

# Parent / Student Handbook 2010—2011



Academy for Business  
& Technology

## ABT Elementary School

5277 Calhoun St., Dearborn, MI 48126

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Fax 313-581-2247

[www.abtelementary.com](http://www.abtelementary.com)

Paul Merritt, Ph.D.  
School Leader

**Our Vision &  
Purpose:**

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL!**



THE LEONA GROUP, L.L.C. • *A new kind of public school*® • Chartered by Eastern Michigan University



5277 Calhoun St. • Dearborn, MI 48126  
Tel: 313.581.2223 • Fax: 313.581.2247

<http://www.abtelementary.com>

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Thank you for enrolling your child(ren) in the **Academy for Business & Technology Elementary School (ABTE)**.

As a charter public school, we are pleased to offer you a **free** and quality educational choice. On the following pages you will find information concerning the policies, practices, and procedures that are in place at ABTE. We ask that you read these pages carefully, and go over them with your child(ren), so that you are familiar with all of our school's procedures and practices. In order for our students to have academic success, it is essential that the school and home work together to achieve excellence. Each ABTE family is encouraged to be actively involved in the education process, so that we can continue to build a solid learning community: one with a strong academic foundation, within a safe, caring, and respectful environment.

We are pleased you have chosen ABT Elementary School for your child(ren) and look forward to working with you and your student(s) to achieve this educational excellence.

Sincerely,

Paul Merritt, Ph.D.  
School leader

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## VISION & PURPOSE STATEMENT

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL!**

## MISSION STATEMENT

The **Academy for Business & Technology Elementary School**, in cooperation with parents and community members, will provide all students with a clean, safe, and caring environment, maximizing academic achievement, improving self-esteem, developing sound character; thereby, producing responsible citizens of a global society.

**CHARTERED BY**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**MANAGED BY**



THE LEONA GROUP, L.L.C. • *A new kind of public school™*

**The Academy for Business & Technology Elementary School** is a free public charter school that is governed by a local board of directors and managed by The Leona Group, L.L.C., an educational management company. Funding for charter schools is provided by state monies, as determined by legislators. Charter schools are held to virtually identical laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools. We are proud to help provide parents with the right and ability to choose the best educational setting for their children, one that not only sets high standards for academic achievement but also provides a safe, caring, and nurturing environment.

For more information on charter schools, visit [www.charterschools.org/](http://www.charterschools.org/).

## EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of this Academy to provide an equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at the Academy or an Academy activity should immediately contact the **Academy's Compliance Officer, Dr. Paul Merritt, Principal at 313-581-2223.**

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2260. Any student making a complaint or participating in an Academy investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open during business hours 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### ABTE DAILY SCHEDULE

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Before-school Enrichment Program  
8:00 – 8:15 a.m. Students enter school / classrooms

<b>Grades K – 1</b>	
8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	Period 1
9:04 – 9:49 a.m.	Period 2
9:53 – 10:38 a.m.	Period 3
10:42 – 11:27 a.m.	Period 4
11:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.	Lunch 1
12:03 – 12: 48 p.m.	Period 5
12:52 – 1:37 p.m.	Period 6
1:41 – 2:26 p.m.	Period 7
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	Period 8

<b>Grades 2 – 5</b>	
8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	Period 1
9:04 – 9:49 a.m.	Period 2
9:53 – 10:38 a.m.	Period 3
10:42 – 11:27 a.m.	Period 4
11:31 a.m. – 12:16 p.m.	Period 5
12:19 – 12:49 p.m.	Lunch 2
12:52 – 1:37 p.m.	Period 6
1:41 – 2:26 p.m.	Period 7
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	Period 8

3:15 – 6:00 p.m. After-School Enrichment Program

### EARLY DISMISSAL

No student will be allowed to leave the Academy prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by a person whose signature is on file in the Academy's office or the parent/guardian who comes to the Academy's office to request the student's release. No student will be released to a person other than the custodial parent(s) or guardian without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Parents picking up their children early must first sign them out at the school office before reporting to their classroom. **Regular early dismissals are strongly discouraged because of the disruption of instruction for other students in the classroom. There will be no early dismissals between 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.**

### **TRANSFER OUT OF THE ACADEMY**

Parents/guardians must notify the School Leader about any plans to transfer their student to another school. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the arrangements, returned all of the Academy's materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. The Academy's records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the Assistant Office Manager, Mrs. Wendy Cronce, for specific details.

