**James Buchanan Elementary School 2020-2021 Parent and Family Engagement Plan**

The mission of **James Buchanan Elementary School (JBES)** is:

The James Buchanan Elementary School learning community is dedicated to offering high academic opportunities and positive family centered school experiences in a safe, supportive environment to help students become lifelong learners, respectful individuals, and responsible citizens.

JBES has the reputation of being a friendly neighborhood school with excellent teachers, supportive parents, and wonderful students. We work diligently together to ensure that our children enjoy a safe and nurturing school while meeting high academic expectations. Our plan centers on developing a strong partnership with all of our parents so that our children will be provided with the best possible education we can offer. We are grateful to be a Title I school!

Please feel free to discuss any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have about this plan with your child’s teacher, Title I Reading Specialist, or the school principal. We welcome your input and suggestions!

Parent and Family Engagement

The Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) Policy Manual states:

The Board recognizes that parental involvement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents/guardians and community.

Annually, a committee is comprised up of faculty representatives and parents to review and update the JBES’s parent involvement plan. The plan is then made available to parents through our school’s annual Back2School Night and the monthly PTA meetings. It is also available on the JBES website www-bu.beth.k12.pa.us or by contacting the principal’s office.

We pride ourselves with ongoing, open and honest two-way communication! We accomplish this through a myriad of communication methods such as:

* Meetings, both formal and informal
* Phone calls and conferences
* Weekly Emails
* ParentLink Messages
* Wonders® Home & School Connection
* Clever Access
* Monthly Newsletters
* Monthly Calendars
* LIM® Measurable Results Assessment
* Google Docs
* Parent Portal
* Realize® Online Access
* Twitter®
* ClassDoJo®
* PTA MemberHub®
* RegistrationGateway®

Some of our Parent and Family Engagement Activities include:

* American Education Week
* Back2School Night
* Bethlehem Halloween Parade
* Bulldog Walk-a-thon
* Chaperones for Educational Field Trips
* Clearance Night for Parents
* Coffee & Donuts with VYH
* Cookies With Santa
* Family Dance
* Grandpals’ Day
* Math Workshops
* Mystery Readers
* Parent Volunteers in the Classroom
* Parent-Teacher Conferences
* Parents As Partners Survey
* PBIS Daily Calendar with Student Information
* PTA Meetings with Educational Topics
* Reading Workshops
* Technology Workshop for Parents
* Supper with the “Super”
* Volunteering at Run 4 Fun

Parent and Family Engagement Funds

JBES will use its allocation of parent involvement funds to provide parents with resources in a variety of topics in order to meet the needs of their children.

As part of JBES’s meeting held with parents to review and update the School/Parent Compact and Parent Involvement Plan, the allocation of parent involvement funds are discussed. Funds are budgeted and expended based upon the goals and priorities set through that meeting. Title I funds are allocated to each school based upon the consolidated application submitted to the BASD on an annual basis.

Annual Meeting

JBES will hold its annual meeting for all parents of participating children. Parents are notified of the meeting through, notices sent home by students, newsletters from the principal, through our school website. To assist in providing the opportunity for all parents to attend, the meeting is offered at varying times. Topics to be discussed include:

* Title I participation, its services, and parent’s rights
* An explanation of the school’s curriculum
* How assessments are used to measure students’ progress
* Our school’s parent involvement policy
* Our school’s parent compacts
* Resources available for parents

Schedule of Meetings

The staff of JBES believes in the importance of parental involvement and therefore has put measures in place to offer parent meetings on a flexible schedule. Our annual meeting for parents of participating children will be offered both in the evening and the following morning. Conferences with teachers are encouraged and may be set up by prior appointment during teacher’s planning times and before or after school. Parents may obtain information about their child’s academic or social progress through phone calls, notes to teacher, email, school website, and participation in workshops or other family activities**.**

Planning, Review, and Improvement of Title I Program

JBES believes in involving parents in all aspects of its Title I program. We have six parents on our Title I committee who are active participants in the development of the plan. A Parent Survey was conducted and the results of parent surveys are reviewed by the Title I committee to determine possible workshops/seminars.

**Information About the Title I Program, the Curriculum, and Academic Assessments**

At the annual meeting of parents, JBES holds a general meeting where information is presented about its Title I programs, the curriculum, and forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress. Upon conclusion of the Back2School meeting, parents are invited to visit their child’s classrooms and meet their teachers. At this time, teachers provide additional information on the subjects they teach and how students are individually assessed.

Submission of Parent Concerns About Our Title Plan

In May, JBES will hold a Title I Committee Meeting to review, evaluate, and revise our Parent Involvement plan. During the review process, parents are notified through notices sent home, a ParentLink message, PTA meetings, and the school website. If a parent finds the plan to be unsatisfactory, they have the right to submit their concerns in writing to the school. Concerns are addressed in a timely fashion.

School-Parent Compacts

JBES revises its school-parent compact in May of each year. All parents will be given a copy of the new compact during the beginning of the school year. The compact will be explained to the parents, and they will be asked to sign the compact signifying their commitment to working in partnership with the school and their child in ensuring that their child is successful in school. Students will meet with the Title I teacher and principal to discuss programming needs. The compacts will be discussed with teachers at faculty meetings.

Building Capacity

To ensure effective engagement of families, JBES’ staff shall:

* Describe any material and resource support offered to parents in helping their children increase their academic achievement and offer counseling services to support parents.
* Describe the training/workshops to be offered to parents in: local and state assessments, helping their children with homework, use of technology, and various curriculum approaches.
* Describe how communication between the home and school may be strengthened; teacher involvement in PTA and other family-related activities.
* Describe how concerted efforts from Full Day Kindergarten to fifth grades transition to Nitschmann encourages and supports parents into more fully participating in the education of their children.
* Describe how information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a language and format that they can understand.
* Describe how the school provides other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Parents’ Right-to-Know

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all schools to notify parents that they have the right to request and receive information about the professional qualifications of their child’s classroom teacher(s) and paraprofessional(s). Please refer to the BASD 2020-2021 Calendar.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Moran, JBES Principal