



RHODE ISLAND NURSES INSTITUTE
MIDDLE COLLEGE
CHARTER SCHOOL

RINI Middle College

Parent and Family Engagement Guide and, School/ Home Compact

Together, We're Helping Our Student to Succeed in School!

Revised September 5, 2018

Welcome to RINI Middle College!

RINI's educational program is founded on the mission, vision, and Middle College model, offering a seamless transition from high school to post-secondary education.

RINI Mission and Vision

The **mission** of the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College is to prepare a diverse group of students to become the highly educated and professional nursing workforce of the future.

Our **vision** is to create an innovative high school experience that is student-centric, structured to foster a supportive learning environment, and committed to developing the skills, knowledge, and passion necessary to excel in the nursing and allied health professions.

At RINI Middle College, we believe that every child, at every level of academic performance, can achieve excellence. It is our goal to provide students with the skills, knowledge, tools and support they need to excel both in and out of the classroom, and to provide them with a strong foundation that will ensure further success in life. To do this, we need the help of parents and families who are committed to help children succeed in every way possible by building a foundation that creates a learning environment focused on excellence.

The RINI Middle College not only recognizes parents and families as key stakeholders in their children's education, but prioritizes parent and family involvement as a key component of its beliefs and shared goals as being considered by the Board of Trustees.

Declaration of Beliefs

- All children can learn at high levels.
- Teachers have a profound impact on student development and should have ample training, support and resources.
- Education begins with a safe and healthy learning environment.
- Families are an essential part of the educational process.
- A commitment from the entire community is necessary to build a culture that encourages student achievement.
- Improvement in education is guided by consistent and effective leadership.
- The school office exists to serve students and schools.

Shared Goals between the school and family

- Maximum academic achievement for all students;
- A safe and orderly environment for all students and employees;
- Efficient and equitable distribution of resources to address the needs of all students, to the maximum extent feasible; and
- Improved confidence and strong parent/community engagement.

Outlined in this guide is the Parent and Family Involvement Policy that clarifies the role of all stakeholders; from the Trustees, to the school, to parents and families, in the learning environment and the learning process.

While the policy outlines mandated legal parental involvement provisions as stipulated by federal law, we have also included an easy reference guide to the policy that highlights the numerous opportunities available for parents, guardians and family members to become involved in RINI Middle College, and as a result, every student's success. We recognize that each child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family. To support this goal, we must all work together as knowledgeable partners.

We encourage you to join the staff of the RINI Middle College in building a relationship that helps every child excel. We value your involvement.

HOW DOES RINI MIDDLE COLLEGE DEFINE PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT?

The RINI Middle College recognizes that there are a variety of individuals who carry responsibility for a student's development, education and well-being in school, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and community members. We also recognize that Parent and Family Involvement is more than participating in Parent Teacher Organizations. Involvement includes diverse, ongoing, meaningful activities and opportunities that are designed to engage parents and families throughout the school year, not only at their child's school, but in the District and at home.

RINI Middle College believes in regular, two-way, meaningful communication connecting student academic learning and other school activities ensuring:

- Parents and Families play an integral role in assisting their children's learning
- Parents and Families are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education at school;
- Parents and Families are full partners in their children's education;
- Parents and families are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE SCHOOL?

The school is also committed to creating a welcoming environment where successful parent and family involvement can flourish. This includes examining internal structures, staff alignment, staff development, communications, programs and resources to sustain effective parent and family involvement. The district will assist parents in understanding the topics of RI's academic standards and school's local assessments, in monitoring their children's progress, and in working together to improve student achievement. In order to do so, the school will provide:

- A centralized Parent Helpdesk (401-680-4900) and email info@rinimc.org, where parents and families can ask questions, provide feedback and have concerns addressed.
- Comprehensive website with easy access to school and program information
- Timely information about programs through emails and newsletters.

- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; family access to Skyward information system.
- Access to materials and training to improve their children's achievement, such as math, literacy technology, nursing/healthcare and college/career readiness.
- A system for reasonable access to school staff, including accommodations for working parents, (faculty/staff emails, phone messages, family meetings).
- Translation services as needed and as available.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held at least twice per year, with parents and families given several time options in order to accommodate schedules. Adequate time will be allotted to discuss student progress.

