

Pinehurst Elementary School  
Title I Parental Involvement Plan  
2009-2010

The Wicomico County Board of Education recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers and that parents function as educators throughout their child's lives. More than thirty years of research show that students academic success and high self esteem are closely related to parent involvement in education from prekindergarten through high school. The Wicomico County Board of Education also believes that the family and the community creates a stronger educational system and improves the quality of life for the students, their families, and the entire community of Wicomico County. The school system as well as individual schools make the commitment to establish programs and practices that create a climate of mutual trust and respect and that support substantive parent involvement.

### **Program Development**

Pinehurst families will be encouraged to become active participants in Schoolwide Title I program planning, decision-making, and school activities.

1. The Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and staff from Pinehurst Elementary will meet annually to jointly review and revise the Partners in Learning Compact, which describes how school staff, parents, and students will share responsibility for improving student achievement. The compact will be distributed to all parents. A copy will be included in the class assignment letter in August. A second copy will be attached to the Tuesday folder to be signed by all stakeholders. The third will be included in each report card envelope. Poster sized compacts will be placed in hallways where it is always visible. Bookmarks will also go home containing the student's and parent's sections. Pinehurst teachers will explain the compact to their students.
2. The Pinehurst Title I Parent Advisory Council(PAC), will hold open meetings at least two times each school year. Membership will consist of all parents and school staff. Topics of discussion will include (but not be limited to):
  - a. Parents with staff will plan and evaluate program activities at Pinehurst Elementary School
  - b. Parents will have an opportunity to talk about Parent Involvement funds
  - c. Parents will offer suggestions for professional development for teachers on parent involvement and other related issues to the school community to enable teachers to work with parents as equal partners.
  - d. The Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and staff from Pinehurst Elementary will develop and update annually a school level policy for parent involvement. A copy will be posted on the Pinehurst school website and sent home in the Pinehurst Panther Press in September. A poster sized Pinehurst Parent Involvement Policy will be displayed in poster form in the hallways.

## Building Capacity for Parental Involvement

Components designed to build the capacity for strong and meaningful parent involvement at Pinehurst Elementary School include:

1. A Home-School Liaison to foster communication between home and school.
2. Parent participation on the Pinehurst Instructional Leadership Team
3. Pinehurst School Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
4. Opportunities to volunteer (e.g. Pinehurst Reading and Math Schoolwide Incentives, R.I.S.E., PBIS School Store, listening to students read, and reviewing math facts)
  - a. Sign up sheets will be available at PTA meetings, family activities, and Panther Press for volunteer opportunities
  - b. Title I will have sign up sheets for any Title I activity
5. Information shared about the Title I program at Back to School Night and Title I Orientation (Title I programs, Parent Involvement, Complaint Procedures)
  - a. Parent comments and concerns may be submitted in writing to the school office or by speaking to a school administrator
6. Parents of Pinehurst School students will be provided with:
  - a. Information (shared two times a year) about the Title I program and parent involvement requirements for schools under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
  - b. Information about curriculum and proficiency levels students are expected to achieve, school and individual assessment information and results, including an explanation of those results (Information Night at PTA, Parent Workshops, School website, PAC Meetings, School Newsletters, Parent Teacher Conferences)
  - c. Opportunities for at least six parent teacher conferences annually. (you will have to get documentation for all of these events if you leave this in here)
  - d. A monthly parent newsletter (Panther Press)
  - e. Interactive weekly folders containing student work (Tuesday folders)
  - f. Weekly behavior checklist (PBIS)
  - g. Information about the schoolwide reading and math incentives at the beginning of the school year. (Back to School Night)
  - h. The 2009-2010 Math Fact Information packet (Back to School Night)
  - i. Other services provided to parents to help them overcome barriers such as transportation and translation are provided upon request
  - j. Opportunities to meet teachers during the annual Pinehurst Community Bus Tour prior to the opening of school
  - k. Opportunities to meet with the Early Childhood Transition team to enroll their child in school and complete necessary paperwork.

## Parent Involvement Activities

Parents will be provided with opportunities to add to their skills so they may continue to work with their children to improve achievement.

