

Title One Family Involvement Policy for Washington Mill Elementary School

Fairfax County Public School's Title One program is established to improve student achievement and support all students in meeting the objectives of Fairfax County Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning.

In order for students to achieve their highest academic potential, it is essential that a full partnership be established with parents and significant others in every student's life. In order to achieve this partnership of academic reciprocity, the administration and staff of Washington Mill have put in place the following initiatives:

- ❖ Information will be provided at Back to School Night that clearly outlines the Title One Program at Washington Mill, the expectations of No Child Left Behind and the present academic standing of Washington Mill Elementary School in regards to meetings all academic requirements.
- ❖ A monthly school newsletter, the Banner, will go home to all parents with current updates and reminders of testing dates and academic news.
- ❖ Parent Academic Nights are scheduled for each quarter with a focus on Math, Science, Literacy and Diversity in order to empower parents as they attempt to support the academics of their children at home. Parents will be given take home packets of materials they can use to enrich students academic understanding.
- ❖ Parents will receive a Curriculum Highlight phone call every two weeks that clearly outlines their child's academic concentration for that period of time and strategies they can employ at home to foster deeper understanding of the curriculum. This phone call will be grade level specific and sent in English and Spanish.
- ❖ All parents of Washington Mill students are expected to attend a Parent/Teacher Conference in November or December. Any parent not seen by December first will receive a letter from the Administration offering Saturday or evening hours in order to insure that all parents are informed and all parents' voices are heard.
- ❖ Every parent will receive two classroom newsletters monthly outlining the class events, curriculum foci and news from their child's classroom.
- ❖ Every parent will receive a personal call from their child's educator once a month to share both good news and discuss concerns before matters become serious.
- ❖ Washington Mill will continue a hiring practice of seeking qualified bi-lingual speakers in order to insure smooth communications for parents who do not have command of the English language.
- ❖ Provide an up-to-date web site and training sessions so that parents can be familiar with the navigation and understanding of this home to school link.
- ❖ Programs involving children performance will be scheduled in such a manner as to give access to parents who work varying schedules. Every attempt will be made to schedule performances in the evening and afternoon to accommodate.
- ❖ PTA representatives and WMES administration and staff will continue to seek neighborhood venues in which to participate in order to become more visible and

approachable to parents. It is hoped this outreach will encourage more parents to bridge the span between home and school.

- ❖ Every effort will be made to provide transportation to school events for parents without access.
- ❖ Washington Mill will continue to offer a myriad of after school programs that foster success in academics, community responsibility and life skills. Parents are encouraged to bring a craft, skill or hobby to the after school program. It is hoped this attempt will provide an avenue for parents to become involved in an area where they have skill and comfort.
- ❖ Washington Mill will continue to diligently photograph all school activities and produce TV coverage in the form of power points in the lobby for parents to see the variety of student life and activity offered at Washington Mill.
- ❖ Access to administration will continue to be a 24/7 model with phone numbers and emails regularly published.
- ❖ The WMES counselor and administration will work closely with all outside agencies to insure swift attention is given to the needs of WMES students and families in areas of food, shelter, school supplies etc.
- ❖ WMES will continue to stress and put forth the concept of home and school alliance so that parents are in full understanding of the need for their input, consultation and physical involvement. It is hoped through direct conversations, parents will have a clear understanding of the value of their participation in their children's academic career and know their efforts are essential to academic success.

All of the above initiatives are now in place and will continue to be part of the Washington Mill profile. As new avenues for parent involvement are developed this document will be updated,