

The Parent Post

Parent and Family Engagement, Title I

Volume IX, Issue 3

Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year and sent home with students being served with Title I funds at Douglas County schools. These schools include Annette Winn Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bright Star Elementary, Burnett Elementary, Chestnut Log Middle, Eastside Elementary, Factory Shoals Elementary, Lithia Springs Elementary, North Douglas Elementary, Stewart Middle, Sweetwater Elementary, Turner Middle and Youth Villages - Inner Harbour Campus. For more information, please contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@douglas.k12.ga.us

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Tips to Ensure that Your Child is Academically Successful

By Tenia Boone, Instructional Lead Teacher, Bright Star Elementary School

Each year, your child will have various grade level standards that he or she will have to master. Being knowledgeable of the standards is one of the most important ways to ensure that your child is academically successful. Here are some additional tips on things that you can do to ensure that your child is academically successful.

1. Attendance is a Must

Regular attendance is essential to the learning process. Your child needs to be present and punctual to attain all that will be given to them each day. We do understand that there may be times when your child may be sick and they should stay at home. If your child becomes ill, be sure to make contact with your child's teacher. Many teachers have websites that offer what they are teaching on each day. Your child's teacher will also be able to provide any work that needs to be completed.

In addition to making up the work, be sure to be aware of the school's attendance policy. When your child returns to school, be sure to provide a written excuse signed by the parent or guardian the day the student returns to school. After 7 absences any excuse for absences must come from doctor, dentist, or legal entity.

2. Send Your Child to School Ready to Learn

Lack of sleep can cause your child to be irritable or experience hyper types of behavior. Children need the appropriate amount of sleep to be alert and ready to learn all day. It is important to establish a regular bed time routine. In addition to setting a regular bed time, it is also important to leave enough time for children to unwind before lights are out.

According to the Sleep Foundation, the following amounts of sleep are appropriate for your child:

- ◆ Kindergarten Students: 10 to 13 hours of sleep is recommended
- ◆ First to Eighth Grade Students: 9 to 11 hours of sleep is recommended

3. Attend Parent Meetings and Parent Teacher Conferences

Studies have shown that students are inclined to be better in school when parents are involved in academic lives. Each year, Title I schools conduct a survey to gauge the needs of parents. Parent nights are typically designed based on the needs of the parents and student in the schools.

By attending parent nights, you are provided with information that you can use at home to help your child be successful academically. In addition, parent night and parent meetings offered by the school provide you with strategies that you can use at home with your child to help them understand concepts that may be difficult for the students to understand.

Parent conferences, whether in person or via the telephone, provide you with a chance to start

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and continue conversations with your child’s teacher about his or her progress in class. They can also provide you with personalized strategies to ensure that your child understands concepts that they may not understand at school.

4. Stay Abreast with What is Going on at Your Child’s School

On your child’s school website, you can find a lot of vital information such as the academic calendar, staff contact information, upcoming events, and testing dates. In Douglas County Schools, teachers have their own websites that they maintain with information that is pertinent to their students. Their websites may have information about detailed homework assignments, classroom events and trips. In addition to classroom websites, many schools are using resources such as Remind®, ClassDojo®, or Notify me® to provide parents with up to date information.

5. Support Homework Expectations

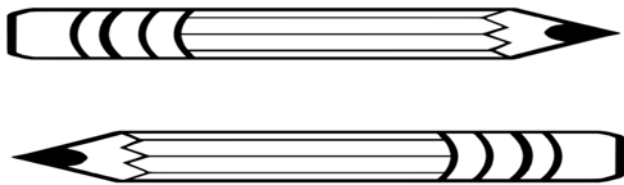
The homework provided at school helps to reinforce and extend the learning from the classroom to home. It supports the instruction that is given each day and also helps children to practice important study skills. Your child needs to know that you see homework as an important part of their academic success.

References:

Kids Health. (2018). 10 Ways to help your child succeed in elementary school. Retrieved from <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-help-elementary.html#>

Sleep Foundation. (2018). How Much Sleep Do Babies and Kids Need? Retrieved from <https://sleepfoundation.org/excessivesleepiness/content/how-much-sleep-do-babies-and-kids-need>

Spring 2018 Georgia Milestones Testing Calendars



For more information on the upcoming Georgia Milestones testing, scan here to visit the Douglas County School System Assessment website.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Date	Test (Grade)
Monday, April 23	Language Arts, Section 1 (3)
Tuesday, April 24	Language Arts, Section 2&3 (3)
Wednesday, April 25	Math, Section 1&2 (3)
Thursday, April 26	Language Arts, Section 1 (5)
Friday, April 27	Language Arts, Section 2&3 (5)
Monday, April 30	Math, Section 1&2 (5)
Tuesday, May 1	Science, Section 1&2 (5)
Wednesday, May 2	Social Std, Section 1&2 (5)
Thursday, May 3	Language Arts, Section 1 (4)
Friday, May 4	Language Arts, Section 2&3 (4)
Monday, May 7	Math, Section 1&2 (4)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Date	Test (Grade)
Monday, April 23	Language Arts, Section 1 (8)
Tuesday, April 24	Language Arts, Section 2&3 (8)
Wednesday, April 25	Math, Section 1&2 (8)
Thursday, April 26	Science, Section 1&2 (8)
Friday, April 27	Social Std, Section 1&2 (8)
Monday, April 30	Language Arts, Section 1 (7)
Tuesday, May 1	Language Arts, Section 2&3 (7)
Wednesday, May 2	Math, Section 1&2 (7)
Thursday, May 3	Language Arts, Section 1 (6)
Friday, May 4	Language Arts, Section 2&3 (6)
Monday, May 7	Math, Section 1&2 (6)

