

SWEETWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE PLAN... THE PROMISE... 2022-2023



Sweetwater Middle School Patriots

3500 Cruse Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

770-923-4131

[https://www.gcpsk12.org/Sweetwater
MS](https://www.gcpsk12.org/SweetwaterMS)

5/16/2022

WHAT IS A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN?

It is a plan that describes how our school will provide opportunities to improve family engagement that will support student learning at school and at home. All students and their families are invited and encouraged to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. The school will provide information and as many opportunities as possible for the participation of all family members.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL-FAMILY PROMISE?

It is a written agreement that outlines how the school, the students, and the family will work together to ensure your child's academic success. An effective School-Family Promise contains the following elements:

- Clear learning goals that are linked to the school's improvement plan
- Specific skills students will learn during the year
- Strategies that staff, families, and students will use to improve student learning
- Ways to extend learning at home
- Methods teachers and family members will use to communicate about student progress
- Opportunities for family members to observe and participate in the classroom
- Jointly-developed by families, school staff, students, community business partners, and other stakeholders during our Planning Meeting
- Reviewed and revised throughout the year (The School-Family Promise will be issued to parents through MYPAYMENTSPLUS and reviewed during school-wide parent-teacher conferences in October and March. In addition, the Promise will be reviewed during SSTs and parent-requested conferences with teachers.

LET'S TALK

Please list several methods for regular two-way teacher family communications.

During the Regular School Year

Talking Points, Phone Calls, Text messaging, Class DoJo, Emails through Synergy, and school newsletters

During times of Crisis (Digital Learning)

Google Voice, Zoom, Talking Points, Text Messaging, the Activity Feed on e-Class Page, Weekly E-mails, Newsletters, and E-mails with Step-by-Step instructions with pictures.

If you need interpretation and/or translation services, please contact: Ana.Alvarez@GCPSK12.org or 770-923-4131

ACTIVITIES TO BUILD OUR PARTNERSHIP

Title I Planning Meeting
Local School Council
Meet the Teacher
Annual Meeting
Curriculum Night
Coffee with the Principal
Mental Health Awareness
Literacy Night
Math Night
GMAS Night
Rising 6th Grade Transition Night
International Celebrations
Parents teaching Parent Activities
Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 2022
Winter Parent Teacher Conferences – March 2023



WHERE IS THE PLAN AVAILABLE?

The Family and Community Engagement Plan and all other Title I information are available on our school's website at gcpsk12.org/SweetwaterMS under the Title I Section. Families can also find paper copies of this Family and Community Engagement Plan in our Parent Center and the Media Center.

HOW IS THE PLAN DEVELOPED AND REVISED?

It is reviewed and revised at least annually during the Planning Meeting in the spring. All feedback forms from the Planning Meeting are submitted to the Office of Federal Programs for review. Families who are not able to attend the Planning Meeting have the opportunity to review draft documents and provide input during the draft document review period.

COMMUNICATION

All documents and communications are provided to families in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese (when possible), and are presented in a family-friendly format. Flyers and emails are sent to parents to notify them of upcoming meetings and events. Sweetwater also utilizes Twitter and Instagram to post upcoming meetings and workshops. Finally, our electronic marquee also advertises upcoming events.

To schedule a conference or a classroom visitation, parents must contact the grade level clerk. The grade level clerk will schedule the meeting and notify the parent of the date and time.

6th Grade – Mrs. Obu – 770-806-7811

7th Grade – Mrs. White – 770-806-7809

8th Grade – Ms. Escobar – 678-380-7228

ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES WITH...

