

Brown Intermediate School Family and Community Engagement Plan

The following Family and Community Engagement Plan is based upon the concept that families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. As a result of this influence, positive results with student achievement occur when schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning. The focus of the Plan is to build trusting, collaborative relationships among teachers, families, and community members. It also recognizes, respects, and addresses families' needs, as well as class and cultural differences. Every school in the district has received a copy of the plan and incorporates the standards as part of its own parent involvement plan.

The faculty and staff of Brown Intermediate School (BIS) take the responsibility we have of educating the youth of our area seriously. We are committed to involving parents and all stakeholders in the education of our students. We believe communicating needs, accomplishments, and events to parents, stakeholders, and the community is essential in activating the resources necessary to give students the greatest chance of success. BIS will increase family and community involvement with the following action plan.

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community – Families are active participants in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school.

Action Plan:

- A school website will be hosted and maintained with information about Brown Intermediate School (BIS).
- BIS will sponsor a Parent/Teacher Organization.
- Volunteers will be solicited for school needs.
- Each class will have a parent representative to help with classroom needs.
- Notes and phone calls will be made to solicit help when needed.
- Personal invitations will be done continuously throughout the community.
- A variety of opportunities to participate include: to help with lunchtime walking, field trips, classroom help, fundraising activities, book fair, the mile run, etc.
- BIS will host a book fair family night.
- PTO sponsors several "Dinner and a Movie" nights as fundraisers and opportunities to build positive relationships with students, parents, and faculty.
- Save-A-Lot is our formal business partner and provides financial support for the school.
- In the fall of each year, grandparents are invited to eat lunch with their grandchild.

- A Veteran's Day program is also held each year to help facilitate positive community relations.
- BIS will hold an awards day each nine weeks for classrooms by grade level and then a school-wide awards day at the end of the school year.
- Parents are invited to eat lunch and/or breakfast with their children as desired.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively – Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

Action Plan:

- Parents will be contacted about upcoming school events and weather related closings through SchoolReach, a phone contact service.
- A monthly calendar will be sent to all parents and faculty to provide information about upcoming events and a summary of what is going on at Brown Intermediate School.
- Open House will be held before the first day of school to inform parents and guardians about school policies and procedures. This will also provide them a chance to meet their child's teachers.
- Each student will be provided with a school handbook that explains school policies, procedures, and the behavior expectation matrix.
- Signs will be posted outside announcing upcoming events.
- Parent-Teacher conferences will be held several times a year.
- Teachers and the principal will send notes home or make phone calls to parents to address specific student needs and/or school activities.
- Teachers will maintain ongoing communication with parents through newsletters, texts, phone calls, e-mail, and personal conversations.
- Faculty's e-mail addresses are available on the school's website so parent and community members may contact them at any time.
- Teacherease, a web-based grading site, is used by all teachers to keep parents up to date on student assignments, grades, and conduct.

Standard 3: Supporting students success – Families and school staff continuously work together to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Action Plan:

- Websites will be provided with relevant information and links to educational websites.
- Projects and activities to be shared and constructed at home will be provided by classrooms and programs such as 4-H.
- Coordinated School Health keeps families, faculty, and students aware of nutritional and health-related issues that may arise.

- The guidance counselor teaches character lessons and provides material related to character education.
- Afternoon tutoring is offered four days a week to help students who are struggling with concepts.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child – Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Action Plan:

- Parents and community members will complete a survey each year.
- Parents will serve on the Parent Advisory Committee for collaborative decision making.
- Parents are invited to volunteer and/or observe in their child's classroom.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the school at any time to schedule a conference with any staff member.
- Parents are made aware of counseling that is available to their child in times of need.
- A monthly newsletter will be sent home at the beginning of each month with school news and upcoming events.
- Federal programs and Special Education offer informational meetings to parents.
- Parents are informed if problems arise with their child and their input is valued if corrective action is necessary. Interventions, such as peer mediation, are described and offered to parents and students as alternative methods of correcting behavior.

Standard 5: Sharing power – Families and school staff are equal partners with equal representation in decisions that affect students and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Action Plan:

- Parents are invited to participate in a parent advisory council that will periodically meet to share ideas for improvement and express concerns.
- Parents are given the opportunity to give feedback via a survey for continual improvement.
- Parents are invited to participate in the school Parent/Teacher Organization.
- The school wide Parent Compact will be reviewed and updated annually with input from parents, faculty, and administration.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community – Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Action Plan:

- Community members are invited to participate in a survey to provide feedback for continual improvement.
- The guidance counselor works with parents to connect them to outside agencies for family counseling.
- A school based therapist has been added to assist students and parents.
- A coordinating effort is established between Brown Intermediate School and the local Lion's Club to provide assistance to needy families to purchase eye glasses.
- The local health department provides periodical dental screenings.
- The TN Department of Health periodically sends a dentist to apply dental sealants to students' teeth, if needed and wanted.
- Sweetwater Citizens for the Arts and Brown Intermediate School work together to provide opportunities to expose the students to the arts.
- Civic organizations are permitted to send flyers home with students announcing community events or opportunities.
- A School Health Coordinator, nurse, and P.E. instructor conduct BMI (Body Mass Index) screenings.
- Faculty and staff attend a variety of community events.
- A Classworks extended-learning component has been added to provide students with rigorous curriculum at home for those who are interested in pursuing it.