comments will be forwarded to a representative at the district level.

Dates of School Parent Involvement Meetings*:

- Thursday, September 3
- Thursday, November 5
- Thursday, March 4

*In the event of school cancellations due to COVID-19, parents will be given the opportunity to join the parent involvement meeting virtually.

2: Annual Title I Meeting

A Title I meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 6:30pm* in the Van Buren Fine Arts Center.

This meeting's purpose will be to:

- Inform parents of their rights under Title I.
- Inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation.

*In the event of school cancellations due to COVID-19, parents will be given the opportunity to join the parent involvement meeting virtually.

3: Communications

Parent Involvement Coordinator - Dusti Hurst, dusti.hurst@vbsd.us

Copies of the school parent and family engagement plan will be located in the front office in order to be readily available to families and the local community.

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) plan will be distributed on the evenings of the fall parent/teacher conferences and will be posted on the high school website. In the event that parent-teacher conferences are cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, copies of the FACE plan will be available in the front office and will be distributed to parents via email.

The parent-friendly informational packet will include a description of the Parent and Family Engagement plan; the recommended roles of parents, teachers and students; ways for a family to get involved in a variety of roles; a survey regarding volunteer interests; a schedule of activities planned throughout the school year; and a regular, two-way, and meaningful system for parents/teachers to communicate.

The school will also communicate with parents in a variety of ways:

- The school will distribute a weekly newsletter to parents that is developed with participation of the parent-school organization, principal, and staff. It will include school news, a calendar of school activities and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills and study skills.
- The weekly newsletter will be added to the school's website each week.
- The school website will contain an up-to-date directory for parents to contact teachers as needed.
- Parents will be able to access their child's grades through the Home Access Center. Usernames and passwords will be available during Open House as well as Parent-Teacher Conferences. If parents need access to that information at any other time, they can contact the office at (479)474-6821 where they will be directed to Mrs. Hurst, the Parent Involvement Facilitator.
- Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress if there is an issue that needs to be addressed.
- The school will provide printed copies of progress reports/report cards every four weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress.
- The school will use the student handbook (Pointer Procedures), school website, signage at the school entrance and parent orientation meetings about Schoolwide Title I plan and how to get a copy upon request.

4: School-Parent Compact

The School-Parent Compact will be jointly developed at a designated Parent Involvement meeting by receiving input from the teachers, parents and students in attendance.

The School-Parent Compact will be distributed in the packet of forms that are handed out to each student at the beginning of each school year. The signature page will be stored by the Parent Involvement Facilitator. In the event that we are unable to distribute forms due to COVID-19, the School-Parent Compact will be posted online and sent digitally via email.

The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards.

To enforce the School-Parent Compact, the school will hold parent meetings, conferences, and activities regularly throughout the year to increase parent engagement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.

- The Parent Involvement Facilitator will ensure the school's parent involvement committee will meet at least three times a year to establish, discuss and evaluate committee goals, to hold volunteer training and provide materials to help parents work with their children as well as develop the School-Parent compact.
- Meetings will be held at various times during the day or evening to better accommodate parents.
- Meetings will be held to prepare both parents and students to apply for college admission, apply for college scholarships, apply for FAFSA, etc.
- Teachers will hold bi-annual conferences with parents of children individually. Parents will be given explanations of homework and grading procedures.

To increase parent engagement, parents will be presented with a volunteer survey as part of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary as well as online through a Google Form. The information gained from the volunteer survey will be gathered and made available to teachers so that parents can be involved in a variety of roles throughout the school.

5: Reservation of Funds

For 2020-2021, Van Buren High School has reserved an allocation of \$3844.00 from district Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities.

The school will engage parents in decision-making about the allocation of its Title I funds for parent and family engagement.

Funds from Title I for parent and family engagement activities will be spent as follows:

- Various parenting books will be purchased and handed out during the spring parent meeting where the different school's programs are described.
- Parenting materials from Channing Bete will be purchased and kept on hand in the VBHS Parent Center located in the library.

