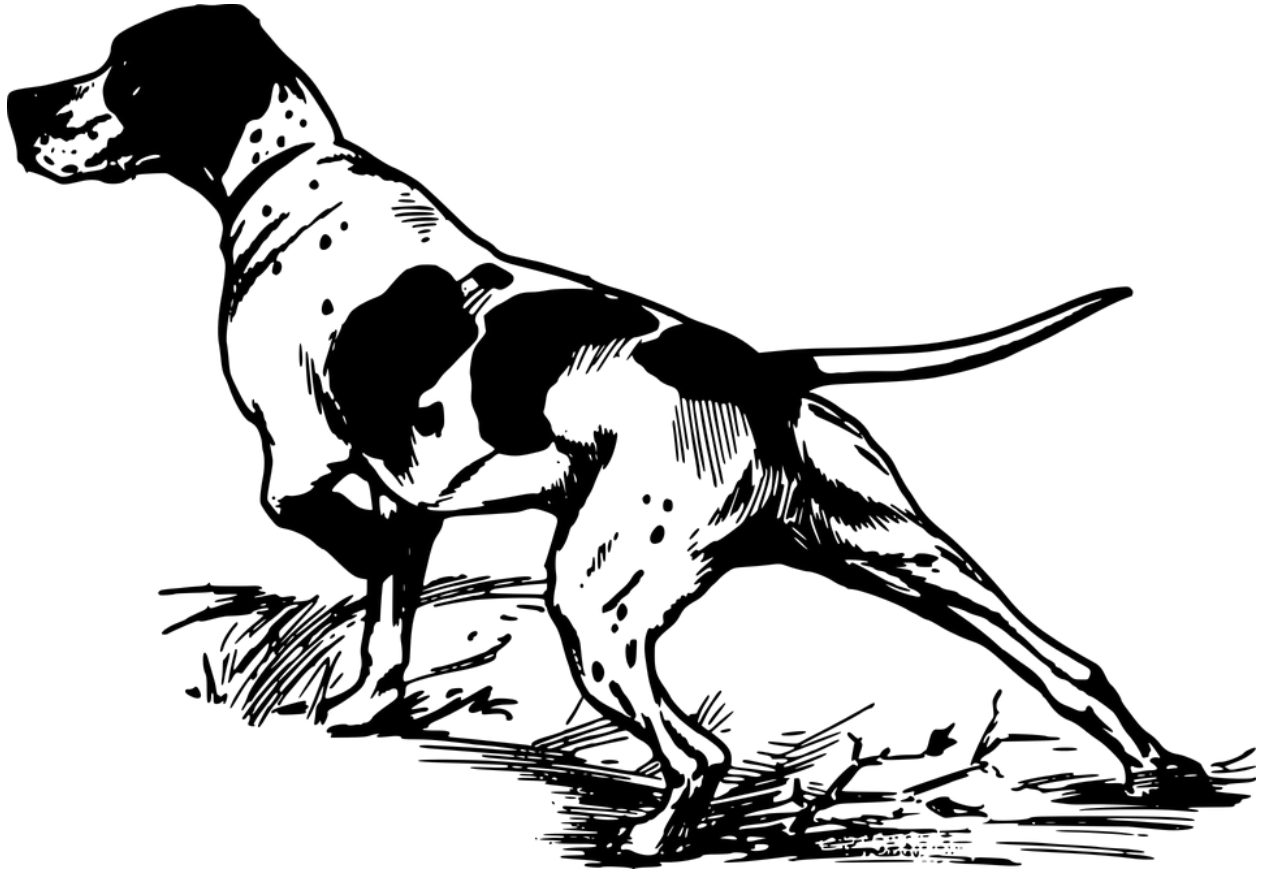


Van Buren High School
School Engagement Packet

2001 Pointer Trail East
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956
(479) 474-6821
Fax (479) 471-3171



Eddie Tipton, Principal
Chris Bryant, Assistant Principal
Kimberly Holman, Assistant Principal
Kevin Ross, Assistant Principal
Dusti Hurst, Parent Involvement Facilitator



Van Buren High School
 2001 East Pointer Trail
 Van Buren, AR 72956
 Phone (479) 474-6821
 Fax (479) 471-3171



2023-2024 Parent Involvement Plan Summary

At Van Buren High School (VBHS), we encourage family engagement and would like to encourage parents, guardians, and/or caregivers to use the following contact information at your discretion:

- Mr. Eddie Tipton, Principal - etipton@vbsd.us
- Mr. Chris Bryant, Asst. Principal - cbryant@vbsd.us
- Mrs. Kimberly Holman, Asst. Principal - kimberly.holman@vbsd.us
- Mr. Kevin Ross, Asst. Principal - kevin.ross@vbsd.us
- Mrs. Dusti Hurst, Parent Involvement Facilitator - dusti.hurst@vbsd.us