The Academy's officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ACADEMY**

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from the Academy without the written consent of his/her parents or guardian.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the School Leader may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the Office Manager, Mrs. Rosalyn White.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

The Board has established a policy that every student must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by his/her parent or guardian in order to participate in any activity off school grounds. This includes field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extra-curricular activities, and co-curricular activities.

The Emergency Medical Authorization Form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each year. Failure to return the completed form to the Academy will jeopardize a student's educational program.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Daily attendance in school is a necessary part of academic success: when students miss school, even if the missed work is made up, they still miss out on the experiences that take place in the classroom. We encourage parents and students to make every effort to get their children to school on time each day, and to schedule appointments for off-school hours/days.

When it is necessary for a child to be absent, parents must call Mrs. White in the school office (313-581-2223) to inform the school that the student will not be attending that day. If the student will be absent for more than one day, the parent should contact their child's teacher to pick up missed work/assignments, in order to allow the student to remain current with class work.

## **TARDINESS**

Punctuality and "being on time" are traits that are valued and encouraged in our society, and this is likewise true at ABTE: students and parents are advised to take their commitment to school seriously. Daily attendance is taken by the classroom teachers at 8:15 a.m. and submitted to the school office. Those students who are not "present" in the classroom are marked as "ABSENT" in the attendance record. Any students arriving at school after this time must first report to the school office to pick up a Tardy Pass, which will allow her/him entrance into their classroom. Students who arrive at the classroom without a Tardy Pass will be sent to the office to get one. Tardies are cumulative for the entire marking period. Any four unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence. Excessive tardies will be referred to the school office, and a meeting between the parent(s) and the school leader will be scheduled.

## **SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS & UNSCHEDULED DISMISSALS**

On occasion it may be necessary to cancel school (or close school early) because of inclement weather or other unforeseen incidents (e.g. power outages or water main breaks). At such times, school administrators will contact local television stations (Fox 2, WDIV 4, WXYZ 7), and News Radio AM 760 WJR.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The rules and procedures of the Academy are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those same rights of their fellow students and the Academy's staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all rules of the Academy. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process (a fair hearing) before a student is removed because of his/her behavior.

Parents/guardians have the right to know how their student is succeeding in the Academy. Therefore, parents/guardians will be provided information on a regular basis and, as needed, when concerns arise. Many times it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, the mail or hand delivery may be used to

ensure contact. Parents/guardians are encouraged to build a two-way link with their student's teachers and support the Academy's staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their student better accomplish his/her educational goals.

Students must arrive at the Academy on time, prepared to learn, and must participate in the educational program. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the Academy Social Worker, Ms. Rachel Williams.

### **STUDENT WELL-BEING**

Student safety is a responsibility of the Academy's staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures (such as fire, tornado & lockdown drills) and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, he/she must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in the Academy's office. A student may be excluded from the Academy until this requirement has been fulfilled.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with proper documentation by a physician, to the Academy Office.

### **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the Academy's office personnel. If the injury is minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office personnel will follow the Academy's emergency procedures. A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from the Academy without proper parental permission.

### **CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PESTS**

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The Academy's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest such as lice.

Specific casual-contact diseases include the following: diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal of a student will be for only the contagious period as specified in the Academy's administrative guidelines. Students removed for Head lice, must have proof of treatment and have no live lice on their person, in order to return to school.

Students removed for ring worm, must have the infected area covered with a bandage during school hours.

