

Parent Involvement and Engagement

Already in the month of September we have had a number of opportunities for families to visit Hillery Park Elementary and get involved in our school. We want nothing more than to engage parents in their child's education. We will continue to work toward building strong relationship with our families in order to have a true partnership in learning. October will provide more opportunities to get directly involved in our school. Here are a few examples of how you can get involved.

Parent Teach Organization:

Our Parent Teacher Organization simply does not have enough family members involved. We are in dire need of more parent volunteers. We have our first meeting tomorrow here at school at 4:15pm. Even if you are unable to make this meeting but want to find a way to get involved, please send me an email at vvanderlip@buffaloschools.org. We hope to sponsor many student-family events this year, but will need many more families to offer some time to assist. If every one of the 700 students we have had a family member provide 15 minutes we would have 175 hours of volunteerism which adds up to 25 school days. Every little bit helps and many hands make the lifting light.

Site Based Management Team (SBMT)

As you will see on the October calendar we have an SBMT meeting on October 10th from 7:50am-8:50am. SBMT is a decision-making group made up of parents, students, teacher aides, assistants, teachers and administrators. The purpose of SBMT is to help improve our school and come up with different ideas which will be implemented in order to reach our goals. Parents and family members are an important part of this group. If you wish to take part in SBMT please email me vvanderlip@buffaloschools.org.

A couple other ways our parents and families can help support our school and your student's learning are:

Homework, Agendas and Reading:

Our students have homework **each and every night**. Homework should be written in the students' agendas after every class. Please check your child's agenda to see what homework or studying they need to complete.

If students are not assigned a specific homework assignment, they are still expected to read every night. We have a full time Library Media Specialist this year. Every student has visited the library and taken out a book. They should be bringing their book home with them and back to school daily. Reading before going to sleep is one of the best things we can do for our children and ourselves. Research shows reading before going to sleep helps reduce stress, increases brain power and creativity, and helps students retain what they have read. Please push reading at home as much as possible.

Uniforms:

Hillery Park Elementary is a uniform school. Students are responsible for coming to school wearing this uniform. Our uniform policy is simple. We expect all students both boys and girls to wear a collared polo shirt which can be navy, light blue, gray or white. We expect boys to be in navy or khaki pants. (NO JEANS) Girls can wear pants, navy or khaki skirt or jumper. Students can wear shoes or sneakers. (NO SANDALS) Our uniform policy is in place to help parents and reduce distraction at school. We need parents to help us make sure this policy is upheld. **Please continue to support our efforts to maintain an educational environment where students care far more about what they are learning than what they and their classmates are wearing.**

We will have new dry fit shirts and sweatshirt with the Hillery Park logo available for sale soon.

Please stay tuned.
