

# Lanier County Elementary Parent Involvement Plan 2009-2010

In order to guarantee student success, partnerships among schools and parents are critical. Parents participate in a variety of ways to support their children's education. Lanier County Elementary School recognizes all levels of involvement as being significant elements to the overall success of students. It is our goal to maximize the learning potential of our students by offering the following programs and/or opportunities to involve parents at Lanier County Elementary.

At Lanier County Elementary, faculty and staff members participate in an annual Title I Review to be held during pre-planning activities. During this session, the Title I Coordinator updates the staff on Title I issues, policy changes, and funding information. The coordinator addresses the value and utility of the contributions of parents and how to reach out to communicate and work with parents as equal partners to build ties between home and school. The school's plan is discussed and the established goals are reviewed to ensure the faculty and staff members understand their role in helping the school attain the goals.

In addition to the faculty and staff review meeting, the following meetings/events/programs are offered at flexible times to meet the needs of the parents of Lanier County Elementary. These programs were planned in response to parent input.

- Open House: Provides the opportunity for parents and students to meet their teacher for the school year for the first time. Parents learn about class schedules, curriculum expectations, important school events, and parent involvement opportunities for the first nine weeks of school.
- Student Handbooks: Each student/parent is provided a Student Handbook upon entering school. In it, school policies and procedures are specified. The Parent Involvement Policy and Compact are also included in the handbook.
- Family Night: (Early Fall) Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting focusing on achievement goals for each grade level, curriculum/intervention initiatives, and Title I orientation. At this time, parents are given a booklet entitled, *Learn About Your Title*

*I Program.* Highlights of the booklet will be shared such as parents' rights under NCLB, right to know and teacher quality. Teachers from each grade level also discuss GPS standards and state testing requirements for the year. Parents are encouraged to review curriculum materials used by the school and ask questions regarding grade level expectations.

- Parent/Teacher Conferences: (Scheduled twice per year) Parents may request an parent/teacher conference at any time. However, designated times have been established within the school district to conduct report card conferences. Teachers will share results of academic assessments and the proficiency level of their children.
- Lunch -N- Learn: Each month informative workshops are conducted for parents based on a wide range of topics to help their students be successful in school. Some topics include: discipline, reading/homework support and strategies, Internet usage, and nutrition.
- KIT Breakfasts (Keeping In Touch): Fourth grade teachers invite parents to a special breakfast of juice and doughnuts. KIT breakfasts provide the opportunity for students to share what they have learned in fourth grade. These are held 3 to 4 times per year.
- Grandparents' Day- (September): All grandparents are invited to eat lunch or breakfast with their grandchild. LCES recognizes the importance of involving grandparents in our school.
- Parents Assuring Student Success (PASS): This is a six hour training session comprised of eight modules. The eight modules are: Parent Attitude, The Home Environment, Study Skills, Homework and Learning Expeditors, Note-Taking Skills, Preparing for Tests, Memory and Thinking Skills, and Reading Skills. Training books and PowerPoint presentations are also provided in the training conducted by the School Social Worker, Counselor, and Parent Involvement Coordinator. Breakfast and lunch are provided as well as child care for participants.
- Kindergarten Round Up (Spring): Upcoming Kindergarten students from the community (current Pre-K and HeadStart students) and their parents are invited to an evening meeting to learn about the wonderful opportunities of Kindergarten. Teachers share information about the curriculum, GPS and state assessments. These rising five

year olds also have the opportunity to tour the Kindergarten classrooms.

- Title I Evaluation: (Spring) In April, the Title I Coordinator prepares an evening meeting to gain parent input on the current Parent Involvement Policy and Plan. Parents are asked to review both documents and make any suggestions for the upcoming school year. A survey is also sent to all parents requesting the same information. Any unsatisfactory comments are attached to the school plan. Revisions are made, if needed.
- Renaissance Parades and Pep Rallies: (End of each 9 week grading period) Each 9 weeks grading period is concluded with a huge celebration of academic excellence. The entire community participates in recognizing students for achievement by observing and/or attending LCES Renaissance Parade and Pep Rally. Students are recognized for academic improvements, honor roll, attendance, and good citizenship.
- Programs and Musicals: Each month a grade level is spotlighted in a production prepared by teachers. Parents are invited to see their star perform. These productions are based around holiday themes with a strong academic purpose. Students are proud to share what they have learned.

Lanier County Elementary School offers ongoing communication methods to inform parents and the community of events and updates in a language the parents can understand. These tools are used to share information regarding Title I programs and academic progress of students. Some of these ongoing methods include:

- Newsletters: The principal prepares monthly school wide newsletters which are distributed to all students. The newsletter highlights special upcoming events and important information parents should know regarding academics. Teachers also prepare weekly or monthly newsletters that concentrate on grade level and classroom information.
- Agenda Books: All students in grades 2-5 receive agenda books to help parents know what is being studied in class. This mode of communication provides teachers and parents a means of daily communication about academic and behavior issues.

- Lanier County Schools Website: [www.laniercountyschools.com](http://www.laniercountyschools.com) is the homepage to Lanier County Schools. This site offers a wide range of current information about the district.
- Homework folders: All students in Kindergarten and First grade are given homework folders. These folders are used the same as the agenda books.
- Parent Involvement Resource Center: A fulltime Parent Resource Coordinator operates the Parent Involvement Resource Center. Located on the campus of Lanier County Elementary School, the PI Resource Center houses many books, tapes, videos, DVDs and other instructional tools to assist parents. These resources cover a wide range of topics and issues. Parents may check out these resources at anytime.
- Parent Involvement Coordinator: A valued position within LCES, this person provides many services to the students, parents and teachers of the school. Duties and responsibilities of the coordinator include: preparing and conducting parent workshops, requesting constant parent feedback on needs/concerns through surveys and other communication with parents, preparing and distributing correspondence to parents and community to include newsletters, newspaper articles, and meetings. Most importantly, the coordinator manages the Resource Center and places the available resources into the hands of parents to address the needs of students.