

# *“Parents ARE the Key!”*

Parent / Community Kit

Mabelvale Middle School



Home of the Red Raiders

**“Mabelvale Middle School is a supportive innovative diverse community where all students become life-long learners through collaboration, real world experiences, and exposure to rigorous curriculum”.**

Principal: Rhonda Hall

Assistant Principals:

Coniell Bursac

Ellean Cleveland

Alicia Troutman

David Smith

Parent / Community Involvement Facilitator:

Mrs. Fran Moseley

Title 1 Parent Coordinator: Cedric Patterson

10811 Mabelvale West, Mabelvale, AR 72103  
(501) 447-3000

# Mabelvale Middle School

## Parent / Community Involvement Plan

### Purpose

Parents and community leaders play a crucial role in the success of our children's education, and Mabelvale Middle School would like to encourage parents/community members to be full partners in the education of our children. To help accomplish this goal, the school has developed a parental involvement plan in compliance with Act 603 of 2003 and according to guidance provided by the Arkansas Department of Education. We believe that student achievement will increase as a result of improved communication among all stakeholders.

### Communication

In order to establish an effective parental/community involvement plan it is essential that communication between parents, schools, educators, and community members be frequent, clear and two-way. When we work as a team we help to strengthen schools, families, communities, and learning. Mabelvale Middle School will strive to strengthen communication through various methods as listed:

- Maintain school website: Edline
- School handbook
- Mabelvale Middle School Partners in Education
- New Student Orientation
- Parent Open House,
- Quarterly and Interim Progress Reports
- Email
- Phone Calls
- Raider Round-Up Newsletter
- Team Communication
- LRSD Website
- Local TV Stations
- Phonemaster

The school will continue to communicate with parents through notices sent home, newsletters and media, and through parent/teacher conferences. In addition to Family Nights, the school will host Literacy and Math Nights. Parents may also contact the school using the following district phone number, 501-447-3000

### Parenting

In an effort to provide parents with essential tools to help with child-rearing, counselors are available to help parents with child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level.

- School Website – Tips for Parents & Counselor's page (Sherri Green 447-3004)
- Parenting internet links (mms.org )
- MMS Media Center available for Parents
- Living Hope: 663-5473
- Southwest Cluster Team Event: Cedric Patterson (447-3073) (Fall/Spring)

## Student Learning

Mabelvale Middle School invites parents and community leaders to be involved in learning activities for children, including homework and other curriculum-linked activities and decisions. Contact Cedric Patterson (447-3073).

- Guest Readers
- Career Day programs
- Field trips
- Special class projects
- Tutoring for Benchmark
- Special programs (drama, choir, band, chess club, etc.)
- Guest speakers to share areas of expertise

## Volunteering

Volunteering is an integral part of a good parental/community involvement plan. Parents and community leaders are encouraged to take an active role in school activities. The following are suggested ways in which parents and community leaders can help improve the learning process of our students: Contact Cedric Patterson (447-3073).

- Guest Speakers
- Guest Readers
- Chaperone Field trips
- Engage in special class projects
- Shelve books in Media Center
- Help during Book Fair
- Help with club and team fundraisers
- Science Fair
- Open House preparations
- New Student Orientation
- Registration
- Club programs
- Attend special class presentations and view student projects
- Assist with teacher copy needs
- Special Olympics Coaches
- Black History Program

All volunteers are requested to sign in at the front office and receive a “Volunteer/Visitor” Pass. By doing this we will have a record of who volunteered, for whom, when and what was the purpose. We need to keep a record of this information because all volunteers will be recognized at the end of the school year. A volunteer’s time and efforts are important to our students and appreciated by all stakeholders involved in the learning process of our children, therefore, we want to recognize those who take time out of their busy lives to make a difference in the lives of our future leaders.

## School Decision Making

In order to include families/community members as advisors in school decisions, Mabelvale Middle School encourages parents/community leaders to participate in the following forums, with the understanding that the principal is accountable for the operation of the school and has the final responsibility for all decisions made at the site.

- Handbook Revision Committee (each spring)
- School / district ACSIP committees

## Collaboration with the Community

Mabelvale Middle School strives to collaborate with community leaders and businesses in order to coordinate resources and services for the school, students, families, agencies, and other groups.

- School / Club fundraisers
- Guest Speakers
- Guest Readers
- Special classroom project needs
- Special school project needs
- Student / family needs (coordinated with school counselors)
- Special Student rewards donated through area businesses.

