

Thomson Middle School
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2020-2021 School Year



Thomson Middle School
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301 Thomson Street
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Plan Revised: August 21, 2020

What is Title I?

Thomson Middle School is identified as a Title I School as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts and is tied to challenging state academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for all students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support families. Parents are an important part of the Title I team at Thomson Middle School and through this partnership work with our school; they help us make sure that students achieve success. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental engagement plan.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Thomson Middle School will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement in support of student learning. Thomson Middle School values the contributions and engagement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Thomson Middle School will support parent engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

Thomson Middle School invites all parents to attend our Annual Shared Decision Making Meetings each spring to review and revise this Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the School Improvement Plan, our School-Home Compact and the parental engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for Parental Engagement. Parents and guardians can also give feedback during several meetings, academic events and activities during the school year. Any unsatisfactory comments regarding the Title I Plan will be reported to the district.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Thomson Middle School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of the school year, the plan is included in the Title I Parent Handbook that is distributed to all families. Copies are also available in the school office, on the TMS website and in the Parent Resource Center.

District Goals

2020-2021

The mission of the Houston County School System is to produce high achieving students.

- Increase the value of the overall district College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score by 3% focusing on literacy, high quality standards based instruction and multi-tier system of supports.
- Increase the percentage of parents who feel their child's school provides various opportunities for engagement.

Thomson Middle School Goals

2020-2021

The Mission of Thomson Middle School is to inspire, support, and prepare all students with a quality educational experience, while building integrity and character to be successful and competitive in a global society.

- *Provide high quality instruction resulting in a 2% increase in student promotion rate.*

Parent and Family Engagement Partnership

Partnering with Parents is an ongoing process that increases active participation, meaningful, two-way communication and the collaboration between parents, school and communities. By stakeholders forging together, we will experience consistent academic growth for all students.

We believe these goals can be achieved by ensuring –

- That the environment is conducive to create a welcoming partnership;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning at home process;
- That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;
- The carrying out of Family Engagement Events and other activities as described in this plan.

School-Home Compacts

As part of this plan, Thomson Middle School and our families have developed a School-Home Compact. The Compact is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students developed together. It explains how all parties will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. Copies of the Compacts are reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers. The School-Home Compacts are kept in the Family Engagement Coordinator's office, school's front office and on the school's web-page. Signed Compacts are kept on file and will be reviewed at all parent-teacher conferences.

Building Capacity for Engagement

Thomson Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents who serve as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- Ensure that all information related to school and parent program meetings and other activities is published in English, Spanish and understandable language upon request. Events details will be posted on the school website, Facebook, flyers, emails, messenger call-outs, and marquee, as well as being included in the weekly newsletter.
- Conduct at least four staff development events throughout the year that will focus on the value of parent contributions, communication in a language that parents can understand, methods to build ties between home and school and focus on parent requests for specific parent and family engagement events.
- Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental engagement.
- Share information in English and Spanish on the school website for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities through phone messages, social media, and flyers.
- Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's "Learning at Home" process.
- Partner with community and business organizations to enhance activities and events listed in the Parent and Family Engagement Plan.
- Provide information on our District's Literacy and Computer classes for parents to help further enhance their various educational levels.
- Listen and respond to parents at all events as well as post on the school website in order to respond to parents' request for additional support for Parental engagement activities.
- Conduct orientations for transitioning students and parents as they enter our school for the first time.

Types of Parent Engagement

We have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. We believe these six standards will engage parents in their children's lives. Allow parents to experience positive interaction with the school, feel included in the decision-making process, increase confidence, and most importantly affect student academic achievement.

- ✚ Welcoming All Families
- ✚ Communicating Effectively
- ✚ Supporting Student Success
- ✚ Speaking Up for Every Child
- ✚ Sharing Power
- ✚ Collaborating with the Community

Parent Resource Center

Visit our Parent Resource Center for information and assistance with:

- ☛ Homework
 - ☛ Insightful articles
 - ☛ College and Career Readiness
 - ☛ School & Community Event information
 - ☛ Parent Engagement Program
 - ☛ State and Federal Parent Engagement Resources
 - ☛ Transitions
 - ☛ Computer w/internet available for your use
- Located in Front Office Conference Room
Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm

Parent Engagement Events and Activities

Thomson Middle School will host the following events to build capacity for strong family engagement and support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic these events may be subject to change.

▪ Meet & Greet – August 4, 2020

*Meet your child's teachers and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.
(Video and Posted to the TMS Web Page)*

▪ Annual Title I Meeting – September 24, 2020

Learn about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be emailed, messenger call-out, posted in the school newsletter, and social media. (Video and Posted to the TMS Web Page)

▪ Academic Open House – September 24, 2020

Academic standards, pacing and classroom procedures. *(Video and Posted to the TMS Web Page)*

▪ STEM/Science Family Event – October 22, 2020

Event using creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills. *(Video and Posted to the TMS Web Page)*

▪ STEM/Math Family Event – November 19, 2020

Event using creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills. *(Facebook Live)*

▪ ELA/Literacy Event – December 10, 2020

Kinesthetic Learning, Reading Strategies and Parent Tool Box: Techniques and Tips (Facebook Live)

▪ Social Studies Even – February 4, 2021

Join your child as we journey through the cultures of our world. (Facebook Live)

▪ Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt – March 25, 2021

This event will be a Community Scavenger Hunt.

▪ GA Milestones Assessment – March 25, 2021

Getting ready, Assessment outline and Results. (Video and Posted to the TMS Web Page)

▪ Shared Decision Making – April 2021

A forum for parents to participate in roundtable discussions and give their feedback regarding the Schoolwide Plan, Parent Engagement Plan, School-Home Compacts, and the Title I Budget.. (Zoom)

Parent and Family Engagement Forum and Action Team

This Forum brings together parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders to develop family engagement opportunities. Thomson Middle School invites all parents to join our Parent and Family Engagement Forum and Action Team to share your ideas and provide your input for ways to involve all parents in order to build a strong partnership with the school, our families, and the community.

The team will meet twice during the school year, but parents can always submit their ideas or suggestions during any event, activity or meeting as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more please contact the Family Engagement Coordinator at (478) 953-0489 ext. 3478 or email your information to alesia.chadwick@hcbe.net.

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional)

Contact Information: (optional)

Suggestions or Questions:

*or email the above information to:
alesia.chadwick@hcbe.net*