

Little Rock School District
Pulaski Heights Middle School
"Pursuing Panther Pride"
Parent Involvement Plan
2015-2016



401 North Pine Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
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<http://www.lrsd.org>
Mr. Darrell Powell, Principal

Parent Involvement Committee Members/ Action Team for Partnerships

Mr. Darrell Powell, Principal
Joy Thompson, Literacy Enrichment and Parent Facilitator
Beth Munson, English Department Chairperson
Jacqueline Hogg, Social Studies Department Chairperson
Sharon Dallimore, Math Department Chairperson
Terri Phillips, Science Department Chair/Technology Specialist
Karen Ryall, PTSA President
Karen Swinton, Parent
Emily Burrow, Parent
Tammy Bean, Parent
Allison Baker, Parent

School Mission

The PHMS Family is committed to building positive relationships and providing a safe, supportive learning environment where learners will benefit from consistent high standards, engaging instruction, and strong community support as they develop into independent, caring, productive young adults able to successfully face life's challenges.

Pulaski Heights Middle School serves students in grades 6-8 with 810 students. Approximately 56% of our students receive free or reduced lunch. Pulaski Heights Middle School's academic status is a Needs Improvement-Focus School. Joy Thompson serves as the Parent Facilitator.

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Communication

The Pulaski Heights Middle School Parental Involvement Plan involves parents of students of all grade levels in a variety of roles. Our plan recognizes that communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful. To encourage communication, Pulaski Heights Middle School has developed a school web site, individual teacher web sites, and a parent involvement web site. On our web sites, parents can check events, test results, homework assignments, student progress, deadlines, Parent Involvement Plan, parent surveys, and a monthly newsletter. Parents are encouraged to call, email, and attend teacher conferences in order to monitor student progress. Parent involvement opportunities are also sent home via the student to inform the parent and student of the activities taking place in the school and how they can become involved. For more information, contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200.

Parent Activities

Parent workshops/meetings are offered during the four scheduled family nights. The workshops provide opportunities for parents and their children to see the classroom experience in a positive and helpful manner, while school staff provides needed assistance and encouragement. A National History Day workshop educating parents about the year-long academic program and competition will be included. Other parent workshops are available to parents to address their needs and provide strategies that can be used at home to enhance math and literacy.

PTSA meetings and workshops are held throughout the year following a varied schedule to accommodate the needs of families. Invited speakers provide parents with additional information concerning ways to make their child's academic life more successful. Surveys and volunteer forms are given to parents to complete during registration. The results of the survey will be posted on the Parent Involvement web site.

Two parent conference opportunities have been scheduled by the Little Rock School District, one in the fall and one in the spring. Additional conferences are scheduled at the request of the parents and/or teachers through each child's team leader.

Throughout the year, parents are encouraged to participate in the following activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning.

Activity	Date(s)	Time of Day	Contact Person
Registration and Volunteer Sign-up	August 3 rd and 4 th	10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Terra Dukes Terra.dukes@lrsd.org 447-3203
Sixth Grade Orientation	August 13 th	9:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m.	Eric Steward Eric.steward@lrsd.org 447-3242
Title I Meeting	September 10 th	5:30-6:00 p.m.	Darryl Powell Darryl.powell@lrsd.org 447-3201

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Open House	September 10 th	6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Terra Dukes Terra.dukes@lrsd.org 447-3203
PTSA Meetings	August 25 th November 3 rd January 12 th April 5 th	12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Karen Ryall 501-944-2838
Book Fair	September 8 th -16th	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Ardell Thomsen ardell.thomsen@lrsd.org 447-3206
Family Night: Edline 101	September 22, 2015	5:30-6:30	Terri Phillips Terri.phillips@lrsd.org 447-3275
Family Night: National History Day	October 8th	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Janet Buford janet.buford@lrsd.org 447-3221
Parent Conference Days	October 19 th and February 15 th	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Terra Dukes Terra.dukes@lrsd.org 447-3203
Brown Bag Lunch with the Principal	October 9th	12:00-1:00	Joy Thompson Joy.thompson1@lrsd.org 447-3200
Family Night: Math	October 29 th	6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Terese Oliver Terese.oliver@lrsd.org 447-3223
Family Fitness Night	October 22 Spring	6:00p.m.-7:00 p.m. TBA	Joy Thompson Joy.thompson1@lrsd.org 447-3200
Band/Orchestra Concert	Fall and Spring	TBA	Michael Williamson Michael.williamson@lrsd.org 447-3216
Arts Showcase	Fall and Spring	TBA	Kristen Castillon Kristen.castillon@lrsd.org 447-3289
Family Night: Literacy	January 29 th	6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Janelle Moreland Janelle.moreland@lrsd.org 447-3277
Family Night: Science	April 7 th	6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Onisha Chandler Onisha.chandler@lrsd.org 447-3215
Pantherfest	TBA	TBA	Karen Ryall 501-944-2838

