

**Cabot Public Schools
Mountain Springs Elementary
Parental Involvement Plan
2016-2017**

Goal 1: Mountain Springs Elementary will employ communication strategies to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.

- Mountain Springs Elementary will distribute a monthly newsletter to parents that is developed with participation of the parent-school organization, principal, staff, and parent volunteers. It includes school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins, Kristin Steelman)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will create a Web site to house pertinent information, including school news and upcoming school events. Parents are also able to access their child's grades using a PIN number they received at the beginning of the school year. Parents may use e-mail to communicate with members of the school staff. Parents are also informed of school news and events via the Mountain Springs Twitter and Facebook pages. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins)
- Each teacher at Mountain Springs Elementary will send home a folder containing student papers and work samples each week. Parents will be asked to sign the folder and send it back to school. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins, Elizabeth Martin)
- Mountain Springs Elementary teachers, will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress. (August 2016-May 2017, Amy Morrow)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will provide to parents reports/report cards every nine weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress and upcoming classroom and school events. (October 2016, January 2017, March 2017, August 2017, Mandy Watkins, Hayley Tacker)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will send brochures home with students, post notices in school facilities and public buildings, and provide information for local newspapers and radio stations about parent workshops and meetings. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins)

Goal 2: Mountain Springs Elementary will use the following proposed parent meetings, conferences and activities throughout the year to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity. (Must include the 2 state mandated parent/teacher conferences each year.)

- Open House: Families have the opportunity to visit classrooms and meet faculty members. Parents receive information about ways to volunteer, transportation for students, free/reduced lunch, as well as the student handbook regarding school policies and procedures. (August 11, 2016, Mandy Watkins)
- Gifted and Talented Open House: Families of students in the Gifted and Talented program have the opportunity to visit the Gifted and Talented classroom, meet with the G.T. specialist, and receive an overview of G.T. programming within the district. (October 14, 2016, Caroline Gairhan)
- PreK Book Program: Each month, PreK families will meet with the PreK Family Manager to receive a book and coordinating activities that will provide practice with literacy and math skills. (August 2016-May 2017, Julia Boris)
- Report to the Public: Families will be given information about the school and the instruction their child will receive throughout the school year. Parents will be given a report regarding the state of the school and the plans for the upcoming school year. (September 13, 2016, Mandy Watkins)
- Parents Make a Difference Night: Families have the opportunity to visit classrooms in order to learn about daily classroom expectations and procedures as well as instructional strategies

that can be employed at home to increase student achievement. Parents and their child will experience the school situation in a positive and helpful manner while school staff may provide any needed assistance or encouragement. (September 13, 2016, Mandy Watkins)

- Parent/Teacher Conferences: Teachers will hold conferences individually with parents of children in their classrooms. Parents will be given a summary of the student's test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching achievement goals. Parents will also be given suggestions for coordinating school-parent efforts and explanations of homework and grading procedures. Parents will engage in discussion of how they can support their child at home. Conferences are scheduled at various times (2:45-7:00) during the day or evening to better accommodate parents. (October 18 and 20, 2016, March 14 and 16, 2017, Mandy Watkins)
- Grandparents Day: Mountain Springs Elementary will host a special day to recognize grandparents. Grandparents are given the opportunity to have lunch with their grandchildren and learn about daily school activities. (September 22 and 23, 2016, Kristin Steelman)
- Scholastic Book Fair: Families have an opportunity to attend the book fair with their children to purchase books and encourage the love of reading among students. Volunteers are able to help set up/tear down the book fair, as well as assist students/families in purchasing books. (September 2016 and May 2017, Carla Garland)
- One Book, One School: Every family at Mountain Springs will be provided a book along with coordinating literacy activities to complete together as a family. (February 2017, Carla Garland)
- Academic Night: Mountain Springs Elementary will host a special opportunity for families to participate in engaging activities that are aligned with classroom curriculum. Each grade level will present families with content related activities for them to engage with their children. (Spring 2017, Amanda Eggerth)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning: (August 2016-May 2017, Kristin Steelman, Mandy Watkins)
 - Library assistant
 - Reading buddy
 - Mentor
 - Teacher assistant
 - Tutor
 - Special parent lunches
 - Book fair helpers
 - Grandparents Day
 - Workroom volunteers
 - Field day volunteers
 - Family nights
 - Parent education workshops
 - Open House
 - Parent-Teacher organization
 - Red Ribbon week
 - Music/Art performances
 - PreK/Kindergarten/Fourth grade graduation
 - Various committees

Goal 3: Mountain Springs Elementary will provide information to parents regarding volunteering (must include state mandated parent training) through a variety of opportunities.