Students removed for Pink eye, must have a doctors note, stating the condition is being treated, to return to school

### **CONTROL OF NON-CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

In the case of non-casual-contact communicable diseases, the Academy still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. The Academy will seek to keep students and staff persons in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non-casual-contact communicable diseases include the following: sexually transmitted diseases; AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome); ARC-AIDS Related Complex (condition); HIV (Human-immunodeficiency); HAV; HBV; HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C); and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents/guardians will be requested to have their student's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the student has bled at school and other students or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

### **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in either the instructional or extra-curricular programs of the Academy. It is, therefore the policy of this Academy that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular programs offered by the Academy. In addition to information provided on the Home Language Survey, ABTE also relies of results obtained through the Michigan Department of Education's English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Initial Screener, for students new to the Academy. Parents/guardians should contact the **Instructional Coach & Assessment Coordinator**, Mr. David Meloche, to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the Academy.

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The Academy cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

## FIRE, TORNADO, and LOCKDOWN DRILLS

The Academy complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building. Tornado drills will be conducted during inclement weather season using the procedures provided by the State.

Lockdown drills prepare students for situations where the building needs to be put on lockdown because of a situation either outside or inside the building.

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Before- and after-school care (Enrichment Program) will be provided for students attending ABT Elementary. A fee is charged for this service.

Session:	Times:	Per Week Fees: *	
Before-School	6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	\$3.00/day	\$15.00/week
After-School	3:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	\$5.00/day	\$25.00 /week

\* See **Enrichment Coordinator**, Mrs. Laurie Eichstedt, for family rate for two or more students.

There is a standard late fee of \$1.00 per minute for children not picked up by 6:00 p.m. This is strictly enforced. **Payments for Enrichment Program must be paid in advance by Friday of each week.** Academic records may be withheld if program fees are overdue.

**There is no registration fee for the Enrichment Program.** Students not registered for Enrichment and who wish to use Enrichment services will be charged a “drop in” fee of \$5.00 per day.

## SCHOOL VISITORS

Any visitors to the school, during school hours, must receive permission and clearance from the school office before proceeding to the classroom. Visitors who do not have a pass from the school office will not be allowed entrance into any of the classrooms.

Visitors during school hours are asked not to engage teachers in conversation during instructional time. No phone calls to classrooms will be allowed during instruction hours. Messages will be placed in teachers mailboxes and will be returned at the teacher’s convenience.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

The ABT Elementary Dress Code will be strictly enforced, except on designated Free Dress days. All clothing, including those worn on Free Dress days, must be neat, ironed, and clean. Pagers, cellular telephones, and all other electronic devices are prohibited and will be confiscated if found. The Dress Code for all students is as follows:

- Docker-style pants, solid color (no prints)
- Skirts must be finger tip length, no shorter
- ABT logo school shirt (short- or long-sleeve) or school sweater
- Absolutely no blue jeans, corduroy pants, sweat suits, etc.
- Any style shoes (must have toe AND heel – no sandals)

**UNIFORM VIOLATIONS: Any violations brought to the principal will result in an exclusion from school until the infraction has been corrected. Students must take the dress code seriously and comply with it completely.**

## SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

State law requires all school personnel only to report (not investigate) suspected abuse or neglect of a child to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Failing to do so is a Class B misdemeanor.

## RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, children who are homeless have the right to attend school, to have access to comparable services, and to be treated with respect. Assistance for families in homeless situations is available from the school office homeless liaison, Ms. Rachel Williams, and/or by calling the National Center for Homeless Education (1-800-308-2145). Additional information is included in the school's registration packet.

## INTERNET ACCESS

The school provides staff and students with Internet access as a tool to enhance learning. This access is a privilege and not a right. Students with permission to use the Internet will be permitted to do so only under the supervision of a staff member. However, students are responsible for good behavior, with the same general rules applied as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Parents share in this responsibility. A copy of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy is part of the academy's enrollment package, and can be picked up from the school office. Regretfully, parental use of computers and the internet is not allowed.

## STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT WHILE AT SCHOOL

If a child becomes ill or has an accident while at school, efforts will be made to contact and appraise parents. If the injury or illness is severe enough to warrant immediate medical attention, ABT Elementary staff will call 911 and notify the parent/guardian.

## MEDICATION

Physicians may find it necessary to prescribe medication to be given during school hours. If your child is taking any medication it must be dropped off at the school office by the parent, who must make arrangements with the school to take this medication. Such medication must be in its original container and accompanied by the physician's written instructions, containing the following information:

1. Student's name
2. Name of prescribing doctor
3. Name of medication
4. Instructions such as dosage and time to be given

It is understood that parents/guardians shall immediately notify school personnel in writing in the event the prescription shall be discontinued or modified. Refills of the prescription shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. **At no time will the school distribute any non-prescription medicine.**

## LUNCH PROGRAM

ABTE participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. To find out if your student qualifies for free or reduced lunch rates for the 2010-11 school year, please request the appropriate paperwork from the ABTE office. Forms and guidelines will be available after Sept. 1, 2009. Please take the time to fill out the Free & Reduced Lunch Application even if you already know that you do not qualify. By filling out your application the school will receive special funds and each child benefits.

All students who participate in the lunch program can pay in advance for their meals. Please bring a check or money order to the school office for the week(s) you want to purchase lunch for your child(ren). Advanced payments can be made weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Any student that has a lunch bill equaling two lunches will receive an alternative lunch; which will be a sandwich and milk. **There will be a \$0.50 charge for lost lunch cards.**

Cost for lunches are:

	<u>Lunch (per day)</u>
Regular price:	\$2.50
Reduced price:	\$0.40
Milk:	\$0.50

ABT Elementary has now implemented Breakfast In The Classroom. This program is Free. Breakfast is served in the classrooms at the start of the school day, 8:15 a.m. Breakfast is given only to those students that arrive on time so that the teachers can begin their day with your child/ren on time.

A menu is provided every month to each family. Please go over the menu with your child and see what they like and don't like. If they do not like what is being served that day, have them bring a bag lunch. When sending a lunch please keep in mind that we are promoting healthy eating habits. Snacks should be small and pop is prohibited! Glass containers are not allowed.

It is very important for the food service staff to be aware of all food allergies. Therefore, if your child has a food allergy a medical statement from your child's doctor must be on file in the food service department. If the Doctors statement suggests a disability, an alternative lunch will be provided. If the allergy is not a form of disability, it is up to the foodservice staff to use their discretion in meal replacements. Medical statement forms can be picked up in the foodservice department or at the school office.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE: Our lunch menu provides two lunch options. The second lunch option is for those children with food allergies and for religious purposes ONLY! The first option is served to everyone else.**

**All checks/money orders must be made payable to ABT Elementary School, and must indicate the child(ren)'s name in the memo portion or lower left hand corner of the check. There will be a returned check fee of \$25 (not including bank fees) for each check that is returned to ABTE as NSF from your bank. Check writing privileges will be suspended until the check fee, applicable bank fees, and the check amount are paid in cash, certified check or money order.**

## **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

Truancy, tardiness, excessive absences, and continual behavior problems will result in a referral to supportive services. These supportive services must include one or more of the following:

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Conference with teacher | 2) Conference w/ parent & principal |
| 3) Referral to Counselor   | 4) Referral to school Social Worker |
| 5) Referral to Special Ed. | 6) Referral to outside agency       |

## **EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS**

Each student is responsible for all work assigned from the first day of school until the conclusion of the last school day. Students who are withdrawn from school or stop attending prior to the last day of school will be expected to complete any missed work as a result of their absence. Students who fail to turn in any missed assignments as a result of their absence will be given no credit and receive a failing grade for that work.

Any resulting failing grades will be considered when the final marking period grade is computed, and may cause the marking period average to become lower.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Parents are encouraged to mark the clothing and personal belongings of their children. Lost items will be displayed in a designated “Lost & Found” area outside the school office. ABT Elementary is not responsible for lost or stolen items (including money).

