For the eighth year, Walt Whitman Elementary School will operate a Title I Schoolwide Program. Title I funds received from the federal government are designed to improve the educational program in schools serving economically disadvantaged students. While efforts are focused on improving academic progress for students not meeting standards, all students in the school are served by a Title I Schoolwide Program.

Whitman’s Title I Goals:

* Increase student achievement
* Strengthen the home-school partnership

Whitman’s Title I Activities:

* Provide extended day learning opportunities to students
* Offer parent education workshops to support parents in establishing home learning environments
* Design family field trips to increase students’ background knowledge related to an area of the curriculum
* Provide all staff professional development to address linguistic considerations for all learners
* Facilitate the transition for early childhood students to kindergarten
* Language enrichment opportunities

As a Title I Schoolwide Program, Whitman also develops a School-Parent Compact to outline how the school will work together with parents and students to increase student achievement. The compact is detailed below and a copy follows that **parents and students are asked to sign and return to school in November.**

**School-Parent Compact**

**Every school receiving Title I funds must develop jointly with parents, a school-parent compact.** The school-parent compact was originally developed with the Title I coordinator, principal, teachers and parents in the fall of 2009 and revised in the springs of 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 during PTO and PAC meetings. It is a written agreement between teachers, parents and students.

The compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibilities for improved student achievement and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve state standards.

***Walt Whitman School promises to…***

* **Provide high–quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating students to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards as follows:**
  + The school will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction by focusing on District 21’s Power Standards, as well as district, school, and grade level goals directly related to student achievement data.
  + Instruction will include monthly data analysis from collected assessments, implementation of guided reading of all classrooms.
  + Instruction of language arts and math will be implemented using research-based instructional practices.
  + In order to provide a supportive and effective learning environment, teachers differentiate through the use of whole group instruction, small group instruction, guided reading, guided math, math and literacy stations and flexible grouping based on the needs of the students determined through the use of the RtI model and student, grade, and school level analysis.
* **Hold parent-teacher conferences during which the compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement.** 
  + Parent-teacher conferences will be held in the fall and spring.
* **Provide parents with frequent reports on their children’s progress.** 
  + Mid-trimester and trimester student progress reports will be sent home to parents.
  + At a minimum, monthly information will be sent home regarding academic and behavioral progress through classroom teachers.
* **Provide parents reasonable access to staff.**
  + At the beginning of the year, teachers provide parents with their contact information in the form of e-mail, phone number, and text so that parents have access to ongoing communication through whichever method works best for them.
  + Teachers are available by appointment before school and after school to consult with parents on their child's progress, depending on the schedule of both parties.
* **Provide opportunities for parents to observe, volunteer and participate in their child’s classroom and/or school.**
  + Parents are encouraged to observe their child's classroom activities by scheduling an appointment with their child's classroom teacher(s). They are also encouraged to participate as activities arise. These activities include, but are not limited to parties, field trips, special events, assemblies, and other opportunities that may arise throughout the year.

*A copy of the school-parent compact will be visible and referred to throughout the school year.*

*The school-parent compact will be kept in the student’s cumulative folder during the school year.*