



The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

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Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please visit dcssga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

Family School Partnerships for the Win!

By Patti Sullivan, Family Engagement Specialist, Douglas County School System

Teachers and students are only part of the education equation. The final piece is YOU - the parent! Parents are an integral part of the successful school equation. Much research has been done in the field of family engagement and student success and there is an undeniable positive correlation between parent and family involvement and student success. The more a family is involved in their child's learning, both at home and at school, the better the child will perform in school. There are so many ways to be involved in children's education. Here are a few.

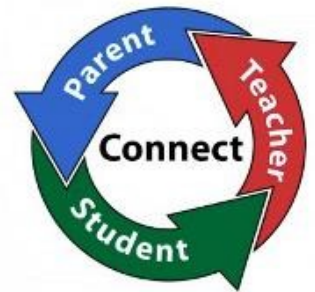
Make school important. Extracurricular activities are important but academics should be the main focus at school. Be sure to place the right amount of emphasis on school and homework in all aspects of your family life. Make sure your child understands the importance of education. Make school a priority by ensuring your child is well-rested, prepared and present at school each day.

Communicate high educational expectations. Explain the meanings of effort and determination to your child. This will encourage the love of learning and translate into academic achievement. Encourage your children to aim high! Set goals! Review your child's report card and progress reports with them. Celebrate the successes and discuss strategies for improvement.

Attend school conferences. Make every effort to attend parent-teacher conferences. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress one-on-one with the teacher. Prepare a list of questions in advance that you would like to discuss in order to maximize the use of conference time. Consider including your child in the conference, with the teacher's permission.

It's never too early to start discussing college. Start talking about post-secondary options early. For younger kids, make a point to spotlight different jobs and the skills necessary for the job. Some may require college and some may require technical training, certificate or diploma programs. As children get older, discuss their routes to college and/or other training programs. The Career Centers at the high schools are a great resource. Maybe even take family field trips to local colleges, universities or technical schools.

Volunteer at the school. Inquire about volunteer opportunities at school. Often times you can volunteer in the classroom, in the media center, in the cafeteria, at book fairs, or as a mentor. If you cannot volunteer during the school day, contact your child's teacher about doing volunteer work at home, i.e. cutting, sorting, etc. Please contact your school for all protocols regarding school volunteering.



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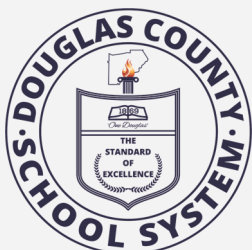
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District Two



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Be there virtually. If you have a demanding schedule that doesn't allow you to be physically present at the school, be there virtually. Inform the teacher of your schedule early in the year and ask if it is acceptable to email or call regularly. Your child will know that you are connected to their learning even if you cannot make it to the school often.



Join Parent Organizations. Show your support for your school by becoming an active member of the parent-teacher organization. Inquire about various parent and school leadership programs, about Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) or Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs).

Take part in various school committees. Schools have many committees that provide opportunities for parents to be involved. Each school has a School Council that is open for nominations every year. School councils provide advice, recommendations, and assistance to the Principal and staff. In addition, Title I schools have Parent Advisory Councils that are open to all parents. This committee provides parents an opportunity to discuss, plan and implement the parent and family engagement opportunities at their school.

Our school system strives to help every student meet high expectations and reach their full potential. The family school partnership is a crucial piece to student success. Contact your child's school to see how you can be involved.

Think, Choose, Act: Lead Yourself to Who You Want to Be

Submitted by Mitzi Teal, Executive Director, Communities in Schools of Douglas County

This month, we're challenging students to envision future goals and take intentional steps toward who they want to be. We are partnering with you to grow and develop your child's ability to self-direct. We can model self-direction by celebrating the positive in each day, seeking the good in others, and emphasizing our responsibility to make positive choices.

Conversation Starters:

- ◇ What is one way you can be more responsible at home or school?
- ◇ What is something you want to continue to improve?
- ◇ How do you feel when you start a project?
- ◇ What is something new you want to learn to do?

For additional resources available to our school system community, please check out our website linked here:

[Support Services](#)

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1 ENGAGE: Find the Good!