Mabelvale Middle School has an “open-door” policy in which we invite families and community members to be a part of the activities in which our students participate. This Parent /Community Involvement Plan is designed to strengthen participation and to help it grow. We welcome any suggestions that will make our plan complete and in compliance with the purpose of Act 603 and the ADE guidelines.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Fran Moseley, Parent Facilitator, at 447-3058 or Mr. Cedric Patterson, Parent Coordinator, at 447-3073 if you have any questions regarding this document.

### **The National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)**

NNPS invites schools to use research-based approaches to organize and sustain excellent programs of family and community involvement that will increase student success in school. \_\_\_\_\_Middle School collaborates and support the LRSD Southwest Schools Cluster Team. Partnership Programs focus on the six "keys to involvement" identified by educational researchers as the critical components of home/school/community connections.

#### **Six Types of Involvement: Keys to Successful Partnerships**

1. **Parenting:** Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.
2. **Communicating:** Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.
3. **Volunteering:** Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.
4. **Learning at Home:** Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.
5. **Decision Making:** Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.
6. **Collaborating with the Community:** Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

# Tips for Parents of Middle Schoolers

## Organization: Advice for Parents

Developing good organizational skills is a key ingredient for success in school and in life. Although some people by nature are more organized than others, anyone can put routines and systems in place to help a child "get it together." Here's a list of strategies that you can use to help your child get -- and keep -- his life under control.

1. **Use checklists.**
2. **Organize homework assignments.**
3. **Designate a study space.**
4. **Set a designated study time.**
5. **Keep organized notebooks.**
6. **Conduct a weekly clean-up.**
7. **Create a household schedule.**
8. **Keep a master calendar.**
9. **Prepare for the day ahead.**
10. **Provide needed support while your child is learning to become more organized.**

*Adapted from "Tips for Developing Organizational Skills in Children" by the [Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities \(CCLD\)](#). Call 1-888-478-6463 for important resources and information about learning disabilities.*

**Mabelvale Middle School**  
**Title I**  
**Parent/Student/Teacher/Principal Compact**

**Parent/Guardian Agreement**

(Any person who is interested in helping this student may sign in lieu of the parent.) I want my child to succeed. Therefore, I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

- See that my child is punctual and attends school regularly.
- Support the school discipline policy.
- Establish a time for homework and review homework regularly.
- Provide a quiet, well lit place for study.
- Encourage my child's efforts and be available for questions.
- Stay aware of what my child is learning.
- Provide a library card for my child.
- Read with my child and let my child see me read.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Agreement**

It is important that I work to the best of my ability. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- Attend school regularly.
- Come to school each day with pens, pencils, paper and other necessary tools for learning.
- Complete and return homework assignments.
- Observe regular study hours.
- Conform to rules of student conduct.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Agreement**

It is important that students achieve. Therefore I shall strive to do the following:

- Provide appropriate and meaningful homework assignments for students.
- Provide necessary assistance to parents so that they can help with the assignments.
- Encourage students and parents by providing information about student progress.
- Use special activities in the classroom to make learning enjoyable.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal Agreement**

I support this form of parent involvement. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- Provide an environment that allows for positive communication between the teachers, parents and students.
- Encourage teachers to regularly provide homework assignments that will reinforce classroom instruction.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Online Resources / Web Sites Mabelvale Middle School

### Faculty Directories

Email Links: [www.mabelvale.org](http://www.mabelvale.org)

Little Rock School District General Information: [www.lrsd.org](http://www.lrsd.org)

MMS Parent Facilitator: email: [fran.moseley@lrsd.org](mailto:fran.moseley@lrsd.org) 501-447-3058

Title I Parent Coordinator: email: [cedric.patterson@lrsd.org](mailto:cedric.patterson@lrsd.org) 501-447-3073

### Online Parenting Resources / Web Sites:

- Arkansas Department of Education <http://arkedu.state.ar.us>
- Center for Effective Parenting <http://www.parenting-ed.org>
- Arkansas Family Literacy Family Center <http://www.familylit.com>
- Middle Web – Focuses on Adolescents <http://www.middleweb.com>
- Project Appleseed <http://www.projectappleseed.org>
- Reading Matters <http://www.readingmatters.net>
- Connect for Kids <http://www.connectforkids.com>
- Fact and Fiction (resource to screen content of student selected novels) <http://www.factandfiction.org>

