

## Title 1

### Burroughs-Molette Elementary School

#### Parent Involvement Program

Parent involvement is an important part of Burroughs-Molette School because it connects the school and home. Annually, the school year officially begins with Open House where parents and student are invited into the school and they are provided an opportunity to meet their child's teacher. Prior to this Open House, the PTA executive board convened in July to organize its involvement in the Open House orientation, and PTA executive members along with former students conduct classroom and the school-wide tours of the building and outside facilities- playgrounds.

At Burroughs-Molette, some community volunteers who are bilingual will also assist in Open House because 12% of the student body is English Language Learners (ELL). All school written communication are posted and written in both English and Spanish. In addition, monthly newsletters which are sent home to parents are written in both English and Spanish.

At the annual Curriculum Night PTA meeting which is held in September; this ninety minutes meeting with teachers, students, and parents is held to focus on the following topics:

- Implementation of the new Georgia Performance Standards
- the parent-student-teacher compact and its significance
- the No Child Left Behind Acts and CRCT testing
- upcoming means of school communication such as newsletters, progress reports, report cards and the school's website
- encouragement of parental participation by discussing procedure for parent conference

PTA meetings are held monthly at Burroughs-Molette; the meetings focus on informing parents about student achievement, promoting literacy and increasing parental involvement in academic success. At three of the PTA meetings, the parents, and students play "Bingo for Books" which is a family activity coordinated by the school's media specialist and staff member volunteers to assist in this family-related event. At the end of the event, every child leaves the event with a book which is either won by the student or donated to the student by the school. This event promotes literacy at home by encouraging students to read at home, and this event enlightens parents about the importance of reading and modeling reading at home.

Other PTA meetings deal with academic topics. For instance, at the September PTA meeting, parents and students are invited to Burroughs-Molette's annual Curriculum Night in which parents and students actual visit the student's teacher who will give a presentation of the classroom procedures and review content material from each

academic area. The parents have an opportunity to learn about the Georgia Performance Standards in language arts and reading. The October PTA meeting deals with “Hispanic Heritage Month.” Also, the principal explained to the parents of the significance of being a Title 1 school. Also, a handout explaining Title 1 was distributed in both English and Spanish. At the meeting, parents are given an opportunity to ask questions about the Title 1 program. Also, a portion of the meeting relates to how Title 1 is connected with student achievement. November’s PTA meeting dealt with teaching parents and students about completing a science fair project by having a community resource speaker present valuable information about science fair projects.

Volunteering and mentoring enable parents and community resource people to become actively involved in the students’ academic achievement and it assists in closing the achievement gap by volunteers working one-on-one in the classroom with students. There are a number of volunteers who work with student. For instance, each English Language Learner (ELL) classrooms have a volunteer working with students. We also have an adult (Sharon Cornwell) who is in a wheel chair that works faithfully with reading to second grade students. Moreover, our PTA president volunteers full time throughout the school day. He comes in the morning and works as the crossing guard and he continues volunteering throughout the school day. He works from 7:15 to 3:30 daily to make a positive difference at Burroughs-Molette.

During the spring quarterly meetings, workshops will focus on explaining the importance of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) and discussing the content format of the test. Parents will receive test taking tips to take home, and parents will receive materials including testing brochures and pamphlets from the Parent Institute Company about testing, promoting reading, and tips on working with their children.

Parents are given the opportunity to preview the Mendez Character Education program which is used at the school by the guidance department. Also, parents receive character education material from the school because Burroughs-Molette participates in the Core Essential program which is a character education program. Parents and students receive materials which list the character education words of month along with book marks and other materials so that parents can discuss the character education material at home with the students.

To increase parental involvement, agenda books are used in grades second, third, fourth, and fifth grades. With kindergarten and first grade students, teachers send home notes daily. Progress reports are sent home every four and half weeks, and the report card is sent home at the end of the nine weeks grading period. Parent conferences are scheduled at the request of parents and teachers. However, parent conferences are held a minimum of three times a year. These conferences are held either at school or at home. These conferences are scheduled on teacher workdays or at variety of times during the year.

The school has provided both clubs with the names of the students' teachers and the times of the teachers' planning period so that the club advisors can communicate with teachers about the students' homework.

One of the most important components of the Parent Involvement Plan is the Parent Involvement Worker, Ana Rodriguez. She serves both the English and Spanish speaker population of our school. Her duties are:

- Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs, activities, and strategies with Pre-K and the middle schools
- Monitor students' attendance and contact parents when children are out of school
- Make home visits and meet with parents as needed
- Update the Parent Resource Center by providing materials that can support family learning
- Participate in PESA training.

The mission of the Burroughs-Molette staff is to provide a safe, positive environment where every child will recognize that he or she is a valued individual; one in which students, parents, and staff work together to achieve desired academic and social goals. The Parent Involvement Plan enables Burroughs-Molette to fulfill its mission.