Self-direct your thoughts and share Good Things as a family each day. After school, around the dinner table, or before bed, ask each family member to share something good from the day. We often see what we seek! Let's focus on finding the good.



2 EMPOWER: Make a Plan

If your student doesn't already use a planner, empower them to start using one to manage their time better. Have a weekly meeting with your student to share what they have added to their planners. You can help them add family gatherings, school events, and due dates.



3 EXCEL: Affirm Daily

Practice growing as a family through positive affirmations. At dinner or some point during the day, give affirmations to each other and share the good things you see. Take it to the next level and think of someone you could affirm outside your family. Challenge each family member to affirm or thank a different person every day this month for something they do or who they are. You can even handwrite a note to thank that person and send them the note in the mail.

Resources for Parents of English Learners!

The Douglas County School System has posted new resources for parents of English Learners on our website. Our goal is to provide effective outreach to parents of our English Learners and to assist them in being involved in their child's education. Please visit our website [here](#) or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.



Parent Involvement Improves Student Success

By Julie King, ESOL Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School

We are so excited that November is here! November is Parent Engagement Month. Parent Engagement is a very important component of the U.S. school system. Understanding Parent Engagement and establishing expectations for how schools and families should collaborate to support the learning of each student is an action that leads to student success.

There are many ways that you, as a parent, can help your child be more successful in school. One important way for you to help your English Learner is to communicate with the teachers. Whether you use email, Class Dojo, Remind, or write a note and send it with your child, the teacher will be happy to hear from you! Make sure you also read newsletters and messages from the school or the teacher. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The teachers want to help you and your English Learner. Communication with your child is also very important. Ask questions about school. Talk about school in a positive way. We want our English Learners to know that school is a wonderful place to learn new things!

Whether your English Learner is in Elementary, Middle, or High School, he or she will benefit from the following suggestions:

- ✓ Getting plenty of rest is important. Make sure your child is getting 8 hours of sleep every night.
- ✓ Eating a good breakfast at home or at school will help your child focus.
- ✓ Attendance and arriving on time are keys to success. Try to schedule appointments after school, and save vacations for school holidays. Make sure your child arrives for school on time because late students are missing instruction.
- ✓ Make sure your child is completing homework. Teachers assign homework to help students practice what has been taught in class. Talk about the homework with your child, and be available to help. English Learners in kindergarten and first grade will need the most help. Older students may just need you to remind them about homework.
- ✓ Read to your child, and encourage your child to read. Ask questions about the story. Ask older students to tell you about the books they are reading. Reading aloud in your native language can actually improve your child's English reading skills, so do not hesitate to do this if possible.
- ✓ Visit Colorin Colorado for more tips.

Let's work together to help our English Learners be Multilingual Superheroes!

What is copyright piracy? The illegal activity of copying and selling a book, film, music, etc. for which you do not own the copyright or the act of illegally reproducing or disseminating copyrighted material, such as computer programs, books, music, and films.

Consequences for violations of the copyright laws. There can be civil penalties or criminal penalties for copyright piracy. There is also the risk of damaging professional and personal reputations.

For more information about the harms of copyright piracy, please click [HERE](#).



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U P C O M I N G T I T L E I W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location. Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center

3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3100 awes.dcssga.org

Understanding Testing

Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 PM and Wednesday, December 7 at 10:00 AM
At this very informative session, attendees will receive information about the district and state expectations for testing, types of assessments being administered this school year, and how parents can support their child's learning and testing. The session facilitator will discuss test preparation, the upcoming testing dates, and how to make the most of interpreting your child's reports. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center

6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3400 bse.dcssga.org

STREAM Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 5:00 PM
STREAM stands for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics. The introduction of and involvement in a STREAM family night inspires students to learn more about these subjects and gain the skills necessary to be successful in a 21st century career.

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3500 bues.dcssga.org

Writing Expo (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 5:30 PM
At our Writing Expo, families will visit their child's classroom to view the writing of their child, gain insight on how to help their child at home, and celebrate the progress that has been made. Teachers will also begin to prepare students at this time for the Young Authors writing.

Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center

2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5100 clms.dcssga.org

Homework/Study Skills Night (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, November 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM (VIRTUAL) and 6:00 PM (IN-PERSON)
The Homework study skills will focus on helping students and parents develop skills that will enhance students' understanding of new information, retaining information, and dealing with assessments.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3800 eses.dcssga.org

Math Night (VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Families will participate in stimulating math activities that will connect learning from school to home.

