

Grace Snell Middle School

Family and Community Engagement Plan

2017-2018 School Year



Grace Snell Middle School
3800 Brushy Fork Road, Loganville, GA 30052
770-554-7750
www.gracesnellms.org

Revised 9/13/17

What is Title I?

Grace Snell 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 tied to the challenging state and district academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents and family members a written Family and Community Engagement Plan.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

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

How is it developed and revised?

Grace Snell Middle School invites parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and all other stakeholders to attend a Title I Planning Meeting to jointly develop a Family Engagement Plan that best fulfills our needs as a school. This meeting is held annually and gives all stakeholders an opportunity to review and revise our Title I Family Engagement Plan, our School-Family Compact, our Family Engagement Calendar of Events, our Local School Plan of Improvement (LSPI) which incorporates our School Improvement Plan, and to develop our Title I Budget and wish list. All parents are invited to provide suggestions and feedback regarding planning and the improvement of the Title I school program and all Title I Family Engagement documents. All written feedback is collected and all feedback forms from the Title I Planning Meeting are submitted to the Title I Office for review. Documents are available for review in the Parent Center between the hours of 10AM and 4PM as well as on the school website beginning August 16th-18th.

Documents are reviewed and revised at least annually during the Title I Planning Meeting. All feedback forms from the Title I Planning meeting are submitted to the Title I Office for review.

To fund the family and community engagement programs at the district and school level, the Title I Office sets aside not less than one percent (1%) of the district FY18 allocation for family and community engagement. These funds are distributed equally to all of our Title I schools based on input from the April 2017 District Title I Parent Meeting which all parents were invited to attend.

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. **Grace Snell Middle School** will provide as many opportunities as possible for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Information will be provided in a family friendly language and format. This plan will be available in other languages when necessary and feasible.

Where is it available?

Parents can access Title I information on the Grace Snell Middle School website at <http://www.gracesnellms.org/home.html>. Go to the tab that says "Our School" and then follow the link for "Title I." Additional copies of all Title I Family Engagement Documents can be found in the Parent Center. Hard copies of the Title I documents will be disseminated to all students in October of 2017. Families who enroll children after the October dissemination date will receive a Title I packet upon registration.

2017-2018 Goals of Gwinnett County Public Schools:

Language Arts: All students will graduate as analytical readers, writers, and communicators of language.

Math: Students are not only expected to become proficient in appropriate computational skills, but also to be actively involved in constructing and applying mathematical ideas.

Science: Students will develop a strong content understanding in the earth, life, and physical sciences as well as develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

Social Studies: Students will develop a strong understanding of themselves and their role and responsibility in society by discovering the heritage of their nation within a global context.

2017-2018 Goals of Grace Snell Middle School:

Students will increase their performance in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics in both the **Proficient** and **Distinguished** categories on the **Georgia Milestones Assessment** with an overall increase of at least 10% in the **Distinguished** category.

Students will increase their performance in the **Proficient** category on **District Assessments** in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math by at least 20% and in the **Distinguished** category by at least 10%.

School – Family Compacts

Grace Snell Middle School will collaborate with parents to jointly develop a school-family compact that outlines how families, students and, the entire school staff, will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and explains how the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the high academic standards of the district and state.

In order to meet our goals for the 2017-2018 school year and ensure that all students are learning at optimal levels, teachers will incorporate literacy skills that target the improvement of overall **reading comprehension** and **vocabulary development** within each academic area. It is our belief that student achievement will improve in all content areas if they are explicitly taught the comprehension and vocabulary building skills that are unique to each core subject. In addition, students will engage in lessons that target study habits and organizational skills necessary for success when transitioning to and from middle school. Finally, in addition to reading comprehension and vocabulary building, Grace Snell Middle School math teachers will develop numeracy skills that target improved **computation** skills at each level. Accurate computation will combine with reading comprehension skills to ensure that students are solving mathematical problems at high levels of rigor.

Let's Get Together! Ways to Engage!

Grace Snell Middle School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family and community engagement to support a partnership among the school, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement:

Title I Planning Meeting: August 16, 2017 @ 10:00 am

- Provide input on the 2017-2018 Title I school wide plan, budget, Parent Involvement documents

Title 1 Document Review: August 21-23 from 10AM - 4:00 PM in Parent Center (also available on school website).

- Provide input, make suggestions and give feedback on Title I documents.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting: August 29, 2017, @ 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM

- All parents and stakeholders of GSMS receive a comprehensive overview of the Title I program and its implementation at GSMS

Curriculum Night: August 29, 2017 @ 6:30 pm

- Parents have opportunity to learn about the state and local academic standards and assessments, how we will address the students' needs at GSMS, and meet with teachers to learn about curriculum and expectations.

