

# STEWART COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 2022-2023 Parent & Family Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success

Revised August 2022



### School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

#### What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Stewart County Middle School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Stewart County Middle School values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Stewart County 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 revised?

Stewart County Middle School invited all families to attend our annual family engagement night last fall as part of our school improvement plan. Additionally, family input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. The plan is posted on our school website for families to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. Families can also give feedback during several meetings and activities during the school year.

#### Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I program and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Stewart County Middle School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

#### Where is it available?

The plan will be available on the school's website. As a reminder, we will email the plan to all families in September before the scheduled family engagement night. Families can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the front office of the school.

#### What Is Title I?

Stewart County 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 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.



When students, schools, families, and communities come together- we CAN achieve our goals!

### Stewart County Middle School

Donna Gillum, Principal

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Dover, Tennessee 37058

(931) 232-9112

<https://www.stewartcountyschools.net/stewart-county-middle-school>

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2022-2023

## District Instructional Goals

Establish a culture that demonstrates a love of learning, active engagement, and high expectations for all!

Utilize high-quality instructional materials (HQMI) that are aligned to Tennessee state standards. Implement these with integrity and a sense of urgency.

Strive for all students to meet or exceed one year of growth.



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## Parent and Family Engagement

Stewart County Middle School believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in a regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring that:

- Families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at home; and
- families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and an advisory committee to assist in the education of their child.

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## School-Parent Compacts

A compact is a written agreement that families, teachers, and students jointly develop to explain how everyone will work together to ensure all students reach grade-level standards. Our learning compact includes expectations for Stewart County Middle School, expectations for students, and expectations for parents and guardians.

The compacts are included in our student handbook and kept on file in the front office. It is also posted on our school website and extra copies are always available in the front office. If you would like to provide feedback on the compact anytime during the year, please contact Jessica Crutcher at (931)232-9112 or [jessicacrutcher@stewartcountyschools.org](mailto:jessicacrutcher@stewartcountyschools.org).



# SCMS Title I Program Learning Compact

Each student may expect that Stewart County Middle School will:

1. Provide a free quality public education.
2. Provide a safe learning environment.
3. Ensure that all students are treated courteously, fairly, and respectfully.
4. Provide students with the opportunity to respectfully express their opinions, concerns, and complaints.
5. Address all complaints and concerns brought to the attention of school personnel and school staff.
6. Inform students of the rules and expectations in this handbook and of disciplinary procedures related to disciplinary actions and/or appeals.

Each student is expected to:

1. Read and become familiar with this handbook.
2. Behave in a responsible manner at school, on school buses, at school bus stops, and at all school-related functions on or off-campus.
3. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others.
4. Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
5. Prepare for each class, take appropriate materials to class, and complete assignments.
6. Obey all District rules and cooperate with school staff and volunteers in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
7. Communicate with his or her parent/guardian about school academic progress.

Each parent/guardian may expect that Stewart County Middle School will:

1. Ensure that parents or guardians are treated respectfully by school principals, teachers, and other staff.
2. Provide access to information regarding their student and Stewart County School District's policies and procedures.
3. Promote and encourage active participation in their student's education.
4. Promptly notify parents or guardians if a student is disciplined and inform parents of procedures related to disciplinary actions and/or appeals.
5. Inform parents or guardians about their student's academic and behavioral progress.
6. Provide access to information about Stewart County School District's policies and procedures.

Each parent/guardian is expected to:

1. Read and become familiar with this handbook.
2. Make sure their student attends school regularly, on time, and notify the school before the school day if their student is going to be absent.
3. Give the school accurate and current contact information and inform/update the contact information when and if it changes.
4. Inform school officials about any concerns/complaints in a respectful and timely manner.
5. Work with the school administration, teachers, and other staff to address any academic or behavioral concerns regarding their students.
6. Talk with their students about the behavior that is expected at school.
7. Support their student's learning and school activities.
8. Be respectful and courteous to the staff, other parents, guardians, and students.
9. Respect other students' privacy rights.
10. Give school any and all information to assist with the welfare and education of the student and the safety of operations.

We believe that students and parents who will accept these responsibilities will be on track for success and high achievement.



## School Family Liaison

Our School Family Liaison (SFL) is Sydney Myers. Her role is to confidentially support students and their families that are referred by school staff. The SFL works to identify and address any social-emotional-environmental issues that interfere with a student's academic process. The SFL provides an avenue in which parents can receive assistance related to school and family success.

The SFL assists with:

- Providing needed resources to students and their families and assisting in the referral process for services
- Works with families to help them engage with the school in their child's academic life
- Accessing basic needs or school supplies for a student
- Networks with community agencies to find resources which could quickly serve a student's needs
- Observe evaluations, IEPs, or any school meeting related to a referred student
- Performs home visits when needed
- Addressing truancy concerns

Sydney Myers  
(931) 305-9881



[sydneymyers@stewartcountyschools.org](mailto:sydneymyers@stewartcountyschools.org)

## Stewart County Middle School is branching out!

Stewart County Middle School will take the following measures to empower and support families as an important foundation of our school in order to strengthen the school and reach our goals.

We will:

- ❖ Ensure that all information related to school and family programs, meetings, and other activities is posted on the school website.
- ❖ Provide training for staff during their planning periods on strategies to improve communication with families and ideas to increase family engagement in reading and math for students outside of the classroom. Staff will also share promising practices and family engagement during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
- ❖ Partner with elementary schools, high schools, college- and career-ready resources or organizations, school family liaisons, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ❖ Share information on the school's website and social media page for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways families can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ❖ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities, through phone messages, our website, social media, and flyers.
- ❖ Work with our families to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- ❖ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ❖ Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events, place and put cards around the building and post a suggestion form on the school website in order to respond to parent requests for additional support for parents and family engagement activities.

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## Let's get together!

Stewart County Middle School will host the following events to build the capacity for the strong family engagement and support a partnership among the school, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement. The entire listing of events will be posted on our website under the SCSS Activity Calendar.

### 6th Grade Orientation- August 2, 2022

Incoming 6th graders and parents or guardians will have the opportunity to meet their teachers, look at their schedule, and learn about our school.

### Family Engagement Night- September 13, 2022

Families will be invited to learn about our school safety procedures for a night with our school resource officers and local law enforcement along with various other components of our school.

### Annual Title I Meeting- October 18, 2022

We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the school-wide plan, and the school-parent compact. Invitations will be emailed and posted on the school's social media page.

### Parent Teacher Conferences- November 10, 2022 & March 16, 2023

Scheduled updates on your child's progress.

### Literacy Night - Spring 2021 (Date TBA)

All students and their families will have the opportunity to be involved in activities related to literacy and learn about our ELA curriculum.

### School Improvement Forum- Spring 2021 (Date TBA)

A forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions with the principal and staff regarding the schoolwide plan, parent and family engagement policy, and school-parent compacts.



## School Community Team

Stewart County Middle School invites all families to join the school community team to share ideas and ways to involve others to build partnerships with the school, families, and the community. The team will meet during the school year, but parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any school activities and meetings, as well as through our family surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the school community team, please contact Jessica Crutcher at (931) 232-9112, [jessicacrutcher@stewartcountyschools](mailto:jessicacrutcher@stewartcountyschools), or complete the interest form below and leave it in the front office.



### School Community Team

- Yes, I am interested and wish to join the School Community Team.
- Please contact me so I can learn more about joining the School Community Team.
- Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name & Grade Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the front office.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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