

## 5 Easy Ways Parents Can Become More Involved

- Mentoring
- Tutoring (academic and social)
- Classroom Support
- Chaperones on field trips / dances
- Clubs and After-school activities

## How To Actually Go About Making The Initial Contact With The School!

Call the office at 231-587-9869 and talk to one of the secretaries, counselor or principal. Simply let them know you are interested in becoming more involved in the school. We will take your name and number and coordinated a time to discuss it further.

Talk to one of your friends who is more involved and just join up with whatever that person is already doing. This will get you in to the school where you can make different decisions as you become more comfortable.

Call any teacher in the building and let them know you would like to help out in a classroom. They will be glad to set up a day and time.

Contact Amy Derrer from Communities In Schools at 231-587-9869 ext. 208. She will take as much time as you like talking about the many ways you can help out the students of the Middle School.

Or, stop by the office when you a moment and leave us your name and number and we will contact you!

Thank you so much for taking a few minutes to see if there is a way you can become more involved in school!!

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to do whatever it takes for all students to acquire the knowledge and skills to become productive responsible citizens. Mancelona Middle School's staff realize how important it is to work closely with our parents to provide our students with the highest quality education experience. We believe that when families, schools and community work together to support learning, students stay in school longer, attend school more regularly and perform better in school.

- The Middle School will encourage parent to volunteer and participate during the school year. We will work to increase parental involvement by volunteering and participating during the school year.
- We will continue to be diligent in our sustained efforts to inform parents of their child's academic standing and progress.
- We will continue to communicated clearly and effectively with parents by a variety of strategies, such as: Powerschool, progress reports, report cards, announcements, newsletters, brochures, P/T Conferences, Open Houses, Open-door Policies, website development, phone calls, emails, letters, mentor program, etc.
- We will continue to welcome parents into our classrooms upon request with a Visitor Pass provided by the main office.
- We will encourage parents to participate in two-way communication with the school so that (we) are well informed of details and information that is helpful when working with our students.
- We will conduct annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of our school's efforts to offer opportunities for parental involvement, including barriers to greater parent participation will be conducted with the involvement of parents.

## PARENT INVOLVMENT 2010-2011

### MANCELONA MIDDLE SCHOOL Letter from the Principal Chad Culver

November 18th is *National Parent Involvement Day*. This is a time set aside each year to say an extra-special thank you to parents. The evidence is overwhelming: Students who have highly-involved families get higher grade, have fewer discipline problems, and are more likely to be successful throughout their entire life.

As a parent of two girls, one a high school freshmen and one a sophomore in college, I know how difficult it can be to get plugged into your child's education. Life is demanding and there is almost never enough time to get everything done, but being active in your child's education is arguably the most import role a parent plays. Parents set the tone for education and are the child's best teacher.

No matter how little or how much time you have, there are many ways you can positively impact your child's education. Being an involved parent can simply mean doing the little things that mater, like checking homework, looking on Powerschool, going to parent-teacher conferences, calling your child's teachers, or practicing a test. But being an engaged parent can also mean helping to establish a Parent Teacher Organization within the Middle School.

Parent involvement is also being informed about what your child is learning and how they are succeeding in the classroom. It is knowing the questions to ask the principal and teachers. In general, great parent involvement means making sure your child knows that you value their education more than anything else—and they should, too!

On behalf of our Middle School, I want to thank all of the parents and families who have taken on the full-time job of being involved in your child's education. My vision for Mancelona Middle School is that we will continue to be leaders in improving student-achievement, and with actively engaged parents and families this vision will become a reality. Go Ironmen!!



## What Can Parents Do To Support Education at Home?

There are many ways that parents can demonstrate to their adolescent children that they are interested in academic success and that they are available to offer support and protection when there are problems. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk with your child about what happens at school every day. Ask often if there are messages from the school;
- Spend some relaxed time with your children. Share a meal or a snack. Tell them often what you like about them;
- Listen to and share their worries. Support what you believe to be good about the school and offer your help to change any school practices that you believe could be harmful to your child;
- Avoid scoldings and arguments when your child brings bad news home. Listen to their reasons and offer your help to improve the situation. It helps if your children know you believe IN them, but that you also believe IN the school.
- Value their education by encouraging homework and reading. Help your child choose a good time and place to do their assignments and special projects. Provide the necessary materials and give them your unconditional support.

## Why Is It Important For Parents To Be Involved at the Middle School Level?

The results of recent research are very clear: When parents are actively involved in their children's education, they do better in school. The opposite is also true and so it is essential for parents to have a positive attitude regarding education, and to demonstrate trust their child can do well.

## How Will Your Children and Your School Benefit From Your Involvement?

When parents become involved, both students and school benefit:

- Grades and test results are higher;
- Students' attitudes and behavior are more positive;
- Academic programs are more successful; and
- The school, as a whole, is more effective.

The participation of all parents is important to the academic achievement of their children. Such participation has many positive consequences for the family, the school, and especially for the young adolescent:

The family has the chance to understand the school system better;

The teachers can understand students who come from a multitude of different home lives;

The students receive support from adults in order to confront the problems of adolescence-particularly where these problems are accentuated by the conflicting cultures of home, friends and school; and

The school can become the natural extension of the home, aiding in the preservation of families' culture and values.

## What Are Middle Schoolers Like?

As children grow, they begin to experience physical, intellectual, and emotional changes. The way they learn, feel, see the world, and relate to other people becomes different from when they were younger. These changes, along with demands from present-day society and peer pressure, create conflicts and tension in the adolescent, which are reflected in their behavior in school and at home.

Young people at this age show a good number of contradictions and conflicts, which is normal. There is no "model" adolescent. All young persons are individuals with strong and weak points and with positive and negative qualities. There are some common characteristics that should be kept in mind in order to understand and help the middle schooler in daily activities at home and at school:

Adolescents have high levels of physical and emotional energy, which may contrast with long periods of idleness, generally disapproved of by adults.

- They take risks, are curious, and love danger and adventure, yet their feelings can be hurt easily. This is the time when they feel immortal, but they worry a lot about what their friends think about them.
- They want to be independent from their families, and at the same time, they need to be pampered and protected.
- They withdraw and want a private life, and at the same time, they worry about being accepted by their peers.
- They demand privileges but avoid responsibilities. At the same time, they are developing an awareness of social problems and the welfare of others.