

# **Greeneville Middle School**

## **Family and Community Engagement Plan**

**2005-2006**

### **The Process and Current Effective Strategies**

As part of the Greeneville City Schools' work to meet the Tennessee Family and Community Engagement Initiative, surveys were mailed out to all of the parents of all students at Greeneville Middle School. The results of the survey enabled the Greeneville Middle School staff to develop a plan that reflected the perceptions of the parents. In addition, parents were informed of progress toward the development of the plan at the 2005 GSIA Open House on August 23, 2005, by Mrs. Terri Tilson, Federal Projects Supervisor for the Greeneville Schools. The entire faculty at GMS was trained on the importance of family and community engagement as well as the survey results and expectations of the school plan during team meetings during October.

Since GMS is a Title I targeted assisted school, the primary focus of the parent involvement activities has been the parents of Title I eligible students who are served through the Title I Reading Program. This program is coordinated by Mrs. Jo Darnell, an instructional assistant at GMS. GMS also benefits from the services of the Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Greeneville City Schools, Mrs. Janie Laws. The annual Title I meeting was held on December 14, 2005, at 11:00 a.m. at the Greeneville/Greene County Housing Authority. At the annual meeting, the school-parent compact is reviewed and is distributed to all Title I parents annually. Additional parent meetings are held throughout the year at various times of the day to accommodate parents' schedules. Because the School Improvement Plan (SIP) is the driving document for family and community engagement as well as all other facets of continuous improvement at GMS, parent representation on the SIP team involves parents in a organized, ongoing, and timely way with not only family and community engagement but with the total school program as well. Beginning in the Spring of 2006, the parent representatives will be involved in the development of a new School Improvement Plan for the 2006-2007 school year which will include review of the current SIP and Family and Community Engagement Plan (FCEP). Also the school-level FCEP will be posted on the school website and sent home with the school newsletter in February along with a request for parent input. Information about all FCEP activities has been and will continue to be available through both the website and monthly school newsletters. Also provided on the school website are links to school curriculum maps and the state curriculum standards as well as a link to FCEP items.

Another important means of communication is individual parent contact. Teacher web pages provide information about daily assignments as well as access to email for each teacher at GMS. Parent conferences are scheduled through the guidance office at either parent or teacher request and are held weekly each Tuesday during team planning time on an as needed basis. If a parents can not meet at this time, conferences are held before or after school at the parents' convenience.

The following statement based on Richard DuFour's *Creating the New American School* was developed at an annual GMS faculty retreat and sums up our belief about parent and community involvement:

At GMS, parents, teachers, community, and school are partners. We recognize that the school needs the advice and support of parents if our work in teaching and learning is to be meaningful and effective. By the same token, parents need the advice and support of the school if their parenting is to be effective. By involving parents constructively, our school can become more constructively involved with students.