At VBHS, we feel that the partnerships created between teachers, parents, and students are vital to our overall success. These partnerships are created through positive communication between the school and the home as well as providing parents opportunities to be involved in different activities, to assist in policy- and decision-making, and to voice their concerns. We will provide materials that can successfully be used at home to reinforce the academic success of children. The district will reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement. It is our goal to provide an atmosphere where parents are able to express their views and to assist in problem solving. We want parents to understand that we view them as joint policy and decision makers and plan to emphasize their roles as advocates. VBHS offers a wide variety of communications for parents so that they may access more information about the Parent and Family Engagement Committee, as well as school news, a school activities calendar, and parenting tips relating to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills. These are a few of the family-friendly ways that parents can gain access to this information:

- Pointer Update weekly newsletter (Sign up on peachjar.com)
- Remind: Parents and students are automatically signed up through E-School. Not subscribed? Text @vbhsar to 81010.
- The Van Buren High School website at <http://www.vbsd.us/schools/van-buren-high-school>
- @VanBurenHS and @VBHS_Counseling on Twitter
- Van Buren High School Facebook Page
- Comprehensive school calendar on the VBHS website

Also included in these communications are opportunities for parent involvement for the 2023-2024 school year such as:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Open House | • College Goal Sunday @ UAFS |
| • Title I Meeting | • VBHS Career Expo |
| • Parent-Teacher Conferences/Report to the Public | • VBHS Talent Show |
| • Fall Festival hosted by Cultures in Action | • Arkansas Scholars Banquet |
| • College Financial Aid Night | • Top 40 Banquet |
| • Empty Bowls Event | • Scholarship Banquet |
| | • VBHS Baccalaureate |
| | • Graduation/Project Graduation |

Please sign below to confirm that you received and understand the 2023-2024 Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary and detach the bottom portion to return to the school. Please retain the top portion for your records.

 (Parent's signature)

 (date)

 (Student's signature)

 (date)

2023-24 School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

School Name:

Van Buren High School

Facilitator Name:

Dusti Hurst

Plan Review/Revision Date:

July 26, 2023

District Level Reviewer, Title:

Sonia Guerrero, Director of Learning Services

District Level Approval Date:

July 31, 2023

Committee Members, Role:

Dusti Hurst, Parent Involvement Facilitator

Kimberly Holman, Assistant Principal

Joany Porter, Teacher

Stacy Seeger, Teacher/Parent

Lindsay Bonilla, Parent

Brynlee Henry, Student

Cara Saffell, Parent

Joe Hurst, Mayor

Rachel Henry, Parent

1: Jointly Developed

The Parent and Family Engagement Committee, consisting of school-parent coordinator, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members, meets to analyze data from surveys as well as to have discussions with teachers, administrators, parents, and community members in order to create open communication between all shareholders.

All shareholders on the committee will participate in an annual review of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

If at any time a parent of a Van Buren High School student finds any portion of our Title I Schoolwide Plan to be unsatisfactory, those comments will be forwarded to a representative at the district level.

Dates of School Parent Involvement Meetings*:

- Thursday, September 21
- Thursday, November 16
- Thursday, March 14

2: Communication

Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator - Dusti Hurst, dusti.hurst@vbsd.us

Copies of the school parent and family engagement plan will be located in the front office in order to be readily available to families and the local community.

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) plan will be distributed on the evenings of the fall parent/teacher conferences and will be posted on the high school website.

The parent-friendly informational packet will include a description of the Parent and Family Engagement plan; the recommended roles of parents, teachers, and students; ways for a family to get involved in a variety of roles; a survey regarding volunteer interests; a schedule of activities planned throughout the school year; and a regular, two-way, and meaningful system for parents/teachers to communicate.

The school will also communicate with parents in a variety of ways:

- The school will distribute a weekly newsletter to parents that is developed with participation of the parent-school organization, principal, and staff. It will include school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills.
- The weekly newsletter will be added to the school's website each week and will be sent through the Remind app.

- The school website will contain an up-to-date directory for parents to contact teachers as needed.
- Parents will be able to access their child's grades through the Home Access Center. Usernames and passwords will be available during Open House as well as Parent-Teacher Conferences. If parents need access to that information at any other time, they can contact the office at (479)474-6821 where they will be directed to Mrs. Eva Doumbouya, the counseling office registrar.
- Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress if there is an issue that needs to be addressed.
- The school will provide printed copies of progress reports/report cards every four weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress.
- The school will use the student handbook (Pointer Procedures), school website, signage at the school entrance, and parent orientation meetings about Schoolwide Title I plan and how to get a copy upon request.

3: Building Staff Capacity

Each teacher will be trained in providing lessons via a virtual platform in the event school is forced to close due to unforeseen circumstances. Training will include, but is not limited to, the platforms Google Classroom, Nearpod, Google Meet, and Sora via Overdrive.

The school's staff will be trained in effective parent engagement strategies. The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require no fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parent and family engagement strategies. No fewer than three (3) hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

4: Building Parent Capacity

In addition to regular PTA meetings, the Parent Involvement Facilitator will hold three meetings dedicated to parent involvement:

- Thursday, September 21
- Thursday, November 16
- Thursday, March 14

The school will provide a parent resource center for parents located in the VBHS Library.