- Opportunities to volunteer and participate in their children's school and at home.
- Opportunities to observe and participate in classroom activities.
- If requested by parents, the opportunity for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
- Arrangements for school meetings or in-home conferences between staff and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school in order to maximize parental and family involvement and participation.
- Investment of federal, state, and local dollars to strengthen and sustain parent and family involvement activities such as paying reasonable and necessary expenses, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents and families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED

At RINI Middle College, our goal is to help parents and families become full partners in their children's educational experience through a variety of opportunities created collaboratively with the parents and the school.

This includes but is not limited to having the opportunity to be active partners on committees (School Improvement Team, school event planning), Parent Advisory Council, Board of Directors, Senior Project Evaluators, focus groups, workshops and trainings and being involved in the development, review and enforcement of the School Improvement Plan.

At the beginning of the school year, the school will hold an event/forum in which all students' parents and families will be invited and encouraged to attend. The purpose of this meeting will be to inform parents and families of school policies and procedures, Title I expectations and regulations, and the rights and opportunities for involvement at home, at school and throughout the school. RINI Middle College will offer a flexible number of meetings throughout the school year to accommodate parents' schedules, and may provide transportation, child care, home visits, or other services related to parental and family

involvement. Many opportunities exist for families to become involved in the education of their children at school, throughout the school, and at home. Some ways to do this include:

- Ask daily questions about what your child did in school;
- Ask to see books and homework assignments; ask to review digital classroom information;
- Ask for special notices or announcements regarding meetings or workshops;
- Monitor skyward grades and attendance;
- Refer to website often; check in on social media (Facebook, twitter);
- Call your RINI Middle College periodically to check in with the school staff. Let them know that you're available to assist either at home on-site.

Research has proven that students of involved parents score higher on tests and go further in their educational ambitions. Remember, your involvement counts!

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

For our students to be successful, we must all work together. To be effective, it is important for everyone to be on the same page and to share a common vision. For this reason, we created the RINI Middle College Pledge.

The RINI Middle College Pledge is our commitment to one another. It recognizes that we each have an important role and responsibilities for preparing all children to achieve academic excellence and strength of character, so that they have the opportunity to succeed in all aspects of life.

THE RINI Middle College Pledge

All of us- students, teachers, administrators, families, community, trustees and other civic leaders –will take an active role in helping all students.

We Pledge to:

- Have high expectations
- Work hard,
- Achieve academic excellence,
- Keep our schools safe,
- Set a positive example,
- Be respectful and considerate of one another,
- Listen and be open to new ideas.

The School-Parent Compact

In our efforts to achieve optimum parent engagement RINI Middle College is required to develop a written school-parent compact jointly with parents. This compact will outline how parents, the school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The RINI Middle College School-Parent Compact does provide a guideline on issues including:

- How the school will provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.
- How the school will hold parent-teacher conferences, during which time the compact will be discussed in relation to each child's achievement;
- How the school will provide frequent reports on each child's progress;
- How the school will provide parents with reasonable access to staff;
- How the school will provide parents with opportunities to volunteer and participate in the children's classes and to observe classroom activities;
- How parents can support the children's learning

RINI's Pillars of Nursing

The mission of the RI Nurses Institute Middle College, supported by the American Nurses Association (ANA) and Rhode Island State Nurses Association (RISNA), is based on the belief that the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree should serve as the preferred entry-level qualification for professional nursing practice. In its report, *The Future of Nursing, Leading Change, Advancing Health*, (2011), the institute of Medicine recommended that the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate degrees should be at 80% of the entire nursing workforce by 2020. Based on these statements, most employers, both in RI and across this country seek to employ baccalaureate prepared nurses. The Middle College's rigorous Nursing Career College Preparation Program includes authentic nursing experiences and college level courses and provides an educational foundation that prepares individuals for entry into the nursing and healthcare professions. The RINI graduate understands that the nursing profession incorporates the concepts of caring, communication, critical thinking, professionalism, and holism to provide care for individuals, families and communities. RINI has chosen the focus on four Pillars of Nursing that represent the qualities that will be modeled, developed, encouraged and expected of all students.

Scholarship

Scholarship is a commitment to learning. A student spends hours in reading and studying, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. We all continue to learn even when formal education has ended, for learning ends only with the end of life. Knowledge is a key element in life, leads to personal and professional success, and can be acquired in only one way- through diligence and effort. Learning furnishes the lamp by which we read the past, and the light that illuminates the future.

