

Family Engagement Report

School: Heatherwood Elementary

Principal: Larry Orobona

Heatherwood Elementary encourages parents to participate in the School Improvement Process. The recruitment strategies to elicit parent participation by our SIT include newsletter articles published in the Husky Highlights, presentation of the TIES process and the SIT accountability goals at both primary and intermediate Parent Information Nights, SIT sign up posters at Back to School Nights and Assessment Days, personal contact and calls by the principal to invite underrepresented populations to our SIT meetings and teacher recommendation of parents to SIT.

The Heatherwood School Improvement Team provides parents with an overview of the SIT process. SIT works with the Tools of Inquiry for Equitable Schools model to write goals based on achievement, climate, equity and school operations. The TIES model utilizes the process of Assessing current reality, Why are we getting these results? Develop a theory or action, set SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely) goals and then Take action. The evening SIT meetings are a time for reporting the work in progress to meet our school goals. SIT goals team meetings are scheduled one afternoon a month and parents work with teachers analyzing data and creating a plan to meet our school improvement goals. Child care is provided at both the evening and afternoon SIT meetings. We encourage many parents to take this opportunity to become involved in working together with our teachers to create a successful academic and social climate for our students.

Measuring our students' social and personal success and non-cognitive skills is a goal of our School Improvement Team's Creating a Caring Community committee. This work begins in the summer by scheduling bully-proofing curriculum lessons for kindergarten to second grade. Research shows us the bullies create an influence on their environment within the first six weeks of school.

It is important that our parents and school community are knowledgeable about our school improvement goals. The BVSD parent survey which is administered each March, contains the question, "I have been informed about the school's improvement goals." For the 2007-08 school year, 92 percent of parents responded positively to that question. The Heatherwood goal areas are achievement - to increase the writing performance of all students in grades 3, 4, and 5; equity - to increase the writing, reading and math performance of students with special needs in grades 3, 4, and 5; and organizational - decrease the occurrence of bullying and normal peer conflict for all students. Our teachers and SIT members are committed to maintaining and improving students' academic achievement in all content areas. Our school improvement goals were developed by our teachers and SIT members analyzing data, identifying a priority challenge, focusing on a root cause and setting a theory of action to increase student achievement. We are continually impressed with our parent support and input in this important work.

The Heatherwood SIT provides new parents with the following information and communicates this information in hard copy and through our WEB site:

School Improvement Team (SIT)

The SIT serves as the state-mandated accountability committee for Heatherwood. The accountability committee meets monthly to monitor progress toward goals. The committee reviews what we have currently in place and considers additional ideas for achievement, climate, organization and equity goals. SIT consists of parents/community members, teachers and the principal. The mission of the Heatherwood Elementary SIT is to promote, support and ensure quality education for all children by overseeing the accountability and accreditation process, by analyzing student and community data, and by developing and monitoring school goals, soliciting, coordinating and disseminating information with the school community, honoring the individual uniqueness of people of all ages and cultures, identifying problems that hinder or prevent the continued improvement of the community educational process, and advocating for creative, positive change. Decisions will reflect sound educational philosophy, legal and ethical standards, school board policies, and budgetary considerations.

- You can make a difference
- Community members can be involved in educational improvements at a school
- We have cooperative efforts of teachers, parents, staff, administrators, students, and community members

School Goals: Heatherwood

1. School Goals
 - Achievement – Writing
 - Equity Goal – Reading, writing, math for students with special needs
 - Organization Goal - Climate
 - Operation Goal - Safety
2. School Improvement Plan
3. Extent of Stakeholder Involvement

SIT Accomplishments

- 1st/2nd/UP grades longer literacy blocks
- 3rd/4th/5th math blocks
- Advanced math offerings (6th grade math at Heatherwood, 7th grade at Platt)
- Recess first/lunch second
- Creating a Caring Community/bully proofing
- After school university
- Input to BVSD on budget plans
- Input on BVSD Facilities Master Plan

SIT Goal Working Groups

- General meeting of teachers and SIT parents monthly 6:00 – 7:15 PM
- Once a month working group meetings
- Mondays 2:45 – 3:45 PM
- Literacy
- Climate
- Math
- Science/Technology
- SIT Parent Representative from each class sign up form

SIT MEETINGS	
Thursday, August 28	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, September 8	2:45-3:45 pm
Monday, September 22	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, October 6	2:45-3:45 pm
Monday, October 20	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, November 3	2:45-3:45 pm
Monday, November 17	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, December 8	2:45-3:45 pm
Tuesday, January 20	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, February 2	2:45-3:45 pm
Tuesday, February 17	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, March 30	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, April 6	2:45-3:45 pm
Monday, April 20	6:00-7:15 pm
Monday, May 4	2:45-3:15 pm
Monday, May 18	6:00-7:15 pm