- Mountain Springs Elementary will provide opportunities for parents and community members to support the instructional program through such programs as Reading Buddies, tutoring, and special friends. (August 2016-May 2017, Kristin Steelman, Mandy Watkins)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts during orientations of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. Brief training sessions will provide parents and community members with the information they need to

participate as school volunteers in order to put them at ease and make the experience pleasant and successful. (August/September 2016 and as needed, Kristin Steelman, Mandy Watkins)

- Mountain Springs Elementary will work Cabot Middle School North/South to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities. The school will host special orientation programs for parents and students to help with the transition. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the new teachers at the end of the school year. (May 2017, Melanie Fox)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteers, the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the Cabot School District for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education. (August 2016-May 2017, Amy Morrow)
- The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require no fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. No fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation. (August 2019, Mandy Watkins)

Goal 4: Mountain Springs Elementary will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan.

- Mountain Springs Elementary will involve parents on school improvement planning committees. To support this process, the school will offer both school staff and parents training on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins)
- The school will ask parents to serve on curricular and instructional review committees. To support this process, Mountain Springs Elementary will offer both school staff and parents training on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way. (September 2017 and as needed throughout the year, Amanda Eggerth)
2016-2017 Parental Involvement Committee
Kristin Steelman (parent, PTO President)
Heather Hardister (parent)
Amber Brown (parent)
Christine Benson (parent)
Caroline Gairhan (teacher)
Melanie Fox (counselor)
Julia Boris (PreK Family Service Manager)
Amanda Eggerth (teacher, PI facilitator)
- To take advantage of community resources, Mountain Springs Elementary shall consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement. (September 2016, Amanda Eggerth)
- Mountain Springs Elementary shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins, Kristin Steelman)
2016-2017 PTO OFFICERS
Kristin Steelman (President)
Christen Higgins (Vice President)
Jessica Ward (Vice President)
Begina Proctor (Secretary)
Christine Benson (Treasurer)
Nikki Poe (Historian)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as the Head Start program, Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Parents as Teachers program and, Home

Instruction programs for Preschool Youngsters, and state-run pre-school programs. (August 2016-May 2017, Amy Morrow, Julia Boris)

Goal 5: Mountain Springs Elementary will provide resources for parents through a variety of means.

- Parents may check out materials, use the computer to check grades, and visit educational Web sites. A suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input. The school will open the resource center at hours that are convenient to parents. (August 2016-May 2017, Amy Morrow)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will distribute informational packets each year that includes a copy of the school's parental involvement plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parental involvement activities planned for the current school year and information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, e-mail...). (August/September/October 2016, Amanda Eggerth, Kristin Steelman)
- To promote and support responsible parenting, Mountain Springs Elementary shall, as funds are available: Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review. (August 2016-May 2017, Mandy Watkins)
- Mountain Springs Elementary has created a Parent Center, which is located in the "Tub Room" across from the Kindergarten hall. This center is open during regular school hours and during special announced events. (August 2016-May 2017, Amanda Eggerth, Mandy Watkins)
- Included in the Mountain Springs Elementary handbook is the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions. (Summer 2016, District Handbook)
- The principal of Mountain Springs Elementary, Mandy Watkins, shall designate (1) certified staff member (Amanda Eggerth) who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator. (August 2016)

Goal 6: Mountain Springs Elementary will engage parents in the evaluation of our parental involvement efforts.

- Mountain Springs Elementary will engage parents in the annual evaluation of our parental involvement efforts by collecting evidence through the use of a survey. The survey will question parent's satisfaction with the program and the school's efforts to increase parental involvement. The survey will also collect specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth. (April 2017, Amanda Eggerth)

Goal 7: Mountain Springs Elementary will use the parent interest surveys to select, plan and implement parental involvement activities that will be offered throughout the year.

- Mountain Springs Elementary will ask parents to complete a parent interest survey at the registration or at the beginning of each school year to get information from parents concerning the activities they feel will be most beneficial in the efforts to support their child academically. (September 2016, Amanda Eggerth)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will use the results of the parent interest survey to plan the parental involvement activities for the year. (August 2016-May 2017, Leadership Team – Melanie Fox)
- Mountain Springs Elementary will evaluate the activities that were suggested by the parents at the end of the year as part of the annual parental involvement plan evaluation. (May 2017, Mandy Watkins, Amanda Eggerth)