6: Coordination of Services

To take advantage of community resources, the school shall consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

The school will work with the Van Buren Freshman Academy to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities. The school will host sophomore orientation for parents and students to help with the transition. Parents will have the opportunity to meet new teachers before school begins at Open House.

Meetings will be held to prepare both parents and students to apply for college admission, apply for college scholarships, apply for FAFSA, etc.

7: Building Capacity of Parents

In addition to regular PTA meetings, the Parent Involvement Facilitator will hold three meetings dedicated to parent involvement:

- Thursday, September 3
- Thursday, November 5
- Thursday, March 4

The school will provide a parent resource center for parents.

Parents may check out materials, use the computer to check grades, and visit educational websites. Parents will be encouraged to view the Title I Plan located in the parent resource center or media center. A suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input. The school will open the resource center at hours that are convenient to parents.

The school will provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

The school will provide opportunities for parents and community members to support the instructional program through such programs as tutoring and teacher-led study groups.

The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts during orientation of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. Brief training sessions will provide parents and community members with the information they need to participate as school volunteers in order to put them at ease and make the experience pleasant and successful.

The school will provide online how-to videos via YouTube to aid parents in ensuring students are on track with online learning in the event education has to switch to a virtual platform due to COVID-19. Videos will include instructions to access Google Classroom and the manipulation of the platform as well as other online resources utilized by the school.

The school will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:

- Mentor
- Teacher assistant
- Tutor
- Awards Day presentations
- Orientation presentations
- Open House
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Red Ribbon Week
- Anti-Bullying Month
- Band/Choir Concerts

The school will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan, and the annual Title I meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A program.

The school will involve parents on school improvement planning committees. To support this process, the school will offer training to both school staff and parents on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way.

The school will ask parents to serve on curricular and instructional review committees. To support this process, the school will offer training to both school staff and parents on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way.

The school will engage parents in decision-making about the allocation of its Title I, Part A funds for parent and family engagement.

8: Building Capacity of School Staff

Each teacher will be trained in providing lessons via a virtual platform in the event school is forced to close due to COVID-19. Training will include, but is not limited to, the platforms Google Classroom, Nearpod, Google Meet, and Sora via Overdrive.

The school's staff will be trained in effective parent engagement strategies. The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require no fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parent and family engagement strategies. No fewer than three (3) hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

Van Buren High School Parent Volunteer Survey 2020-2021

We welcome all families, both new and returning, to VBHS! This year, our goal is to increase parent involvement by letting you know of the volunteer opportunities available. Every volunteer commitment, whether large or small, is very important. We value and need the volunteer time and energy you can give to support the success of VBHS. Your volunteer efforts will benefit our teachers, staff, and most of all, our students. We realize that volunteer constraints may be in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but just in case restrictions are lifted, we would love to know how you could help!

Your Name _____

What is your child's name and in which grade is he or she?

e.g. John Smith, grade 12 _____

Do you have another child in this school? If so, what is his/her name and grade? e.g. Cindy Smith, grade 10 _____

What is your preferred method of contact? Please enter your email and/or telephone or cellphone number (whichever you prefer).

When is it ok for us to contact you? Please check only one.

Please call me only for those jobs checked below.

You can call me anytime, even last minute.

Which volunteer opportunities interest you? Please check all that apply.

Parent Involvement Committee (meets 4 times/year)

Classroom Support (Bulletin Boards, etc.)

Graduation Set-up

Hospitality

Office Support (Filing, etc.)

Data Entry

Copy Person (2 times per week)

Prom Clean-up

Community Connections**

**If you marked Community Connections, what would you like to share with the students? This could be job related, special-interest related, or something related to your past experiences, like service in the military, for example.

If you have suggestions on how to increase parent involvement in our school, please write them in below or on the back of this paper if needed.