

## **Blue Heron Middle School Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy 2019-20**

Blue Heron Middle School is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every child. To this end, we will establish partnerships with parents/guardians and with the community. Everyone gains if Blue Heron Middle School and families work together to fulfill our school mission and Vision: *We are committed to raising the level of student learning so Blue Heron students will have equitable access to learning opportunities that foster growth through the use of 21st-century skills to become contributing citizens.*

Parents/Guardians play an extremely important role as the child's first teacher. As children develop and mature through the middle years in grades 6-8, parents/guardians are vital in supporting Blue Heron's academic program and holding high expectations for their child's participation and success in and out of school. As a Schoolwide Title 1 Program, Blue Heron Middle School embraces the philosophy that neither home nor school can do it alone. Our goal is a school-home partnership, in which we work together to assure all students succeed.

### **PART I School Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy -- Required Components**

A. Blue Heron Middle School revises our parent/guardian involvement policy and procedures each year. Parent/Guardians are invited and encouraged to participate in this process at our Title 1 Informational Night, to which all parents/guardians are invited. This year, the meeting was held at Blue Heron Middle School on September 7, 2019.

B. Our Parent/Guardian Involvement Procedures brochure provides many opportunities for parents/guardians to be involved at school throughout the year. The brochure is available at Blue Heron Middle School's main office and on our school's website. In addition, Port Townsend School District has a District Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy, which is reviewed by the Port Townsend School District's Board of Directors annually. A copy of this policy is available on PTSD's website.

C. Flexibility is important and necessary to encourage parent/guardian involvement in education. As partners, Blue Heron Middle School works with each family as individuals to match schedules for appointments, support availability and use of technology, provide translators, provide childcare during school events, etc. Proactive two-way communication helps both school and parents/guardians plan well to support each family's unique circumstances and each student's academic needs.

D. All parents/guardians have the opportunity to read and participate in our school's annual program survey, which assists our continuous self-study and school improvement process. In addition, parent/guardian events such as monthly "Coffee with the Principal" and yearly parent/guardian conferences provide ongoing feedback and input toward academic improvements. Our doors are always open for parents/guardians and we invite discussion of issues toward reaching mutually-beneficial solutions.

E. As a Title 1 Schoolwide Program, all Blue Heron families are eligible for receiving and benefiting from the services provided by Title 1 funding. Title 1 requirements direct our initial support to our most struggling students in math and literacy. We continue to provide academic support for students in all grades in CCSS math and literacy as our Title 1 budget permits. Specific services this year include in-class reading and math assistance via Specialist Teachers and Instructional Assistants to support student growth and progress toward meeting CCSS grade-level standards.

F. If Blue Heron's Schoolwide Title 1 Plan is not deemed satisfactory to the parents/guardians of participating children and/or if parents/guardians have questions beyond the processes outlined above, there is a parent/guardian comment process each year when Blue Heron's Building Leadership Team reviews its plan (September/October) and/or when Blue Heron Middle School reports our plan to the PTSD School Board (October/November).

## **Part II Required Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement**

Our goal is to ensure effective involvement of parents/guardians and to support a partnership among Blue Heron Middle School, parents/guardians, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

Blue Heron's Parent/Guardian Compact has been revised and will be shared with parents/guardians at Fall Student-Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences.

A. Blue Heron Middle School provides assistance to parents/guardians in understanding Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Smarter Balanced assessments. This includes:

- SBAC scores are sent home with a letter of explanation and opportunity to contact administration and teachers with questions.
- Fall Student-Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences are held for all students in grades 6-8, and include an opportunity for parents/guardians to ask questions about MSP and student progress toward current grade level CCSS standards. Spring Student-Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences are also held.
- Coffee with the Principal meetings provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to learn about CCSS, Smarter Balanced Assessments, and offer ideas for assisting parents/guardians to help their children prepare for new academic expectations and assessments.

B. Blue Heron Middle School provides transition activities for fifth grade teachers, parents/guardians, and students in the spring to answer questions, provide a tour of our school and help prepare students for the next academic year in a new school with new expectations. Blue Heron also works with Port Townsend High School to prepare our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Part III Building Capacity for Involvement**

A. Blue Heron Middle School is part of an active district-wide PTA organization, which holds a general membership meeting at least 4 times each year. PTA supports our students in academics and enrichment opportunities. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to join PTA too. We encourage all parents/guardians to join PTA and/or participate in activities and fundraisers, even if your personal circumstances do not allow for attending meetings or holding a leadership position.

B. Blue Heron Middle School builds, encourages, and sustains partnerships with YMCA, Jefferson County Library, and other youth-oriented groups to provide support and enrichment to our students in academic, athletic, and recreational areas. Opportunities for parents/guardians are also available through these community resources.

C. Blue Heron school makes every effort to provide vital information to parents/guardians in their first language and offers translation support at conferences, IEP, and 504 meetings. Assistance in filling out paperwork can also be provided.

D. Blue Heron Middle School Title 1 funds may provide reasonable expenses associated with attending parent/guardian trainings or conferences.

E. Blue Heron Middle School encourages organizations and businesses to be involved with our school by volunteering and offering incentives for academic performance.

#### **PART IV Accessibility Requirements**

Blue Heron Middle School provides full opportunities for the participation of parents/guardians with children with limited English Proficiency, parents/guardians with children with disabilities, and parents/guardians of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language parents/guardians can understand.

#### **Part V Adoption**

Our Blue Heron Middle School Parent/Guardian Compact and Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy and Procedures have been developed and revised jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents/guardians of Blue Heron students, as evidenced by Title 1 Informational Parent/Guardian night and Blue Heron Faculty meeting minutes.

The Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy/Procedures were shared and revised by Blue Heron Middle School on November 18 and will be in effect during the 2019-20 school year. The school will distribute these Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy/Procedures to all parents/guardians and make these agreements available to the community on or before our fall Student-Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences on November 21, 2019.

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*Signature of Title 1 Authorized Representative*

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*Signature of Blue Heron Principal*

November 18, 2019

*Date*