

Parent Involvement Plan

2010-2011

Rural Vale School
395 Daughterty Spring Road
Tellico Plains, TN 37385

Parent Involvement Advisory Council Members

Stanley Shadden – Principal

Jane McNabb – Assistant Principal

Deidre Brown – School Nurse

Johanna Gilbert – Special Education Teacher

Natalie Hackney – Guidance Counselor

Bobbie Akins – Librarian/ Media Specialist

Hope West – Teacher

Kasey Grubb – Teacher

Cassie Sanders – Teacher

Julie Perrine – Teacher

Jackie Turck – GPA

Lisa Watson – Parent

Trish Rymer – Parent

Gail Brannon – Parent

Andrea Peels – Parent

Kay Hamby – Volunteer

Julie McJunkin – Parent

Parent Involvement Plan

The Parent Involvement Plan for Rural Vale School has been developed in cooperation with the principal, faculty and staff, Parent Involvement Advisory Council, and parents. The Parent Involvement Plan is available for viewing on the website and in the office. The Parent Involvement Plan is updated in the fall of each year.

Shared Responsibility for Student Performance

Rural Vale School believes that education should be shared responsibility of students, teachers, parents and the community. Student success is greatly increased when we work together. We encourage parents to communicate with their child's teacher on a regular basis. Parents are also encouraged to contact the school with any questions regarding their child's education. Rural Vale School encourages the involvement of parents and the community in the Parent Teacher Organization, Principal's Advisory Council, Parent Volunteers, and School Improvement Committee for SACS.

Academics

Rural Vale School provides parents a description and explanation of the curriculum the school uses, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Six weeks objectives are sent home each six weeks. They explain what will be covered in each class. We also have several forms of academic assessment such as: Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Programs, ThinkLink, Aimsweb, Successmaker, and Study Island.

Assistance is provided at Open House and PTO meetings to parents in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement.

Communicating

Rural Vale School will communicate with parents and the community about student progress and school programs, under NCLB section 1118.

Methods for communication:

- Newsletters – a school-wide newsletter will be sent home every month that includes information on school activities and events as well as classroom information. The newsletter is sent home to each parent and is available on the school's website.

- Staff are educated with the assistance of parents in the value and contributions of parents, and in working with parents-how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, build ties between parents and the school.
- The teachers strive to offer a flexible number of meetings in the mornings and evenings.
- Teachers use several methods to ensure two-way communication between home and school. Teachers use weekly folders, homework folders, progress reports, mid-term reports, and behavioral folders to communicate with parents. Upper grades (6th, 7th, 8th) use a computerized program (SnapGrades), which allows parents to view grades via the Internet on a daily basis. Grade cards are sent home each six weeks to parents.
- Open House – Parents will be informed of special programs such as Title I, offered at their school. Information is given as to how special programs in the school support academic achievement.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – Each parent will have the opportunity to formally meet with their child’s teacher at least twice a year or as requested at any time.
- School Website – School information, upcoming school events, lunch menu, student accomplishments, PTO information, etc., can be easily accessed by logging on to the school website.
- IEP meetings – These meetings will include parents to set up their child’s Individual Education Plan.
- Local Newspaper – Announcements, accomplishments, and important school information will be submitted to the county newspaper.
- During computer lab, student’s (grade K-5) work on a computerized program called SuccessMaker. These scores are sent home to parents at the end of each six weeks with the grade cards.
- STAR – The result of this computer Reading Assessment are made available 2-3 times each year.
- An explanation of TCAP results will be sent home to parents.
- Parents can request meetings with staff through school office, phone call, e-mail, or by note. Parents can also submit comments to the office on TSIPP and Parent Involvement Plan.

Parenting

Resources for parents are available through the School Resource Center. Our school media center has available to parents, upon request, a variety of information to help them in all aspects of their child's educational needs. Information on the Monroe County Family Resource Center is available through the school office. Assistance with various aspects of family needs is available to all parents and community members through the school office.

- Kindergarten Camp – All prospective kindergarten students for the upcoming year are invited to this program. This is a special program that gives students the opportunity to get to know their kindergarten teacher and other students before school begins. The program is held for one week from 9:00-11:00 in the summer.
- Kindergarten Readiness packet – These are provided to parents at Kindergarten pre-registration to help parents know what is expected of their beginning kindergarten student.
- Health Screening – During Kindergarten registration, a variety of screenings are offered to all enrolling kindergarten students. Among those are hearing, vision, dental, and speech screenings. These are organized and facilitated by the school and community as a resource for parents to utilize.
- Parents with disabilities or limited English proficiency can request services for PTO meetings, parent meetings, Open House, etc. All school events are easily accessible for disabled parents.
- Childcare is also available per parent request for Open House, PTO meetings, and other special events.
- Rural Vale School coordinates with other programs, such as HeadStart and local preschools, for local visits.

Student Learning

It is the goal of Rural Vale School to involve families and the community in learning activities and awards for students.

- Parents are informed of the State's Standards and a checklist of goals for each six weeks.
- Parents are made aware of the program Performance Counts, which is an incentive program for grades 6th, 7th, and 8th. This program is intended to get those students for a six-week period to accomplish

everything they should. It is based on grades, absences, completed assignments, and behavior. Students are awarded if all criteria are met during a six-week period.