### **DISCIPLINE**

Disciplinary action will be taken against any students who violate ABT Elementary’s Student Code of Conduct. The Academy does not practice, promote, or tolerate any form of corporal punishment. The disciplinary action of detentions will be carried out by faculty and/or administration. Suspensions will only be carried out by the school leader (or designated individual) according to the Disciplinary Procedure Guide.

### **ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The safety and security of students and staff is the primary concern of The Academy for Business & Technology Elementary School. Therefore, we have inspected the building for asbestos containing materials in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). All public schools must have a management plan for asbestos, regardless of whether there are actually asbestos containing materials present. A Plan has been completed for the Academy by an EPA accredited management planner. The plan is available in the Main Office during school hours for review by parents/guardians, teachers and employees.

## **II. ACADEMICS**

### **A QUALITY EDUCATION**

At ABT Elementary School we believe that every child can learn and that it is our responsibility to provide a personalized instruction that meets the needs of individual learning styles and intellectual strengths.

The Academy has implemented the **Kent County Collaborative Core Curriculum (KC4)** at all grade levels. This quality, proven curriculum is aligned to State standards and promotes mastery of mathematics, English language arts, science and social studies. Employing various learning styles and teaching strategies, the KC4 curriculum provides the foundation for expanded learning opportunities and enables all students to achieve academic success. The writing curriculum is supplemented to include the WriteSteps writing program, aimed at meeting all writing content standards.

In addition, the Academy offers a full complement of academic programming including foreign language instruction, physical education, health, music and character/social skills development. Grades 4 and 5 receive drug and alcohol prevention education.

The Academy employs a full time instructional coach & assessment coordinator who works closely with teachers and administrators to plan, pace, and assess the curriculum, to ensure its quality and alignment with State expectations and standardized tests. Additional methods of ensuring compliance with outlined curriculum standards include lesson plan monitoring, classroom observation, and submission of classroom goals to the coordinator.

### **TEACHING STAFF**

The Academy teaching staff is composed of sixteen (16) certified, highly qualified, teachers – which is defined by **the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act** as being State Certified, teaching in their area of college study, and successful completion of a State test.

### **CLASSROOM PARA-EDUCATORS**

The Academy employs several highly qualified para-educators. A highly qualified para-educator is defined by the **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act** as having at least two (2) years of higher education or successful completion of a State test.

### **SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF**

The Academy employs a variety of support staff personnel including Office Staff, School Social Worker, Special Education Teachers, Reading Specialist, Writing Specialist, English Language Learner Coordinator, Speech and Language Pathologist, School Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Food Services/Enrichment Coordinator, Mentor Manager, Library Aide, Cleaning Company and Custodian.

### **GRADES / PROGRESS REPORTS / REPORT CARDS**

The Academy has a grading procedure that is aligned with the State of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectancies (GLCE). Teachers record progress toward mastery of the standards using the code M = Mastery, P = Progressing, and U = Unsatisfactory. A grade of “A” means that mastery has been achieved on the assessed skills. A grade of “B” or “C” indicates the learning is progressing in this area but mastery has not yet been obtained. Grades below “C” indicate that insufficient progress has been made in mastering the skills assessed. The Academy’s Student Report Card includes an overall grade for each subject area, as well as provides the mastery-status for each standard assessed during that period. Assessments and Tests are weighted so as to make up the majority of the grade for each subject. Questions regarding the grading system should be directed first to the classroom teacher and then, if necessary, to the Principal.

Academic reports of progress are sent home approximately every 5 weeks. **Progress Reports** are issued midway through each marking period. **Standards-Based Report Cards** are issued following the conclusion of each marking period. **Parent Teacher Conferences are held from 3:15-6:00 p.m. each day Progress Reports are issued.** Parents should take advantage of these times to consult with the teacher about their child's progress.