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Staff Development

Pulaski Heights Middle School supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the Parent Involvement Program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the Little Rock School District. The principal has designated one certified staff member that serves as a parent facilitator. The parent facilitator organizes meaningful training for staff and parents to help promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere for parental involvement at Pulaski Heights Middle School. The parent facilitator also ensures that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school. The person serving as parent facilitator receives supplemental pay for the assigned duties as required by law. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Pulaski Heights Middle School is committed to providing opportunities for the maximum growth and development of each child. This commitment includes the involvement of parents and volunteers. Pulaski Heights Middle School wants each year to be a very positive experience for students and their parents. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available during registration, Open House, PTSA meetings, and Family Nights. Volunteer training will be available throughout the year as needed. Opportunities for parent involvement are integrated and coordinated in the program during the year to include planning visitation days for fifth grade students and parents who will be attending middle school in the fall. Parent volunteers organize fifth grade orientation sessions and provide tours of the school. Parents also volunteer to assist with mentoring, main office duties, choir and band concerts, art contests, Reflections competitions, sporting events, and library duties. For more information about ways you can volunteer and volunteer training, contact Terra Dukes at 447-3203.

School-Parent-Compact

School staff, parents, and students develop a school-parent-student compact. This compact outlines how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement. Pulaski Heights Middle School and parents build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders have the opportunity to sign the compact. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200

Implementation and Evaluation of the School Wide Improvement Plan

Pulaski Heights Middle School has parent representatives who are invited to attend the PTSA School Council meetings held in the library. All parents are also invited to be involved in school improvement planning. To support this process, the school offers both school staff and parents training on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way. Parents are involved in making decisions about the allocation of its Title I, Part A funds for parental involvement. Parents and staff are also involved in evaluating the Improvement Plan each year. To take advantage of community resources, the school has put forth an effort to recruit Pulaski Heights Middle School Alumni to attend meetings to provide advice and guidance for school improvement. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200

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Resources for Parents

To promote and support responsible parenting, Pulaski Heights Middle School encourages parents to take advantage of the school's Parent Resource Center. The parent facilitator maintains the Parent Resource Center which is in the media. It is open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The center provides information to parents, students, teachers, and staff on many subjects regarding parenting topics, behavior issues, discipline, depression, drugs, homework, etc. Parents are able to check out some of the materials. There are also computers available for parents to use to check grades and visit educational web sites in the Media Center. Parents are encouraged to view the Title I Parent Involvement Plan located in the parent center. Pulaski Heights Middle School has also purchased books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting.

Each year informational packets are distributed to parents that include a copy of the school's Parental Involvement Plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parental involvement activities planned for the current school year and information about the system that is used to allow parents and teachers to have an open line of communication with each other via notes, phone calls, and e-mail. Included in the school's policy handbook is the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, who to approach first, and how to develop solutions. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200

Parent Involvement Evaluation

Pulaski Heights Middle School engages parents in an annual evaluation of the Title I Program's parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation using comprehensive needs assessment filled out by teachers, parents, and school staff. The Parent Involvement Committee, made up of teachers, parents, and school staff determine the effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Plan and make changes if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program and the school's efforts to increase parental involvement is a part of the evaluation, it also provides specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200

Parental Involvement Surveys

At Pulaski Heights Middle School we ask parents to complete a parent interest survey during each school year. The survey provides information concerning the activities parents feel are most beneficial in the efforts to support their child academically. The school uses the results of the parent interest survey to plan the parental involvement activities for the year. The school evaluates the activities that were suggested by the parents at the end of the year as part of the annual Parental Involvement Plan evaluation.

Our school, along with the district, is a member of the National Network for Partnership Schools (NNPS). NNPS supports six (6) types of parent involvement.

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- Type 1: Parenting – Activities are designed to help families understand young adolescent development, acquire developmentally appropriate parenting skills, set home conditions to support learning at each grade level.
- Type 2: Communicating – Activities focus on keeping parents informed through such things as notices, memos, report cards, conferences about student work and social functions.
- Type 3: Volunteering – Activities incorporate strategies to improve volunteer recruiting, training, and scheduling.
- Type 4: Learning at Home – Activities allow coordination of schoolwork with work at home (e.g., goal setting, interactive homework).
- Type 5: Decision Making – Activities are designed to solicit the voice of parents in decisions about school policies and practices.
- Type 6: Collaborating with the Community – Activities acknowledge and bring together all community entities (e.g., community businesses, religious organizations) with a vested interest in the education of young adolescents.

For more information, contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200.

Annual Title I Meeting

Pulaski Heights Middle School conducts an annual Title I meeting for all parents, students, and staff at the beginning of each school year. The school's annual Title I meeting is separate from any other meetings or activities to ensure that presenters have ample time to provide a description/explanation of school curriculum, information on forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and information on the proficiency level students are expected to meet. The agenda, the sign-in sheet, and the minutes for this meeting are generated separately from any other events and kept on file in the school's office and with the parent facilitator. This year's Title I meeting will be held on September 10, 2015 at 5:30 pm. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200

National Network of Partnership Schools

Pulaski Heights Middle School is a member of Johns Hopkins University of National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS). The NNPS School, Family, and Community Partnership model is designed to enhance parent participation and involvement in the school and community. The model is research based and references six types of involvement: parenting, communicating, volunteering, student learning, decision-making, and collaborating with the community. To support the six types of involvement, Pulaski Heights Middle School participates on the LRSD NNPS West School Cluster Team. For more information contact Joy Thompson at 447-3200