

# Rome Middle School

## Title I Parent Involvement Plan

In order to guarantee student success at the middle school level and beyond, partnerships among schools and parents are vital. Educational research clearly shows that parents who are actively involved in their child's learning at home help their children become more successful learners in and out of school (Riley). At Rome Middle School, we recognize that parents are their children's primary teachers, and their support is critical to our efforts in providing a quality education for the children at Rome Middle School. In order to maximize the success of our students the following programs/initiatives are planned to involve parents in the education process at Rome Middle School.

The faculty and staff of Rome Middle School will have an annual orientation addressing the value and utility of the contributions of parents. Communicating and working with parents as equal partners to build ties between home and school will also be stressed. The presentation will instruct the staff in what it means to be a Title I school and how we became a school-wide Title I school. The staff will also receive information about the process undertaken each year to meet NCLB and AYP goals. In addition, the staff will be told how Title I funds will be utilized to support parents' and students' needs. The school's plan will be discussed and the annual goals reviewed so that the staff becomes familiar with ways to help the school attain the desired goals.

Rome Middle School has an "open door" policy that encourages our parents to visit the school as often as possible. The middle school team concept is designed to provide parents with the resources and materials they need to become more effective and more actively involved in their child's education. We will continue to communicate with parents and the community in a variety of ways, including translations for ESOL students, the student handbook, newsletters, flyers, PTO information, e-mails, and telephone calls.

A unique ESOL Parent Education program at Rome Middle School will be continued and continually developed. This program offers weekly instruction in language arts skills for the parents of our ESOL population utilizing the Open Book program currently employed in the instruction of all ESOL students at RMS.

Two formal evening meetings will be conducted yearly to apprise parents of the school's Title I Plan, and its associated requirements, as well as a parent's right to be involved in the program. The first meeting will be at a general session during our annual Open House in mid-August. An important purpose of this meeting is the timely explanation and description of the school's curriculum, mission statement, and other school/classroom policies. Parents will also be provided a copy of the Rome City Title I Parent Booklet. The second meeting will be held in late January as an open forum for parents to ask questions and discuss options for improvement in our overall curriculum and Title I services. Parents will receive strategies and ideas to help their children continue their education at home.

Academic Team meetings with parents and students will also be held as needed to discuss the academic progress of students and plan interventions as needed. Rome Middle School will help parents understand the State's academic content standards. Information on State and local assessments/benchmarks used to measure student progress will be shared along with the proficiency levels expected by the State.

To build ties between home and school, parents will be treated as equal partners in the ongoing professional development of the faculty and staff. Rome Middle School will continue to utilize the middle school model as a way to implement and coordinate parent programs in order to build ties between home and school. In addition, formal compacts between parents, teachers, administrators, and students will be used to specify everyone's contributing role in reaching the individual student's goals. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held at least annually to discuss individual student's achievement. Parents will be informed of their student's academic progress every 4 ½ weeks through formal progress reports, and a report card will be sent home every nine weeks. Parents will also be encouraged to participate in their student's class by observing classroom activities and suggesting additional activities that would foster parental support.