Parents may check out materials, use technology to check grades, and visit educational websites. Parents will be encouraged to view the Title I Plan located in the parent resource center or media center. A suggestion sheet will also be

available for parental input. The school will open the resource center at hours that are convenient to parents.

The school will provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation, and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

The school will provide opportunities for parents and community members to support the instructional program through such programs as tutoring and teacher-led study groups.

The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts during orientation of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. Brief training sessions will provide parents and community members with the information they need to participate as school volunteers in order to put them at ease and make the experience pleasant and successful.

The school will provide online how-to videos via YouTube to aid parents in ensuring students are on track with online learning in the event education has to switch to a virtual platform due to unforeseen circumstances. Videos will include instructions to access Google Classroom and the manipulation of the platform as well as other online resources utilized by the school.

The school will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:

- Mentor
- Teacher assistant
- Tutor
- Awards Day presentations
- Orientation presentations
- Open House
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Red Ribbon Week
- Anti-Bullying Month
- Band/Choir Concerts

The school will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan, and the annual Title I meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A program.

The school will involve parents on school improvement planning committees. To support this process, the school will offer training to both school staff and parents on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way.

The school will ask parents to serve on curricular and instructional review committees. To support this process, the school will offer training to both school staff and parents on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way.

The school will engage parents in decision-making about the allocation of its Title I, Part A funds for parent and family engagement.

5: Coordination of Services

To take advantage of community resources, the school shall consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

The school will work with the Van Buren Freshman Academy to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities. The school will host sophomore orientation for parents and students to help with the transition. Parents will have the opportunity to meet new teachers before school begins at Open House.

Meetings will be held to prepare both parents and students to apply for college admission, apply for college scholarships, apply for FAFSA, etc.

6: Annual Title I Meeting

A Title I meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21. Parents will have two times from which to choose: 10:30am and 5:30pm in the VBHS Conference Room.

This meeting's purpose will be to:

- Inform parents of their rights under Title I.
- Inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation.

7: School-Parent Compact

The School-Parent Compact will be jointly developed at a designated Parent Involvement meeting by receiving input from the teachers, parents and students in attendance.

The School-Parent Compact will be distributed through English classes. The signature page will be stored by the Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator.

The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards.

To enforce the School-Parent Compact, the school will hold parent meetings, conferences, and activities regularly throughout the year to increase parent engagement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.

- The Parent Involvement Facilitator will ensure the school's parent involvement committee will meet at least three times a year to establish, discuss and evaluate committee goals, to hold volunteer training, and provide materials to help parents work with their children as well as develop the School-Parent compact.
- Meetings will be held at various times during the day or evening to better accommodate parents.
- Meetings will be held to prepare both parents and students to apply for college admission, apply for college scholarships, apply for FAFSA, etc.
- Teachers will hold bi-annual conferences with parents of children individually. Parents will be given explanations of homework and grading procedures.

To increase parent engagement, parents will be presented with a volunteer survey as part of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary as well as online through a Google Form. The information gained from the volunteer survey will be gathered and made available to teachers so that parents can be involved in a variety of roles throughout the school.

8: Reservation of Funds

For 2023-2024, Van Buren High School has reserved an allocation from district Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities.

The school will engage parents in decision-making about the allocation of its Title I funds for parent and family engagement.

Funds from Title I for parent and family engagement activities will be spent as follows:

- Funds will be used to update the VBHS Parent Center as needed.
- The bulk of parent and family engagement funds will be used to purchase a school-wide subscription to Remind to keep students and families informed.

Van Buren High School Parent Volunteer Survey 2023-2024

We welcome all families, both new and returning, to VBHS! Our yearly goal is to increase parent involvement by informing you of the volunteer opportunities available. Every volunteer commitment, whether large or small, is very important. We value and need the volunteer time and energy you can give to support the success of VBHS. Your volunteer efforts will benefit our teachers, staff, and most of all, our students.

Your Name _____

What is your child's name and in which grade is he or she?
e.g. John Smith, grade 12

Do you have another child in this school? If so, what is his/her name and grade? e.g. Cindy Smith, grade 10 _____

What is your preferred method of contact? Please enter your email and/or telephone or cellphone number (whichever you prefer).

When is it ok for us to contact you? Please check only one.

_____ Please call me only for those jobs checked below.

_____ You can call me anytime, even last minute.

Which volunteer opportunities interest you? Please check all that apply.

_____ Parent Involvement Committee (meets 3-4 times/year)

_____ Classroom Support (Bulletin Boards, etc.)

_____ Graduation Set-up

_____ Hospitality

_____ Office Support (Filing, etc.)

_____ Data Entry

_____ Copy Person (2 times per week)

_____ Prom Clean-up

_____ Community Connections**

**If you marked Community Connections, what would you like to share with the students?

This could be job related, special-interest related, or something related to your past experiences, like service in the military, for example.

If you have suggestions on how to increase parent involvement in our school, please write them on the back of this paper.