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## *Strong Vincent Middle School's Family Engagement Policy*

Strong Vincent Middle School is committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledges that parents share in the success of their children. We believe that working together, as a team, is the key to our success at SVMS. Parents, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open and active. We strongly believe that a child's education is a shared responsibility between the home and the school. Parents are encouraged to call, email, or write notes to teachers if there are any questions or concerns throughout the school year. Planners, purchased with Title I family engagement funds, are a great tool to communicate with your child's teachers. Interpreters are available, upon request, to meet with you and your child's teacher(s). We view parents as important decision makers in the academic lives of their children. Middle school students are at a particularly unique stage in their development and communication between the home and school is crucial. To this end, SVMS parents, staff, and students meet jointly to develop our School Wide Parent Involvement Policy and Compact in the spring of each school year. Relevant workshops, programs, and activities will be offered to our SVMS parents throughout the school year. We encourage all of our parents to take part in what our school has to offer. Parents are equal partners and we value their input.

Although SVMS sets two days aside in November for conferences, parents are encouraged to schedule meetings throughout the year if the need arises. If parents would like to schedule a conference with their child's teacher(s), they may contact the office directly and arrangements will be made.

If any parent would be involved in creating next year's parent involvement documents, he/she may contact our Title I School Wide Support teachers, Mr. Pagano or Mr. Heasley. (874-6500)

Title I regulations state that we must notify parents of the existence of a parent lending library if one exists. Although SV does not have a formal lending library, we will do everything possible to assist parents. If parents have a special request or need information on a specific topic, please contact one of our Title I School Wide Support teachers or our guidance counselors.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Strong Vincent Middle School Erie's Public Schools Family Engagement Policy and Learning Compact 2019-20

*Strong Vincent Middle School and the parents of students participating in activities, services and programs funded by the Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) agree that this policy outlines how the parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a strong partnership that will help our children meet with the highest levels of success.*

### As students, we will....

- \* read regularly for pleasure as well as to learn.
- \*keep our parents informed of school happenings.
- \*complete school work and homework on time.
- \*study for upcoming tests and quizzes.
- \*arrive at school on-time and ready to learn.
- \*act responsibly and treat others with respect.
- \*recognize and accept the positive and negative outcomes of our behavior.
- \*ask for help when we need it and always try our best.

### As parents, we will....

- \* talk about school with our children on a regular basis.
- \*make sure our children complete assignments and homework.
- \*get our children to school on-time and ready to learn.
- \*encourage our children to behave responsibly and treat others respectfully.
- \*support teachers and educational decisions made in the classroom.
- \*make necessary arrangements when my child needs to stay after school for extra help sessions or study hall/detentions.
- \*attend school related functions whenever possible to support SVMS.
- \*check our children's progress on Infinite campus.

### As teachers, we will....

- \* clearly apprise students of assignments to be completed and hold them responsible for meeting obligations.
- \*teach and model acceptance of responsibility for the positive and negative outcomes of personal behavior.
- \*keep parents informed of student progress, especially when the child is in danger of course failure (quarterly)
- \*hold parent conferences (both formal and informal)
- \*teach and encourage attentive listening skills

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\*This Family Engagement Policy and Compact is reviewed and updated in the spring of each school year. All parents are invited to attend the "work session" to update the policy and learning compact.

\*A Title I meeting for all parents will be held in the fall of each school year detailing the requirements of the Title programs as well as the rights of parents.

\*Title I funds have been set aside to help facilitate a wide range of parent involvement activities, including childcare, home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and training sessions. We welcome parent input and suggestions on ways to help spend these funds.

\* All parents will be invited to help create, review, and provide feedback for the improvement of the school's Title I program at the end of the school year by completing a "Needs Assessment Survey". This survey will also allow parents to provide feedback on parent involvement activities and make suggestions to help guide staff professional development for the upcoming school year.

\*SVMS parents are involved in the revising and editing of the school's Schoolwide Improvement Plan. All parents are welcome to attend the annual planning meeting in May, 2020. Watch our school's Facebook page and website for additional information.

\*In the fall of each school year, our Schoolwide Support teachers will host a Title I meeting to provide all parents with timely information about the Title I program as well as additional important information:

\*Parents will be provided with a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of assessment used to measure academic progress, as well as the proficiency levels all students are expected to meet. We will also detail ways parents can help their children at home.

\*Additionally, parents will be informed of the state's academic content standards, student achievement standards, local academic assessments as well how to monitor their child's progress using the Infinite Campus parent portal.

\*Parents will also be encouraged to formulate suggestions and participate in decisions related to the education of their children. These suggestions, as appropriate, will be implemented in a timely fashion.

\*Parents are always welcome to contact one of our Title I Schoolwide Support teachers if they need assistance or need more information on any of the aforementioned items.

\*Title I teachers can assist you with logging on to the Infinite Campus parent portal to monitor your child's grades. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call Mr. Heasley or Mr. Pagano and they'll be happy to lend you a hand.

\*All parent meetings are advertised via Facebook, electronic newsletters, and One Calls.

\*\*Please consider joining our PTSA organization and/or attend a meeting throughout the school year. You do not have to be a member to come to a meeting. We need your input and support!

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*Focusing on school related data will be one of our primary goals at Strong Vincent.*

*\*If you move or change phone numbers during the year, please notify our main office in writing.*

*\*All SVMS teachers offer opportunities for "extra help" at least once a week during lunch or after school. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these support sessions.*

*\*Are you looking for easy ways to keep up with all the latest SVMS happenings? "LIKE" us on Facebook and check out our website.*

*If your child is going to be late or absent, please call school to alert the office.*

***SVMS PARENTS ARE THE BEST!***

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