

What Is a School-Parent Compact?

The Appling County Middle School-Parent compact is a simple agreement with parents, teachers and students asking each group to work together to reach and exceed grade level standards.

*Shares strategies with parents that can be used at home.

*Describes learning expectations that create a firm foundation and promotes higher level learning.

Continuous Process...

The Appling County Middle School parents, teachers/staff, and students all work together in creating this School/Parent Compact.

Students share what their academic needs/skills are.

Teachers provide learning strategies to use at home.

Parents help their child review skills and strategies to improve academic success.

Activities to Build Partnerships

ACMS promotes parent/student and community supporters through academic events, such as:

- ✓ Open House twice a year
- ✓ Quality learning time provided in addition to the regular day, such as before & after school tutoring and CRCT Review
- ✓ Curriculum Night
 - Math
 - CRCT Prep
- ✓ Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ✓ Discovery Place where families can obtain additional academic resources located on the Pre-k campus

Communication about Student Learning

Appling County Middle School provides information to parents and the community about their students.

Ways in which you can stay in touch with our school & your child's teachers:

- School Web site
- Student Planner
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal (to see your child's grades)
- E-mails, letters, notes, phone calls
- Monthly newsletters — informing parents about topics such as preteen social concerns, test taking skills, and building communication in the home



... a system of excellence for all learners.

Revised 11/18/13

Appling County Middle School Grade 8 Family-School Compact



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VISION

We will be a school of excellence for all learners.

MISSION

As a school, we are committed to providing a quality education that promotes maximum individual achievement and social responsibility.

BELIEFS

As a school we believe that:

1. All individuals are valued and will be treated with dignity.
2. Quality education addresses individual needs and increases student achievement.
3. Effective teachers are the foundation of quality instruction.
4. High expectations, in an organized environment, are essential for optimal learning.
5. An emotionally and physically safe environment promotes learning.
6. A strong partnership among home, school, and community increases student achievement.
7. Well maintained facilities and equipment and the use of appropriate technology enhance the learning environment.
8. Modeling and teaching character values promote responsibility and citizenship.
9. Extracurricular activities promote school and community involvement and personal development.
10. A continuous process of improvement is based on research and best practices.
11. All students have the ability to learn and share responsibility for learning.
12. A variety of assessments will drive instructional decisions.

Our Goals for Student Achievement

Appling County Schools District Goals

District Goals

The Appling County School System sets goals for the entire district. The district goals for 2013-2014 are:

Reading – All students will increase to 94.6% proficiency in Reading on the state assessment.

Math – All students will increase to 88.1% proficiency in Math on the state assessment.

Appling County Middle School Goals

ACMS's most current achievement data have been analyzed, and we have specifically identified the following areas as need improvement goals:

- ⇒ Writing/Written Expression Skills (for all grades) will increase from 71% in winter FY'13 to 83% in winter FY'14.
- ⇒ Reading (Literary Comprehension) will increase from 96.8% in spring FY'13 to 97.0% in spring FY'14.
- ⇒ Math (Numbers and Operations, Measurement and Geometry, and Algebra) will increase from 87.7% in spring FY'13 to 88.1% in spring FY'14.
- ⇒ Science (Grade 6—Hydrology/Meteorology, Grade 8—Structure of Matter, Force/Motion, and Energy/Its Transformation) will increase from 81.1% in spring FY'13 to 84.3 % in spring FY'14.
- ⇒ Social Studies (History, Civics/Government) will increase from 81.1% in spring FY'13 to 83.5% in spring FY'14.

Teachers, Parents, Students—Together for Success

Writing is used in every class every day at ACMS.

Grade 8 Teachers want to improve your child's writing and written expression skills in all subject areas. Here are a few things that happen in the classroom which can also be supported at home.

In Reading, students write responses to stories/activities, write reports, and publish writing for others to enjoy.

In Language, students learn how to correctly write sentences to have more meaning so others can understand what they have written.

In Math, students write out how to solve math problems and create charts and graphs. Write letters to friends who are absent, explaining the step-by-step process of concept.

In Science, students write clear, step-by-step instructions for conducting scientific investigations or following a procedure, in addition to writing research reports and responses to questions.

In Social Studies, students write:

- Responses to historical events
- Summaries showing how to group key ideas
- Sequence of events
- Response to fact/opinions
- Research reports based on primary documents

Writing is a very important part of our everyday lives and means of communication. We write to-do lists, grocery lists, notes, directions, letters, and e-mails to name a few examples. ACMS wants your child to make a connection between writing and real life experiences so it will be more meaningful for your child and improve his/her writing in school.

Parents, you can help your child with writing by:

- ⇒ Having materials that are needed for writing such as lead pencils, markers, colored pencils, journal, composition book, notebook and paper.
- ⇒ Letting your child know that you value good writing by discussing and go over his/her school work/homework.
- ⇒ Talking about the importance of writing being clear, thoughtful, and organized.
- ⇒ Going over any of your child's writing to make sure what he/she wrote is clear and organized.
- ⇒ Staying away from negative words that can end your children's interest in writing.
- ⇒ Having your child read, or reading with your child different types of books and other material to see how writers have different ways of writing.
- ⇒ Writing out steps of how to do an activity, such as math problems, making a cake, or building a bird house.
- ⇒ Making it fun. After your child completes an activity listed below, give him/her an opportunity to read it aloud or you read it.

Writing activities are listed in Section #3 that you can have your child do.

Here are some sites to find more writing ideas:

Education World Writing Bugs http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/writing_bugs.shtml
Write Source Writing Topics Organized by Grade http://thewritesource.com/writing_topics/#ws_2000

Students, listed below are some writing activities that you can do to improve your writing skills. When you complete an activity, share it with your parents:

- * Write thank-you notes, letters of invitation, grocery lists, directions, and/or instructions of how to do something.
- * Write and send postcards, letters, or e-mails to friends and family.
- * After a trip to a place of interest, write a paragraph or two about your experiences.
- * Write goals and how you plan to accomplish them.
- * Keep a journal.

- * Write a menu, poetry, and/or songs.
- * Create a travel brochure, cartoon and/or an advertising ads for clothes, favorite foods, or business.
- * Write a new (better) ending to a book you are currently reading.
- * Review newspaper articles or news report and write an opinion on the topic.

*****If you do not have Internet access at home, you can use the time before school, after school, media visits, end of class period, and/or study skills to access Web site resources to practice skills. Also, ask your teacher for help and/or attend after school tutoring.*****