1. **Our school provides a** Parent Community Resource Area where parents can check out reading/math games and self help books. This is an area where parents can meet.
2. **Two Family Fun Nights will be annually.** (Reading and Math Nights)

3. At least one parent workshop will be held annually to address topics of interest to parents. Parents will be surveyed in the fall to determine needs.
4. **Classes are conducted in R.I.S.E. (Reading Insures Success for Everyone) which** is a program that invites and requires parental participation daily for the duration of the child's involvement in specialized reading instruction, will be offered at Pinehurst Elementary School to identified students.
5. **The Tellin' Stories Project is currently being implemented at Pinehurst.** Tellin' Stories is a project that allows parents to come together to share cultural experiences and build relationships among families and community members. Several components of the Tellin' Stories Project have been implemented at Pinehurst.
6. A community bus tour will take place in the beginning of the year. It is an opportunity for staff members and parents to meet each other. Parent volunteers will also ride the bus. A Pinehurst story quilt is designed that allows each parent to share their background. Parents meet with the school principal during the Parent-Principal Roundtable to discuss questions/concerns parents may have in the school. **Once per month, as part of the Roving Readers project, the parents read to classes in their native language to promote literacy.**
7. **An Early Childhood Transition team will "locate"** families in the community that have not enrolled their child in school. The team will help parents with the enrollment paperwork.
8. Classroom teachers will send positive post cards to the parents of all children twice a year.
9. The Maryland Parental Information Resource Center will provide parents with resources through a bilingual website. ([www.mdpirc.org](http://www.mdpirc.org) and parent hotline 1-877-MD-PARENTS).

### **Integrations with Other Programs**

Pinehurst Elementary School encourages community groups to assist with developing and implementing programs that promote educational goals and support high academic achievement for all students.

1. **Professional Development** School Site for Salisbury University and UMES.
2. **STARS after school program** for grades 1-5. (21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant)
3. **Business partnership with Baxter Enterprises.** Baxter Enterprises provide testing incentives and opportunities to participate in fund raisers. (Spirit Night)
4. **Faith-based partnership with Beth Israel Synagogue** and Community of Joy Church. Community of Joy provides an annual gift of school supplies.
5. **Wicomico County Public Library's Bookmobile** visits every third week to give students and parents the opportunity to checkout self selected books.
6. **Students have the opportunity to participate** in Reading is Fundamental, a program that provides books to all students at Pinehurst. The program combines three essential elements to foster children's literacy: reading motivation, family and community involvement, and the excitement of self selecting free books to keep. Community readers are invited to come in and read to classes.
7. **The Maryland State Parental Information & Resource Center (MD PIRC) has provided the opportunity for Pinehurst Elementary School to implement the Tellin' Stories Project which is a parent involvement program that builds capacity with parents and creates equal**

partnerships between the school and parents. Pinehurst was also part of a transition program pilot that helped students transition from prekindergarten to kindergarten.

8. Students participate in the MMSR (Maryland Meal for School Readiness) and Team Nutrition. The programs provide our students free breakfast for all students every morning.
9. The Mobile Dentist Smile visits every six months giving all student the opportunity to be seen at school by a dental staff. The program is new to Wicomico County.
10. The Special Education and English Language Learner (ELL) programs promote student learning. The Special Education Department will hold annual articulation meetings with parents and middle schools to help with transition to the next learning level. ELL also holds a transition program where non-English students receive a tour of middle school in their native language.
11. A Family Night will be provided for parents with limited English proficiency through the English Language Learner (ELL) program.
12. Will partner with the Salvation Army. Salvation Army supports programs held at Pinehurst Elementary and invites students to special functions. (Is this happening now?)
13. Will conduct bus tours at Booth Street using space and permission provided by the Wicomico County and Housing Authority. The Housing Authority also provides use of the Booth Street community center. (Is this happening now- are we having things at these community centers?; Is this the bus tour at the beginning of the school year?)
14. The YMCA provides space for the Shooting and Shining Star activities along with swimming lessons.
15. The Wicomico Parks and Recreation has a Kid's Club after school program at Pinehurst . Summer programs are also offered at Pinehurst through Parks and Rec. for disabled and nondisabled students.
16. Pinehurst students and staff partner with the Salisbury Police Department, Wicomico Sheriffs Department, and the Maryland State Police to participate in the Special Olympics Torch Run held once a year.
17. Two Girl Scout troops and one Boy Scouts of America troop meet at Pinehurst. The scout troops do several service projects at Pinehurst.

### **Evaluation**

An assessment of the effectiveness of the Pinehurst School Title I Parental Involvement policy will be conducted throughout the year with the involvement of parents. Measures will include:

1. Family Fun Nights (Family Reading and Math Nights) parent evaluations
2. Attendance at the Family Fun Nights and other parent involvement activities
3. Annual program evaluation to be completed at spring Pinehurst Title I Parent Advisory Council Meeting.
4. Survey information: School Climate survey and Parent Interest Survey

### **Coordination and Support for Title I Schools:**

Program coordination and technical assistance for Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities will be provided through the efforts of the Wicomico County Title I Supervisor.

1. A paraprofessional conference is held in January to help strengthen teaching skills/management of the Title I resource paraprofessionals.

Revised 5/20/09