

# Sixth Ward Elementary School

## Title I (2008-2009) Parent Involvement Overview

There are three main components to the Parental Involvement Plan of Sixth Ward School for the 2008-2009 school year.

### **I. Family members participation in student learning:**

This first component consists of involving parents whenever possible in the daily school activities of their children. We have more than just an open door; we actively encourage parents to visit classrooms, to work in classrooms, and to become a learning partner with their children's teachers. All of our parent involvement activities include our students' grandparents as well; they are a vital part of our school and the PI component.

Specifics of parent involvement in the classroom include the following:

- A. Programs arranged by 4-yr.-old and K teachers that invite guest speakers, including outside guests and other faculty members and in-class projects involving parents and children.
- B. Parent volunteers in all grades work with their children on special projects in art, social studies, and reading. These activities take place at home and in classrooms. Parents also help, on occasion, in the computer lab to help students reading / math and writing activities.
- C. Individual parents (usually as part of PTA) are encouraged to come to school to work with children, their own and others, so that the students develop a sense of how important education is to the adults in their family and their community.
- D. Whenever possible we use parents as tutors for children in the school.

### **II. Family-school communication about learning:**

- A. Newsletters are sent to parents from the school detailing the academic and classroom events of the school. To make this endeavor more parent friendly, we plan to use students (with classroom teacher guidance) to write some of the articles thereby strengthening their writing skills as well as expanding the home-school connection.
- B. Teachers and the principal of the school also contact parents on a regular basis to inform parents of their child's progress and to work with parents to insure the success of the child.
- C. Teachers and the school counselor make a concerted effort to inform parents of seminars, workshops, available literature, and social services to help them in rearing successful, well-adjusted children.
- D. Teachers and parents also communicate with each other by means of homework contracts and home reading contracts.
- E. Teachers send home learning games and packets that foster thinking skills and parent-student interactions. (Parents send us comments and evaluations of the effectiveness of these packets and their usefulness in the home.)

### **III. Incorporating family / community members of all students through Community Education:**

- A. We will open the Parenting Center and the computer lab for parent access during the evening Community Education hours.
- B. We promote use of the materials in the Parenting Center for family use at home.
- C. We also foster educational growth and bonding between parents and their children by evening programs designed to promote learning, such as Literacy Night, Math/Science Night, and Book Fairs. We also have plays by our Drama Club, concerts by the band and chorus, and holiday celebrations in both the evening and during the school day so that parents can attend.