- ❖ **Title I Program Information:** Program information is available during the Title I Planning Meeting in the spring and Annual Parent Meetings in the fall, on the school website, and in the Parent Center.
- ❖ **Curriculum Information:** Knowing what your child is learning at school is important. We will keep you informed throughout the year about what your child is learning during parent meetings, conferences, eCLASS, and on our school website.
- ❖ **Student Progress Monitoring:** The Parent Portal is an online resource that allows families to view grades, attendance, schedules, assessment, and your child's results, course history, and much more. Monitoring your child's progress in school is an important way to be engaged.
- ❖ **Parent Resources:** We have many resources available for checkout to use at home with your child. We also host several parent workshops to empower you as you work with your child at home.
- ❖ **Staff Training:** We will train our staff to effectively communicate with you. Your input on how we train our staff is valuable.
- ❖ **Communication:** We will communicate, to the extent feasible, all information with you in a language and format you understand. Whenever possible, we will provide interpreters during parent workshops, and academic events. Translation is available for most documents.
- ❖ **Transition Support:** Entering a new school can be scary for both students and families. We will host events to make sure both you and your child are aware of what is expected and how you can prepare as your child transitions to a new school level, college, and career.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Title I is a federal program designed to support school reform efforts to improve teaching and learning for all students.
- ✓ Title I programs are based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement.
- ✓ The Title I Office reserves at least one percent of the district's allocation to fund family and community engagement programs. The use of these funds is based on suggestions gathered at our spring Planning Meetings from families and community members. Funds are distributed equally to all our Title I schools.
- ✓ Childcare and/or transportation may be provided for meetings and school events.

Sweetwater Middle School's Vision Mission Statement

Vision

Sweetwater Middle School will be a world-class school for the 21st Century, committed to honoring the dreams of families who choose our school.

Mission

Sweetwater Middle School Students will be promoted to high school "on time."



OUR DISTRICT GOALS

Language Arts: All students will graduate as analytical readers, writers, and communicators of language.

Math: Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency through a deep understanding of numeracy with the ability to compute with fluency, think critically, and communicate their mathematical reasoning effectively.

Science: Students will develop a strong content understanding in the Earth, life, and physical sciences as well as develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

Social Studies: Students will develop a strong understanding of themselves and their role and responsibility in society by discovering the heritage of their nation within a global context.

OUR SCHOOL GOALS

We will provide all students with a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to meet high academic standards.

Sweetwater students will show mastery in language arts by demonstrating increased proficiency levels on locally developed common assessments, GCPS District Assessments, and the GMAS EOG.

Sweetwater students will show mastery in mathematics by demonstrating increased proficiency levels on locally developed common assessments, GCPS District Assessments, and the GMAS EOG.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE SUCCESS



Sweetwater MS will...

- Host workshops focused on the use of various reading material and exploratory, critical, and analytical reading strategies along with student Lexiles to improve students' reading comprehension of fiction and nonfiction text.
- Assist parents in selecting and using Parent Center resources and online resources that focus on building students reading comprehension and reading stamina.
- Provide parents with test-taking strategies focused on comprehension of various reading material.

Chekquita Johnson

5/16/2022

Principal's Signature

Date



As Students, we will...

Use various types of reading material, and exploratory, critical, and analytical reading strategies to improve comprehension in Math, LA, Science, and SS.

- Access my eCLASS portal to view study guides and assignments, and use multiple resources such as Coach Digital to build vocabulary and improve our reading comprehension.
- Practice test-taking strategies focused on comprehension of various materials.



As Families, we will...

- Attend workshops to learn how to use various exploratory, critical, and analytical reading strategies to improve reading comprehension in Math, LA, Sci, and SS.
- Use various resources to help improve reading comprehension and reading stamina.

- Help our child practice test-taking strategies focused on comprehension of various reading material.

VISIT OUR PARENT CENTER

Our Parent Center has learning games, books, and many other resources available for families to check out and use at home. The Parent Instructional Coordinator is *Dr. June Harris*. She is available to help you find resources, navigate the Parent Portal, connect with teachers, and learn about ways you can help your children at home.

Our Parent Center is located in room 1.92 in the front of the school.

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Please contact *Dr. Harris* for additional information about our Parent Center and the resources available for check-out.

770-806-7814

June.Harris@gcpsk12.org

Volunteer opportunities



Atlanta Food Bank Mobile Pantry Days
International Night
Heritage Celebrations
Hispanic Youth Conference Chaperones
Autism & Special Needs Month
Teacher Christmas Appreciation
Teacher Appreciation Week
Scoliosis Training
Field Trips
8th Grade Day
Media Center