- Perfect Attendance incentives are awarded at the end of two six-week terms. Students are also presented an award at the end of the school year at the Awards Ceremony.
- Family Fun Night is a program that allows parents to be involved with their child. Family Fun Night offers reading time with the parents, playing educational games with the parents, and free food. We also give away door prizes!
- The Accelerated Reader Program is a computerized testing program for students. They choose books, read and then take a comprehension test to earn points. With those points, student can buy prizes.
- MCYAC (Monroe County Young Author's Conference) is a program that challenges students to write and illustrate stories based on their personal or imagined experiences and introduce students to a published author's works. An important goal of this program is to have the entire Monroe County community (students, parents, schools, and communities) involved in this program.
- Tag Club is an after-school program for talented and gifted students. These students participate in brain games, team building skills, hands-on activities, field trips, projects, and other brain boosting activities. Students are chosen based on teacher recommendations, class performance and standardized testing scores.
- At the end of each six weeks, teachers submit honor roll students, which are listed in the local newspapers.
- Students in grades 4-8 participate in a 4-H program. They have the opportunity to participate in speaking and poster contests in the community.
- The school has a Health Club, which is available to students, parents, and members of the community. This club focuses on health related issues and physical fitness.
- Each member of our History Club is required to enter the National History Day competition held at UTK. Preserving the community's stories through written text and photographs is a yearlong task. Sixth through eighth grade students get the stories each year.

- The Beta Club consists of 6th-8th grade members who must maintain a B average and display high leadership qualities. It is based on academics and leadership; however, it serves the school and community in different service projects. It belongs to the National Beta Club, and members participate in different competitions at the state convention.
- Rural Vale School has a Boys & Girls Club that benefits the students, parents, and the community. This program allows students to stay at school in the afternoon and participate in activities.
- Field Day is held at the end of each year. This involves each grade level, with games that encourage physical fitness, good sportsmanship, competition, and teamwork. Ribbons are awarded to students for their accomplishments.

Volunteering

Rural Vale School welcomes and encourages parent and community volunteers to support our students, staff and school.

- We utilized many of our PTO members as volunteers to assist in classrooms and other programs in the school that support curriculum.
- Parents are asked to volunteer to assist in such programs as Field Day, Career Day, chaperon field trips, and school programs that help with funding and rewards.
- Volunteers will be recognized for their contributions at the Awards Ceremony at the end of the school year.

Community Involvement

Rural Vale School recognized that our school and our students are more successful when we have the support of our parents and our community. The following resources have participated and will continue to be asked for their support in our efforts to make our school the best that it can be. We also feel that it is important for our students to join with agencies in our community to help others in need.

- Smiley Chiropractic supplies all kindergarten students a backpack during registration.
- Rural Vale participates in the Pizza Hut Book-It Reading program. Students can earn free pizza for reading achievement.
- Area businesses and organizations help many of our economically disadvantaged students by supplying them with clothes and gifts at

Christmas. Some participating business or organizations such as Angel Tree, TRW, and Bowaters.

- Rural Vale has many parents who support the school by providing extra supplies for students in need.
- Area businesses support our school by donating supplies as well as technology equipment. (Mason's Furniture, Wal-Mart, Save-a-Lot, Bargain Barn, etc.)
- Community organizations help our students with needs such as shoes, glasses, and medical care. Some participating organizations are the Lion's Club, Shriner's, and Kiwanis Club.
- Family Resource Center and the School Nutrition Department provide a program for students called "Back Pack" which sends food home for the weekend.
- Bierley-Hale Funeral Home presents all staff members with a yearly calendar.
- As a part of giving back to our community, our school helps raise money, food, etc. for such organizations as the Good Shepherd Center, the Red Cross, American Diabetes Association, the American Cancer Society, Pennies for Patients, and the Monroe County Animal Shelter.
- In conjunction with the community, our school helps raise money for special projects, such as Katrina victims and GI's in Iraq.

Title I Services for Students in Monroe County

Students are eligible for Title I services based on the number of free and reduced lunch participants. Currently, we have six schools being served by the Title I funding. There are two types of programs: targeted assistance and school wide. Targeted assistance schools mean that only those students who have been identified as eligible for Title I services can be worked with by our Assistants at that school. All nine schools (Coker Creek, Madisonville Primary, Madisonville Intermediate, Rural Vale, Tellico Plains Elementary, Tellico Plains Junior High, Tellico Plains High, Sweetwater High, and Vonore Elementary) are being served as a school wide facility. In these schools, no student or staff member is identified as "Title I". Being school wide gives the schools more flexibility in the way Title I funds and personnel are used.

At this time, Title I employs 6 1/2 Reading Specialist teachers and 26 Educational Assistants.

Currently, Title I funds a Reading Program which is in operation in all six schools. Our Reading Specialists and Educational Assistants work in each school with students who have been identified as needing help with reading skills. Principals and teachers are very pleased with the progress these students are making in this program.

Any questions concerning the Title I program should be directed to your principal or any of the Title I personnel in the Monroe County Education Central Office at (423) 442-7104.

Contacts

Rural Vale School Principal – Stanley Shadden (423) 253-3551
Federal Programs (Title I) Director – Dan Schlafer (423) 442-7104
Federal Programs Secretary – Colleen Sloan (423) 442-3972
Director of Schools – Mike Lowry (423) 442-2373

Revised by Parents and Staff on January 19, 2011