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center

6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4100 les.dcssga.org

Math Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Come join LSES for our Math Night! There will be fun games and activities for parents to participate in with their students.

Mt. Carmel Elementary School Parent Resource Center

2356 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4200 mces.dcssga.org

Math Winter Wonderland (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Parents are invited to attend an evening of mathematics filled with hot cocoa, snowmen, and everything winter. Families will participate in interactive and engaging activities that can be easily transferred from the classroom to home.

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center

1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-4800 ndes.dcssga.org

STEM Night (IN-PERSON)

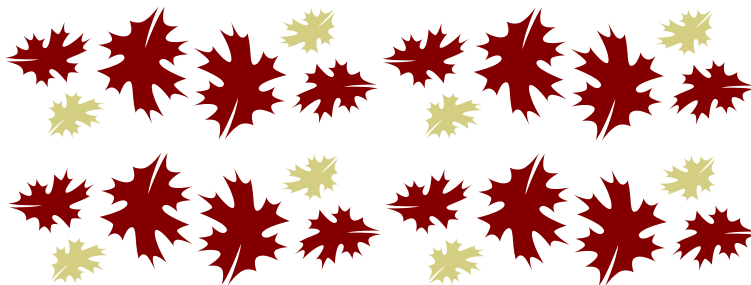
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Join us for a fun night of creativity and engineering as we work our way through STREAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) stations! Teachers will lead small groups of students and parents through stations to learn all about the ways we use STREAM at school and how they can build on it at home!

Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center

8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-5400 sms.dcssga.org

Literacy Night (VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:00 PM
We will discuss the importance and benefits of student reading and literacy, what the school is doing to promote improvements in student literacy and reading comprehension, as well as what parents can do to encourage student reading at home.



Visit YOUR Title I Parent Resource Center Today!

U P C O M I N G P A R E N T W O R K S H O P S

Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below or visit the school website.

Arbor Station Elementary School

9999 Parkway South, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3000 ases.dcssga.org

Social Studies Night: Holidays Around the World (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Each grade level will have engaging activities that represent a different country. All Arbor Station students attending will receive a free book from Books-A-Million Douglasville, passport and a stamp when they complete the activities. Fun times while learning about other countries will be had by all.

Chapel Hill Elementary School

4433 Coursey Lake Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3600 ches.dcssga.org

Reading Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 5:30 pm

You are cordially invited to attend Chapel Hill Elementary's Fall Literacy Night. This will be a fun-filled evening where you will learn ways to reinforce literacy skills through playing games.

Bill Arp Elementary School

6550 Alexander Parkway, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3200 baes.dcssga.org

Computer Science: Hour of Code (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Hour of Code is an annual event sponsored by Code.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to making computer science an integral part of student learning. Students and families will participate in various computer science activities and learn how coding makes possible all of the technology-related conveniences that have become so integral in modern society.

Mason Creek Middle School

7777 Mason Creek Road, Winston, GA 30187
(770) 651-2500 mcms.dcssga.org

Reading Strategies to Support Student at Home/STAR Results (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 5:30 PM

In this session, strategies that families can use at home to support and engage students in reading will be shared. These ideas can be utilized to help reading and literacy engagement be a fun, hands-on experience for the entire family. This meeting will be recorded with viewing access and instructions posted on the school website.

Yeager Middle School

4000 Kings Highway, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5600 yms.dcssga.org

Family Night - Cookies and Canvas (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Cookies & Canvas is Yeager's annual winter event where students come out with their family and friends to enjoy an evening of wintery canvas painting and refreshments. The event will be held on December 14 from 6:00-7:30pm. Spots are limited, so be on the lookout for your invitation in the next few weeks!



2023-2024 MAGNET APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The magnet programs at all 5 Douglas County High Schools have held or are holding information sessions about their programs. For more information, please see the links below.



[Magnet Timeline](#)



[Magnet Application Link](#)

You will also find the contact information for the coordinator at each school in the timeline. The deadline to apply is Monday, December 12, 2022. You may apply to more than one magnet program, so feel free to attend as many information sessions as you wish.