### Mabelvale Middle School Library Resources

The Mabelvale Middle School Media Center strives to provide a variety of print, non-print and electronic resources to support the school's curriculum. Materials are used by both faculty and students. In addition to housing approximately 13,000 books, video & audio tapes, magazines, journals, and professional resources, the Media Center up-dated computer labs. The Media Staff diligently works to provide a wide range of resources to meet the educational needs and interests of our students. (Kathy Farley: 447-3006)

# Parent Volunteer Survey

Parent Volunteers are a vital part of the success Mabelvale Middle School students will experience during their adolescent years. This survey is used to connect parents who want to help with the right activity for your area of expertise or any area where you are willing to serve. Signing up for a category below does not commit you to *anything*. A representative will contact you as far in advance as possible to ask if you are available to help with an activity. Each adult in your family should complete this form and return it to the main office. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve your school in a positive manner.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best days/times for you to volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's (children's) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

His/her Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in . . . (please check ALL that apply)

## Helping out in my child's classroom:

- Being a Guest Reader
- Helping with special projects
- Chaperoning field trips

## Working with students:

- Keyboarding for students with writing needs
- Assisting students in the Media Center
- Tutoring a child in reading or other subject

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

- Sharing my area of expertise with students  
(Career or hobbies)

Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

## Communications:

- Making phone calls to volunteers
- Verbal translation to Spanish (mod. fluency)
- Expanding the school's web site

## Partners in Education:

- Assisting with implementation of programs for MMS
- Working concessions a

## Other opportunities:

New Partners in Education initiatives: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Media Center:

- Checking out books
- Shelving books
- Assisting students with research

## Arts: Sharing your talents in the following areas:

- Dance
- Music
- Arts and crafts
- Drama
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Special events:

- Science Fair
- School Dance
- Teacher Appreciation Week

## Hospitality/Child care:

- Providing snacks for school events
- Providing child care for other volunteers

- Teaching students/parents to use computers
- Gardening on the school grounds
- Other ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions concerning this survey, please contact Mrs. Fran Moseley, MMS Parent Coordinator, at 447-3058.



## Clubs / Organizations for Mabelvale Middle School

Mabelvale Middle School encourages all students to become a part of an extracurricular activity. We also recognize the importance of parents / community leaders to be actively involved in our programs as well. The list below includes all clubs, organizations, and extra curricular activities offered at Mabelvale Middle School.

- Choir
- Band
- Student Council
- Builders Club
- Delta Gardeners
- Genius Book Club
- AVID
- Special Olympics
- Walking Club
- Quiz Bowl
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletics
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheer Team
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance Team
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer

As our school continues to grow we hope to add more clubs, organizations, and extra curricular activities to our menu of options in order to promote student involvement.

**Mabelvale Middle School**  
**2014-2015 Important Dates to Remember**

August 4-5, 2014 Check-In  
August 18, 2014 First Day for Students

September 1, 2014 Labor Day Holiday (**Schools Closed**)  
September 15-19, 2014 1<sup>st</sup> 9 Weeks Interim Report Weeks  
September 24, 2014 Lunch Buddies

**\* October Math/Literacy Night TBA\***  
October 17, 2014 Teacher Record Day (**Students Out**)  
October 20, 2014 Parent Conferences

November 6-7, 2014 Professional Development (**Students Out**)  
November 17-21, 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks Interim Report Week  
Nov. 24-28, 2014 Thanksgiving Holiday (**Schools Closed**)

December 10, 2014 Lunch Buddies  
Dec. 22- Jan.2, 2015 Winter Vacation (**Schools Closed**)

January 5, 2015 Professional Development (**Students Out**)  
January 19, 2015 M.L. King Holiday (**Schools Closed**)

February 9-13, 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks Interim Report Week  
February 13, 2015 Professional Development (**Students Out**)  
February 16, 2015 Parent Conference (**Students Out**)  
February 25, 2015 Lunch Buddies

**\*March Math/Literacy Night TBA \***  
March 20, 2015 Teacher Record Day (**Students Out**)  
March 23-27, 2015 Spring Break (**Schools Closed**)

April 22, 2015 Lunch Buddies  
April 27- May 1, 2015 4<sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks Interim Report Week

May 25, 2015 Memorial Day Holiday (**Schools Closed**)

June 4, 2015 End of 4th Quarter (**Last Day for Students**)

\*\*\*\* Check out [www.lrsd.org](http://www.lrsd.org) & [www.mabelvale.org](http://www.mabelvale.org) for added activities throughout the year.