District Title I Parent Meeting: September 12 & 14

- Sept 12, 2017 Location: Lilburn Library, 6PM-8PM
- Sept 14, 2017 Location: Central Gwinnett HS Castle, 9AM-11AM

Parent Center Orientation: September 22, 2017 @ 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

- Parents have opportunity to explore the GSMS Parent Center and learn about the support and resources that the Parent Center has to offer to ensure the success of their children.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: September 27-28, 2017

- Parents can meet with their child's teachers to learn about academic progress.

Parent Workshop: October 17, 2017 "Home Strategies to Master Mathematical Computation Skills" @ 10AM and 6 PM

- Workshop designed for parents to learn about how they can support their child's mathematical computation skills at home.

International Literacy Night: January 25, 2018 @ 6 PM or January 30, 2018 in the event of inclement weather on January 25th.

- Parents are invited to attend this school wide event as students demonstrate their reading comprehension skills to inform about their understanding of various cultures represented at Grace Snell Middle School.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: February 21 – 22, 2018

- Parents can meet with their child's teachers to learn about academic progress.

Transition Workshop: 5th Grade Orientation: March 15, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

- Workshop designed to assist parents of rising 6th graders with all activities and expectations of middle school students. Parents will learn strategies in preparing their child for the rigors of the middle school curriculum.

District Title I Parent Meeting: March 27 & 29, 2018

- March 27th @ Location TBD 9:00- 11:00 AM, March 29th @ Five Forks Trickum Library 6:00-8:00 pm
- Information session about District title 1 program
- Collect parent and community input to revise district Title I documents and input on how Title I funds are used.

Family Engagement

Grace Snell Middle School believes that families are full partners in their child's education. Families play an integral role in assisting with their child's learning. Family engagement means active participation in school events.

At Grace Snell Middle School parents can expect:

- Flexible number of meetings at convenient times
- Workshops to build parent capacity in assisting their child/children in the home
- Opportunities for regular meetings requested by families to participate in two-way communication relating to the education of their child such as –

- Title I planning meetings
- parent-teacher conferences,
- SST meetings,
- phone conferences
- emails, text messages, phone calls



The Parent Center:

Supported by:

Ms. Drummond

Contact: **770-554-7765**, or via email
shequalya_drummond@gwinnett.k12.ga.us

Parent Center Hours

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Location: Main Lobby Rm. #1.202

Please visit our Parent Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Upon request, parents may also access school computers in the Parent Center to log into the Parent Portal, visit eClass, check/send email communications, and more!

Grace Snell Middle School – Family Engagement Matters To Us!

Grace Snell will take the following measures to promote and support families as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will provide parents with program information, assistance in understanding state and local academic standards and assessments, tools to monitor their child's progress, and ways to work with educators such as –

- **Annual Title I Parent Meeting-** to inform parents about the requirements of Title I and Grace Snell's participation in a Title I Program and the right of parents to be involved
- **Curriculum Night-** to further inform parents of state and local standards, assessments and how to monitor their child's progress
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences-** to share their child's progress, individual student assessment results and how to Interpret the results
- **Family Engagement Workshops-** focused on building the capacity of parents to better support their child from home

Grace Snell will provide materials and training to help parents work with their student to improve their academic achievement. This will include:

- **Family Engagement Workshops**, during which parent receive strategies and information on a variety of resources to help their child academically.
- **The Parent Center**, which has a variety of materials and resources, available for check-out to parents for use at home with students. Family Support Personnel and /or teachers can help with selecting materials that best suit the needs of the student in each content area.
- **Family Support Personnel** are available for individual academic assistance as need. Additionally, they may check out resources to parents that include student support with reading and mathematical skills.

Grace Snell will provide training for teachers and staff on effective communication strategies and how to work with parents as equal partners by:

- **Conducting monthly staff development and professional learning** designed to educate the faculty and staff about best practices for developing meaningful partnerships with parents based on two-way communication. (Parents may assist in this training by providing feedback to the PIC.)

Grace Snell will provide parents and students support with transitioning to sixth grade by:

- Hosting a "Rising 6th Grade Parent Night" to share important information about Grace Snell Middle School, strategies for academic success, and support available to ensure a smooth transition to middle school.
- Offering ongoing transition support via content-based parent workshops held throughout the school year.

Grace Snell will communicate with parents in a family friendly format through:

- the Grace Snell Middle School website, **www.gracesnellms.org**
- flyers sent home with students,
- email sent to parents,
- a phone calling system to aid in calling all parents; text messages sent to parents
- translations and interpretation services made available to the extent practicable and feasible

Grace Snell will provide other reasonable support as requested by parents. We will:

- Work with parents to develop relevant staff trainings and helpful presentations on the importance of family engagement
- Build capacity in parents to increase engagement with school activities
- Arrange school meetings at different times of the day whenever necessary
- Collaborate with community leaders and partners in education to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities
- Offer childcare and/or transportation whenever feasible to do so