Character

Character is the force within each individual, which distinguishes that person from others. It gives us our individuality and drives our actions. Self-respect and the respect of others, comes from our character. The force of character guides us through life and, as it develops and grows, gives us maturity. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product of constant action, of striving every day to make the right choices.

Compassion and Empathy

Compassion and Empathy are essential human qualities that allow us to feel, understand, and respond to the suffering of others. These qualities enable individuals to enter into and maintain relationships of caring. By caring we create a bond with other people; through compassion with others' needs, and when we seek to help them; with empathy we are able to understand and value the feelings and experiences of other human beings. Compassion and empathy require a willingness to let go of our own needs to attend to the need of another.

Professionalism

Professionalism creates a climate that encourages personal development and growth. It is demonstrated through dependability, commitment, accountability, and responsibility for our actions and beliefs. Professionalism requires us to collaborate and cooperate with others in all interactions. By exhibiting behaviors of professionalism, you are demonstrating pride in oneself, your school and respect for your future profession.

SCHOOL-INITIATED INVOLVEMENT

School Plan for Improvement, the Consolidated Resource Plan and the District Strategic Plan

Each year RINI Middle College develops a school improvement plan. The SIT concept was developed from successful practices in urban districts, state and national information, and other educational and industry research. The purpose of the plan is to focus school efforts on a few key areas that will have the greatest impact on student success. Each school improvement plan is aligned to the district-wide strategic plan and an analysis of student achievement. The school planning process is a collaborative effort involving the administration, faculty, staff and parents and family members at the school.

Using school data, the SIT planning team seeks to explain the results from the past, and identify a few key strategies that will have the greatest impact on improving current student performance. Each strategy is then developed into an implementation plan that can be monitored and adjusted throughout the year. Ongoing support for and evaluation of school improvement efforts is provided by school administration. In addition to the School Improvement Plan, RINI Middle College also annually writes a Consolidated Resource Plan and a District Strategic Plan.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)/Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)/ Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)

Parents and families have organized the PTO group to function as a supportive educational arm, providing families with opportunities to participate in a wide array of social and academic activities. The PTO is presently not affiliated with a local or national parent's organization.

PARENT AND FAMILY-INITIATED INVOLVEMENT

School Volunteers

RINI Middle College welcomes parents and family members who want to assist in the academic achievement or school improvement process by serving as volunteers in its buildings. Volunteers are required to have a Criminal Background History check (BCI) before volunteering in schools. The RINI Middle College will provide volunteers with the needed paperwork to secure a BCI check from their local police department.

Who needs a clearance?

Volunteers who would like to participate in school district-sponsored activities must obtain clearance. These activities include, but are not limited to, tutoring, mentoring, general classroom assistance, bus monitoring, lunchroom and playground assistance, field trips, club/groups, PTO/PTA officers and school events.

How do I Obtain a Clearance?

If parents wish to accompany children on field trips or to volunteer in other capacities, they are encouraged to submit applications for security clearances several months in advance in order to allow for processing.

A letter from the school requesting a BCI check from your local police department will be supplied upon the parent's request.

How Long is a Clearance Valid?

A Clearance remains valid as long as a volunteer remains active at RINI Middle College. A list of all cleared volunteers is maintained in the Parent Engagement Office and is available upon request.

SCHOOL/DISTRICT-INITIATED INVOLVEMENT

As a district, the RINI Middle College is committed to involving parents and families of children within the school in all committees that are created around issues of student achievement and school improvement. Parents and families selected to serve on committees should be willing to bring the perspective of the broadcast number of parents concerning an issue to the appropriate committee.

A parent or family member who is willing to volunteer to provide such a service and make the necessary commitment should signify their willingness in writing and submit it to the Office of Parent Engagement, or respond to specific requests as committees are created and the opportunity for participation arises.



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Parent/Guardian

As parents/guardian, we agree to join together with the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College community to uphold its policies as indicated in the RINI Parent and Family Engagement Guide and, School/ Home Compact.

By signing this pledge, I agree to:

- Follow the RINI Parent and Family Engagement Guide and School/Home Compact
- Follow the attendance requirement and dress code policy.
- Work in partnership with Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College to encourage positive behavior, valuing differences and promoting sensitivity to others.
- Work with RINI students, staff and faculty to create a positive community where learning is the main focus.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____