

Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary School **2016-2017 Parental Involvement Policy**

Vanceboro Farm Life is a Title 1 school, which means our school receives federal funds to supplement every child's education. These funds are used to provide extra teachers, purchase instructional supplies, update school technology, and provide extra staff development opportunities for our teachers. Vanceboro Farm Life believes that all students can and will be successful through a partnership of families, school, community, and other support agencies. This partnership will include the following:

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Annual parent meetings are held in the fall and spring to keep parents informed of the Title I Program and to allow them to offer suggestions for improvement of the program. The fall meeting is held in conjunction with our curriculum meetings held for each grade level. This meeting was designed to provide parents with information about the Title I program at VFLE and inform them of their right to participate

In March, the spring meeting will give parents an opportunity to evaluate the current Title I plan and share suggestions for improvement in the upcoming year.

FLEXIBLE MEETINGS

Regular and scheduled parent meetings or conferences will be held throughout the school year to provide continued information, support, and resources for parents. Parents are welcomed to volunteer and/or attend any school activity.

INVOLVING PARENTS

The PTO executive board serves as the Parent Advisory council. They actively seek parent participation in such activities such as Book Fair, Field Day, Picture Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and other schoolwide activities. All programs and activities for the PTO are brought before the executive board prior to any action. A parent representative serves on the school cabinet. He/She meets monthly with the cabinet and offers input regarding the parent perspective of our school family.

Progress reports are sent home every 6 weeks and report cards every 12 weeks in grades 3-5. Letters from the school are sent at the end of the first semester to parents of all students at risk of failing, at which time a parent conference is also requested.

TIMELY INFORMATION

Weekly folders are sent home with all students. Our webpage is updated regularly with new information including a schoolwide calendar listing school activities and important dates to remember. Blackboard Connect messages are sent home periodically to keep all parents informed of upcoming activities and important dates.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Each teacher or administrator schedules parent/student conferences whenever deemed necessary by the school or when requested by the parents/guardians.

PARENT COMMENTS

A copy of this Title I Parental Involvement Policy is included in the Student Handbook. A copy is also online for continuous access by parents. At schoolwide meetings, comment cards will be made available for parents to leave plus/delta comments about the meeting. Parents are encouraged to always speak to a staff member, especially administration, when concerns arise by the school.

PARENT COMPACT

Parent compacts are reviewed yearly by staff and parents alike, and provided to each student for parents and students to sign. The agreement defines goals, expectations and shared responsibilities of VFLE, and parents as equal partners for student success. The compact is included in the Student handbook. A copy of the signed compact is kept on file in the teacher's classroom and is used when necessary to remind the student of their agreement and the expectations for their success.

PARENT ASSISTANCE

A parenting resource center is housed on the campus of VFLE. In the center are materials to assist parents with concerns such as helping their child with homework, bullying, etc. Teachers may suggest materials to the parents and assist them with checking out the resources. Summer materials are sent home with identified at-risk students to help them maintain skills that were learned throughout the school year. These materials may be offered during conferences with parents. The teacher gives a mini-training session to the parent or guardian showing them the skills where they should focus with the child.

MATERIALS AND TRAINING

Meetings are held periodically to help parents understand how they can help their child achieve their expectations. These meetings take the form of Reading Nights, Technology Night, Math Night, or Curriculum Nights. At these meetings, materials are provided to children to take home and continue to practice on their academic skills. Parents are encouraged to work with their children using these materials.

EDUCATION OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

School personnel are informed of the actions of the parent committee through the minutes of the meetings. Minutes are e-mailed to all staff members of the actions of the parent advisory/PTO executive board.

In addition, school personnel participate in sessions to help them understand the value of parental involvement. They receive instruction in communication with parents, utilizing parents as equal partners, coordinating parent programs, and building ties within the community.

COORDINATING AND INTEGRATING

VFLE coordinates with a variety of organizations in order to accomplish the goals of the school. These agencies help us to foster a positive and healthy atmosphere for all of our students. Frequent communication occurs among the Craven County Health and Social Services Departments, Craven County Schools' Social Workers, and our staff. Local civic organizations, Christian Help Center, West Craven High School, and community churches support us through the use of volunteers, monetary donations, or assistance directly to our families.

INFORMATION

Parents remain informed of school events at all levels of the school. Classroom teachers communicate weekly with parents through their weekly progress reports. Letters sent to parents, updated school and teacher websites, and quarterly newsletters from the school provide parents with a calendar as well as information about the school as a whole.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEP AND SWD PARENTS

Special efforts are made to provide each parent the opportunity to participate. Whenever possible, fliers are provided in both English and Spanish. Bilingual staff members are able to be interpreters between the home and school.

Annual IEP meetings are held for each child identified with a disability. Meetings to discuss progress toward goals are held at a minimum of each semester and contact between the home and school is usually weekly.

PARENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The PTO executive board serves as the Parent Advisory council for VFLE. They meet monthly in order to plan programs and activities that will involve both students and parents with our school. Their meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month. Check the school website for an updated meeting schedule.