

Baldwin Community Schools
525 4th Street, Baldwin, MI 49304
Phone: 231-745-4791 Fax: 231-745-3240

November 16, 2009

Dear Parents and Students,

In January 2002, Congress expanded parental involvement statutory provisions in Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act. The provisions provide the tools that can increase student achievement through parental involvement in your schools. The use of learning compacts or pledges is required in all public schools receiving Title I funds - affecting over half the nation's public school children.

What is a learning compact? The U.S. Department of Education describes a learning compact or pledge in the following way:

- It is a voluntary agreement between the home and school. The agreement can define goals, expectations and shared responsibilities of schools and parents as equal partners for student learning.
- Parents commit, for example, to setting aside reading time, seeing that homework is completed, monitoring television viewing, and making sure that children get to bed and school on time.
- Schools would agree to provide children every opportunity to learn in a supportive, drug and violence free environment.

U.S. Department of Education research shows that schools with properly implemented learning compacts raise student achievement higher than at similar schools without pledges. Pledges have a greater impact on student learning than other types of home-school interactions. Principals of schools with pledges report greater family involvement in homework and more parents reading with children at home. Best of all, schools with the greatest needs seem to benefit the most. By signing the pledge, parents agree to "take personal responsibility" for their children's education; they promise to help their kids with homework for at least 15 minutes each school night, to volunteer at the school, and to evaluate their children's progress every six months. All schools receiving federal funding under Title I must offer such contracts to parents.

We, at Baldwin Community Schools, ask that you take a moment to read the following contract on the back of this letter, to review it with your child, and to have both of you sign it and return it to school. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention and support of the school.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Papes
Elementary Principal

Baldwin Community Schools
525 4th Street, Baldwin, MI 49304
Phone: 231-745-4791 Fax: 231-745-3240

School Compact

We, the Baldwin Community School community, establish this Compact in order to foster the improvement in all courses of instruction and to support the success of our students. We believe this can be done with the planned partnership of parents, families, students, teachers, principals and community members.

Parent's and Family's Responsibilities

We will:

- Make sure our child attends school regularly, is on time, and is prepared to learn, with homework completed.
- Know what skills our child is learning in all classes each day.
- Do activities at home that continue our child's classroom learning at home.
- Promote reading at home.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and communicate frequently with our child's teacher, through notes and conversations, about how well our child is doing.

Student's Responsibilities

I will:

- Come to school on time and be ready to learn.
- Pay attention to my teachers, family, and tutors, and ask questions when I need help.
- Read at home.
- Complete my homework on time in a thorough and legible way.
- Welcome help from my family on my homework and papers.
- Return signed homework and papers to school.

Teacher's Responsibilities

I will:

- Provide quality teaching and leadership to my students and their families.
- Communicate frequently with families and tutors about my students' progress in reading and show them how they can help.
- Coordinate with other programs to make sure nightly assignments do not exceed time limits.
- Recognize that students are accountable for every assignment.
- Participate in meaningful professional development in how to teach reading, how to communicate with families, and how to work with tutors.
- Hold at least two parent-teacher conferences a year.

Principal's Responsibilities

I will:

- Set high standards in reading and other language arts by providing a challenging curriculum.
- Report publicly on school-wide reading scores, and help teachers and parents to understand how adopting high standards can lead to the improvement of scores.
- Allocate resources to ensure high standards are met.
- Hold workshops on standards in reading and ways to set the standards into practice at school and at home.
- Welcome and involve all families, especially those with low literacy skills or limited English proficiency, or those who have not been involved in the school before.

Student's signature

Parent's signature

Teacher's signature

Principal's signature

Baldwin Community Schools
Elementary School
525 4th Street, Baldwin, MI 49304
Phone: 231-745-3261 Fax: 231-745-7481

School Compact

We, the Baldwin Community School community, establish this Compact in order to foster the improvement in all courses of instruction and to support the success of our students. We believe this can be done with the planned partnership of parents, families, students, teachers, principals and community members.

Parent's and Family's Responsibilities

We will:

- Make sure our child attends school regularly, is on time, and is prepared to learn, with homework completed.
- Know what skills our child is learning in all classes each day.
- Do activities at home that continue our child's classroom learning at home.
- Read to/with my child.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and communicate frequently with our child's teacher, through notes and conversations, about how well our child is doing.

Student's Responsibilities

I will:

- Come to school on time and be ready to learn.
- Pay attention to my teachers, family, and tutors, and ask questions when I need help.
- Read at home or ask my family to read to me.
- Complete my homework on time in a thorough and legible way.
- Welcome help from my family on my homework and papers.
- Return signed homework and papers to school.

Teacher's Responsibilities

I will:

- Provide quality teaching and leadership to my students and their families.
- Communicate frequently with families and tutors about my students' progress in reading and show them how they can help.
- Coordinate with other programs to make sure nightly assignments do not exceed time limits.
- Recognize that students are accountable for every assignment.
- Participate in meaningful professional development in how to teach reading, how to communicate with families, and how to work with tutors.
- Hold at least two parent-teacher conferences a year.

Principal's Responsibilities

I will:

- Set high standards in reading and other language arts by providing a challenging curriculum.
- Report publicly on school-wide reading scores, and help teachers and parents to understand how adopting high standards can lead to the improvement of scores.
- Allocate resources to ensure high standards are met.
- Hold workshops on standards in reading and ways to set the standards into practice at school and at home.
- Welcome and involve all families, especially those with low literacy skills or limited English proficiency, or those who have not been involved in the school before.

Student's signature

Parent's signature

Teacher's signature

Principal's signature