**Progress Reports**

**Report Cards**

**Parent Teacher Conferences 3:15-6 p.m.**

Thursday, September 30, 2010  
 Thursday, December 9, 2010  
 Thursday, March 3, 2011  
 Thursday, May 12, 2011

Thursday, November 4, 2010  
 Thursday, January 20, 2011  
 Thursday, March 31, 2011  
 Wednesday, June 17, 2011

Parents who may wish more frequent academic updates on their child should speak with the classroom teacher.

**STUDENT AWARDS**

Following each marking period, students accomplishments in both academics and behavior/conduct are recognized through a number of awards: Principal's List, Honor Roll, Academic Improvement, Perfect Attendance, and Citizenship. Requirements for achieving these awards are:

**FOR ALL GRADES:**

- Super Citizens ..... Exemplary in citizenship for the marking period
- Perfect Attendance ..... No absences for the marking period
- Most Improved..... The student who has shown the most dramatic improvement for the marking period.

**KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENTS:**

- Principals List ..... All M's in reading readiness, language arts, math, science and social studies, with no U's in behavior.
- Honor Roll..... 80% or better in reading readiness, language arts, math, science and social studies, with no U's in behavior.

**FIRST GRADE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Principals List ..... All A's in reading, language arts, science, social studies, writing, math, and behavior
- Honor Roll..... 80% or better in reading, language arts, science, social studies, writing, math and behavior.

**GRADES 2-5 REQUIREMENTS:**

- Principals List ..... All A's in all subjects
- Honor Roll..... 80% average or better in core subjects (math, science, social studies, and language arts)

## **STUDY TRIPS / FIELD TRIPS**

School study and field trips are an extension of the classroom experience, and students' participation should not be viewed as optional. The majority of the trips undertaken will be single-day or less in duration. All study/field trips are contingent upon availability of funds and adequate supervision. Some fees may be necessary to cover the cost of participation and/or travel to and from a specific trip.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

IDEA 97 states that, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities should be educated with children who are not disabled. Special classes, separate schools or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment should occur only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education within regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. ABTE embraces this philosophy, believing that special education students can best be educated in the regular classroom. Our teachers accept responsibility for all students in their classroom and modify, accommodate, and adjust teaching techniques and classroom activities to meet the learning abilities of all children.

ABTE makes every effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children who may have disabilities (to one degree or another). For more information regarding assistance for students with disabilities or if you suspect a child may have a disability, please contact the school leader. This academy supports the principle that all persons are entitled to equal education and employment opportunities without regard to race, religion, color, gender, age, disability, English language proficiency, or national origin. Questions regarding Title IX and 504 compliance may be addressed to the school office.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE & STUDENT CONCERNS**

If after speaking with your child's teacher you would like further assistance in the case of a particular child or have unresolved concerns/issues, please contact the ABT Elementary administrators in this order: (1) School Leader, then (2) the school's Regional Vice-president (RVP).

## **PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION**

Student promotions and retentions are based on teacher recommendation – which comes only after intervention strategies have been tried in the classroom, and the student has been observed by members of the ABTE Child Study Team. If a teacher determines that it is not in the best interests of the student to be promoted, the student is referred to the Student Retention Committee. This committee is composed of the classroom teacher, one or more additional classroom teachers, one or more special education teachers, a reading/writing teacher, the school social worker, the instructional coach and the school leader. The committee then makes the decision whether to promote or retain the student. While each recommendation made to the committee is handled on an individual basis, the general rule for a student to be considered for

retention at that grade level is that she/he must have a cumulative grade of “E” in at least two of the core subjects.

The retention of a student in any grade is a serious matter and is always used as a last option where student academic success and development is at issue. This highlights the importance of parents being both aware of any difficulties that their child is having in any subject area and proactive in aiding the student during out-of-school times: students are able to succeed only when the school and family are working together!

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

At ABTE access to all student records is protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Michigan law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the Academy is prohibited from releasing confidential educational records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents/guardian, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age. Such “confidential records” include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents/guardians have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent/guardian. To review a student’s records, please provide a written notice, identifying the requested records, to the school leader. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person, who will answer any questions and review the requested student records.

