

At Grand Haven High School parental participation is a critical factor in the success of our students and programs. When parents are involved students have higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates; better school attendance; increased motivation, better self-esteem; lower rates of suspension; decreased use of drugs and alcohol; and fewer instances of violent behavior.

Parent involvement in our school includes the traditional approaches like booster meetings, fund-raisers and volunteering in school. However, we have also focused our attention on improving the academic progress and well being of the parents' own children.

Grand Haven High School has made parental communication and involvement a high priority. Parents must be encouraged to be involved in all aspects of their child's education. The following expectations have been provided to each of our schools in the Grand Haven School District, underneath the expectations are how we have documented our efforts to achieve them:

- **Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.**
  - Weekly eblast to parents from the principal with information about successes and upcoming events.
  - Electronic communications are sent between parents and teachers to update each other on homework and upcoming events
  - The high school website lists educational material, calendars, daily announcements, and email addresses for easy access of information.
  - Conferences and open houses are well attended and provide an excellent medium for communicating student strengths and weaknesses.
  - We strive to provide clear course information and expectations to parents through course syllabus and the course description guide.
  - Parent and student transition meeting for incoming freshmen includes a large component about what parents can expect at Grand Haven High School in regards to services, opportunities and where help can be obtained.
  - Parent Internet Viewer is encouraged for parents to keep track of both academics and attendance.
  - Staff members communicate with parents about positive student behaviors.
  - Staff email addresses are listed on the school webpage.

- **Parenting skills are promoted and supported.**

- Parents can choose from a range of opportunities to spend time with our students in athletics, social scenarios, and within the academic realm.
- Grand Haven High School hosts informational nights for parents about Capturing Kids' Hearts, CyberBullying, Financial Aid and Course Registration.

- **Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.**

- Grand Haven High School helps parents connect to their child's learning. Online resources for each core curriculum areas have been added to our website, and supplemental texts that help breakdown the educational jargon in some of the student texts are available.
- Parents have opportunities to join committees, contribute their specialized skills, advocate for their children. Some of these opportunities are Renaissance Club, School Improvement Committee, and others are encouraged through the school improvement team, administration, and by individual team needs.
- Our School District takes pride in responding quickly to the changing state and national curriculums. The staff has mapped out the Core Curriculum and provided links to the curriculum on our website.
- We strive to discuss our state assessment results during an evening parent meeting.
- At our staff meetings we continuously discuss new and improved ways to educate staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and involve parents as equal partners.
- Grand Haven High Schools aims to support and coordinate student involvement with other programs. We have a district goal to involve all students in some form of extra-curricular activity. This is accomplished through regular communication about school and community recreational opportunities.

- **Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.**

- We strive to offer opportunities for parents to play an integral role in the lives of our students. Some examples of this support include: coaching or sponsoring an after school club or sport, working on committees or subcommittees, serving on the school improvement team, or lending a hand through our school volunteer program or booster groups.
- We strive to facilitate communication between parents and staff working in some of our intervention programs. Volunteers are welcomed to provide additional support for these students.

- **Parents are partners in the decisions that affect children and families.**

- We strive to involve parents in child study or wrap-around meetings when the topics directly affect their children.
- Our booster groups strives to help place parent representatives on building committees.
- Technology has created an effective medium for both sides of this partnership to work on even playing field. All of our critical information is available on-line: whether this is through the web page, parent internet viewer, or district resources. This access to information allows all parties to communicate with the same vocabulary, and through an easily accessed medium.

- **Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.**

- Our building team has worked to provide access to important community resources. The counselors in our building have created banks of resources for families with particular needs.
- We strive to involve key staff members with the Chamber of Commerce to establish better connections and partnerships with our community. These partnerships will create the “relevance factor” for our students as they work their way through the building curriculum.
- Students are provided with multiple opportunities to give back to the community, therefore fulfilling one of the tenants of an effective high school curriculum: a spirit of community service and philanthropy.