

Castle Dome Middle School Parent Involvement Policy

In order to guarantee student success, partnerships among schools and parents are vital. At Castle Dome Middle School (CDMS), we recognize that parents are their student's primary teacher and parent support is critical in our efforts to provide a quality education for each child. To maximize the success of our students, programs are planned to involve parents with their child's class, teachers and activities at CDMS.

At Castle Dome Middle School, numerous programs occurs throughout the year to develop parent-teacher relationships.

1. **Orientation and Title One Parent Evening:** The orientation, 'Meet the Teachers', afternoon takes place the Friday afternoon prior to the first day of school. Families are informed via the school marquee, the mass communication phone system (English and Spanish messages are sent); the school website, and postcards to each home. During the orientation, students receive their schedule are encouraged to walk to each assigned class and meet their child's teacher; teachers also discuss the purpose of the CDMS agenda book, each student receives, to encourage parent-teacher communication and support student organization. At the Title One Parent Evening, parents receive orientation regarding our school-wide Title One Program. Key staff members present information to families regarding our: Title One program; Title One allocation and budget; school improvement plan and goals; opportunities for family involvement; No Child Left Behind overview; overview of AZ State Standards and testing requirements; category under No Child Left Behind and AZ Learns. Translators are available during the meetings to support communication between staff and parents. Parents are also provided copies of the CDMS Parental Involvement Policy and School Compact.
2. **Staff Orientation:** Staff orientation addresses the value of strong family-school ties and how to reach-out to parents to address student needs. CDMS staff review the school improvement plan and goals, and how Title One funds are used to support student and parent needs.
3. **Family Nights:** The 2nd Thursday of each month, CDMS holds a family night, usually hosted by a different department. Families learn to use various web-based programs, educational games, and strategies to support students at home.
4. **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** CDMS holds Parent-Teacher Conferences at the end of 1st Quarter and mid 3rd Quarter to discuss student progress, standards, and strategies to support students.

5. Transition to Middle School/High School: Events will be held in early spring to rising 6th and rising 9th grade students and their parents. CDMS staff will host information evenings at Desert Mesa Elementary and Otondo Elementary for 5th grade students and their parents/guardians. Gila Ridge High School hosts similar events for 8th grade students and parents.

Castle Dome Middle School uses the following communication methods to inform parents and families in a timely manner.

1. Lunch Menu: Nutritional Services provides the menu to offer parents helpful information for middle school students.
2. Grading Reports: CDMS issues report cards at the end of each quarter and progress reports at the mid-quarters.
3. Agenda Books: Every student at CDMS receives an agenda book to record assignments, due dates and act as a line of communication between home and school. The agenda will include the Student Handbook, Parent Compact and Parent Involvement Policy.
4. Connect Ed mass communication system: CDMS sends automated phone calls to families to inform families of school events, school closures, etc.
5. CDMS Website: our website (www.castledome.yuma.org) contains a wealth of information on our programs and events, our calendar, and educational links and opportunities.