Parents/guardian and adult students have the right to amend a student’s record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate or misleading or is in violation of the student’s privacy. A parent/guardian or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and, if the request is denied, the parent/guardian or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.

Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the Academy has violated FERPA.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS NOVEMBER, 1996**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask ABT Elementary School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district does not amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her task. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by ABT Elementary School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

**The Academy For Business & Technology Elementary School**  
**Parent Involvement Plan**  
**(Adopted 3/19/09)**

The Academy For Business & Technology Elementary School (ABTE) believes that student academic achievement is enhanced when there is a cooperative partnership between the school and the student's parents. Such a partnership has those goals that are listed in The Academy for Business & Technology Board of Directors Parent Involvement Policy as:

- A. developing and implementing appropriate strategies for helping their child accomplish the learning outcomes;
- B. providing a school and home environment which encourages learning and augments at home the learning experiences provided by the school;
- C. establishing and supporting a consistent and shared approach to child guidance and discipline;
- D. providing for the proper health, safety, and well-being for their child.

In compliance with this Board of Directors Parent Involvement Policy, ABTE hereby presents this Parent Involvement Plan whose end is to establish a school-parent partnership which will include the following strategies:

- A. Provide child's individual assessment results, reading results, quarterly report cards with interim progress reports and parent conferences.
- B. A Parent-Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, School Calendar, and periodic Parent Updates that will inform parents of School policies, procedures and information about the events at the school.
- C. A Student/Parent/Teacher/Principal Compact that outlines how parents and school staff will share the responsibility for improved student achievement of their children.
- D. Regularly scheduled Progress Reports with Parent Teacher Conferences at approximately weeks 5, 15, 25 and 35 during the school year and regularly scheduled Report Cards at approximately weeks 10, 20, 30 and 40.
- E. Annual home language surveys to identify students for whom English is a second language so that individual and/or small group instruction can be made available, as needed.
- F. Encouraging parents to serve as chaperones for class field trips and other activities.
- G. Periodic meetings to present test results and/or school programs with time allowed for parent questions.
- H. Individual sessions as necessary to provide for parent, administration, and staff discussions about students having difficulties.

ABTE feels that it is the parents who have the ultimate responsibility for their children's behavior. During school hours, therefore, ABTE through its administrators, faculty and staff, recognizes the responsibility to monitor students' behavior in accordance with the ABTE Student Code of Conduct, and, as with academic matters, the importance of cooperation between the school and the parents in matters relating to conduct.

For the benefit of the child, ABTE believes that parents have a responsibility to encourage their child's career in school by living up to their commitments as stated in the ABTE Student/Parent/Teacher/Principal Compact. A copy of the Student/Parent/Teacher/Principal Compact is included below.

A Parent Involvement Plan of Activities was included in the ABTE Schoolwide Title I Plan (2009-2010). The calendar of these activities are as follows:

**Parent Involvement Plan Activities  
2010-2011**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completed</b>
August, 2010	Final Registration	All Staff, Principal Parents, Students	
September, 2010	Parent Open House Title I Annual Meeting	All Prof. Staff Principal Support Staff Parents Title I Staff	
October, 2010	Student Progress Report #1 (Signing of the Student, parent, Teacher Compact)	All Teachers Principal, Parents	
October, 2010	MEAP Night	Teachers 3-5 Curr. Coordinator Reading Specialist Principal, Parents	
October, 2010	Annual Halloween Party	Parent Involvement Committee Volunteer Staff Principal, Parents Students	
January, 2011	MEAP Score Results: An Understandable Explanation	Curr. Coordinator Parents, Students Principal	
January, 2011	Academic Support Services Night	Retention Committee Parents of students with 2 marking periods of failing grades, Title I Staff Principal	
January, 2011	Black History Program	Staff	
March, 2011	Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast	Volunteer Staff Parents, Students	
May, 2011	Multi-cultural Day	All Staff, Principal Parents, Students	
June, 2011	Family Fun Day	All Employees Parents, Students	



## STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER/PRINCIPAL COMPACT 2009-10

In order to accomplish our vision, students, parents, teachers, and the principal need to work together. We share the responsibility of guiding each child in achieving her or his greatest potential, in a safe and caring environment, so that every student will possess the skills needed to enter society as responsible citizens. We ask that you promise to do this by completing and signing the part of this agreement that belongs to you.

### **STUDENT AGREEMENT:**

I believe it is important that I work to the best of my ability. Therefore I will:

1. Attend school regularly and arrive to class by 8:15 am each day.
2. Come to school in complete school uniform except on Casual Dress Days.
3. Return my assignments and home activities on time.
4. Display positive behavior towards peers, staff, teachers, visitors and administrators.
5. Follow school and classroom rules and expectations.
6. Come to school with all the materials needed for learning.
7. Show respect for myself and others, and for their belongings.
8. Do my best at all times, even when this seems difficult.
9. Believe that I *can* learn and that I *will* learn.
10. Do my part to keep my school environment clean and safe.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT:**

I want my child to succeed. Therefore I will:

1. See that my child attends school regularly and is in the classroom by 8:15 am.
2. Support the school's policies and follow up on any signs of social misconduct.
3. Encourage daily reading and provide appropriate reading materials and opportunities to read.
4. Supervise the completion of homework and check to see that it is returned.
5. Read and review all information my child brings home from school.
6. Provide a quiet place for learning at home.
7. Attend all parent-teacher conferences.
8. Provide necessary school supplies.
9. Not bring in outside food into the classroom for my child without prior approval.
10. Attend at least two school functions during the year.
11. Support the school staff and respect the diverse cultures.
12. Encourage my child to do her or his best and to be in complete school uniform.
13. Have on-going communication with my child's teacher and be actively aware of her or his academic progress.
14. Assist my child in maintaining a clean and safe school environment.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## TEACHER AGREEMENT:

I believe that it is important that I work to the best of my ability for the sake of the students in my class. Therefore I will:

1. Provide a caring learning environment where your child can be responsible for learning.
2. Provide a safe, positive, healthy, creative, well-managed environment where children feel respected and appreciated.
3. Support and attend school functions.
4. Maintain open lines of communication with students, parents, and school administration.
5. Seek ways to involve parents in classroom activities.
6. Provide students with strategies to increase competence, both in academics and in their interactions with others.
7. Make effective use of instructional / academic learning time.
8. Provide appropriate and meaningful homework assignments.
9. Continue to be a lifelong learner, knowledgeable of current best practices in the field of education.

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT:

I support this form of parent involvement and home-school interaction. Therefore I will:

1. Provide and maintain a positive atmosphere for learning.
2. Provide open communication with parents, students, staff, and community.
3. Provide a safe, healthy, well-managed environment where all children are treated fairly, with respect and compassion.
4. Support and attend school functions.
5. Support a challenging curriculum that is aligned with the standards of the State of Michigan.
6. Monitor and evaluate all components in the compact to ensure that we are meeting and achieving the goals of ABT Elementary.

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES**

Parents/guardians have the right to review any instructional material being used in the Academy. Copies of grade level curricula in all subject content areas are available for inspection by parents/guardians in the Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Office (Rm. 111). Parents/guardians also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. As a matter of professional courtesy, **any parent/guardian who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the School Leader prior to coming to the Academy.** Parents'/guardians' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

## **III. STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **ACADEMY SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

The Academy sponsors extra-curricular activities that allow students to pursue additional, worthwhile activities for fun and educational growth. These have included such things as music lessons, karate, dance, cheer-leading, Spanish, Movie Nights, Holiday Parties, etc.

### **ATHLETICS**

The Academy provides competitive athletic activities for students that include Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball. Students in the upper grades try out for the teams and play other local elementary schools in an organized basketball league.