Test Taking Strategies for Elementary and Middle School Students

By Cynthia Brooks, Instructional Lead Teacher, Burnett Elementary School

Tests are one method for teachers and schools to gauge what students know and need to know. However, tests aren't just for the teachers. By taking tests, children learn solid study skills, learn from errors, and learn how to handle the unknown in an academic setting. Through practice and preparation, children will feel equipped and ready to handle tests. They will also be less afraid of failure or mistakes because they'll rely on their own abilities. Use the strategies below with your child and help him/her become a whiz at taking quizzes and assessments.

Strategy #1: Review the different question formats.

It is always a good idea to review and practice multiple choice (selected response) strategies before an assessment. On multiple choice test, the vocabulary and layout of the answers can confuse students. Below are six tips to help students feel that they are Multiple Choice Champions.

1. Reread the question. Make sure you understand what is being asked.
2. Come up with an answer to the question before looking at the list of choices.
3. Read ALL of the answers and ~~cross out the choices~~ that don't make sense.
4. Underline the section in the text or question that supports your reasoning.
5. Look carefully at similar sounding answers. Find the more precise answer.
6. Select "All of the above" if two or three answers seem correct.

Most schools have an acronym they use school-wide to help their students with open ended responses. **RACE** is an acronym used at many schools:

- **R**eword the question: Reread and reword the question in your topic sentence.
- **A**nsWER the question: Use your answer to write your sentence.
- **C**iting examples from the text: Give specific examples from the text to support your answer
- **E**xplain how the evidence from the text supports your answer. For example, you may use the sentence starter "These quotes show that..." or "This supports the statement..."

Strategy #2: Strengthen Student Vocabulary

Unfamiliar vocabulary in a text or standardized tests can confuse and/or discourage students. Below are ten terms students should know heading into a standardized test to ensure students come out on top!

1. **CHOOSE:** To select from a number of possibilities. Similar words: select, pick, determine, identify
2. **DEFINE:** Meaning of a word, phrase; definition
3. **COMPARE:** Common characteristics, identify how things are *alike* or *similar*
4. **CONTRAST:** Characteristics that are *not alike*. Identify how things are *different*
5. **SUMMARIZE:** Give a brief overview of the main points
6. **DESCRIBE:** Present a clear picture of a person, Place, thing, or idea. Use details and sensory words!
7. **EXPLAIN:** Think about the five W's and one H. *Who, What, When Where, Why, and How*
8. **CONCLUDE/CONCLUSION:** To arrive at a decision, to close or bring to an end
9. **INFER:** "Read between the lines"; the answer is not clearly stated in the passage. Use knowledge and experience to draw conclusions
10. **MOST LIKELY:** Best chances of happening

Strategy #3: Get Plenty of Sleep and Eat Well

The night before any big test, make sure your child gets plenty of zzz's, to improve his/her chances for an A the next day. For optimal school performance, most six to eight years olds need eleven hours of sleep, and nine to 10 year olds need closer to ten hours according to Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, author of *Sleepless in America*. On test day, fuel your child's brain with a healthy breakfast. Another study showed that kids who eat a healthy breakfast make fewer errors on test.

Tests can be stressful for students, parents, as well as teachers. Hopefully these test taking strategies will relieve some of the anxiety.

U P C O M I N G 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.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center
3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
Tanya Clagette (770) 651-3131

K-5 STEM Night

Monday, March 12, 2018 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Parents will have the opportunity to do hands-on activities in the classrooms involving STEM activities as well as view science projects created by our students. Come and have a great time!

Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center
1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
Kaneshia Howard (770) 651-3338

STEM - Not Your Average Science Night

Monday, March 5, 2018 at 5:30 PM
Join Beulah Elementary as we host Not Your Average Science Night! Students and parents will be able to participate in STEM activities and walk away with information you can use at home.

Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
Tenia Boone (770) 651-3470

Bright Star's STEAMING in the Right Direction

Friday, May 4, 2018, scheduled throughout day
STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. We focus on these areas together not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success, but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world and in how students learn most effectively. You will not leave empty handed!

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
Cynthia Brooks (770) 651-3533

Burnett's STEAMING in the Right Direction

Friday, May 4, 2018, scheduled throughout day
STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. We focus on these areas together not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success, but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world and in how students learn most effectively. You will not leave empty handed!

Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center
2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
Chris Atkinson (770) 651-5180

Literacy Night

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Learn about Chestnut Log's reading programs and how you can help your students at home.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
Dr. Mary Jackson (770) 651-3885

Culture Fest

Friday, May 11, 2018, 9:00 AM– 11:00 AM
Families will participate in enhancing their knowledge of different cultures.

Factory Shoals Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
Dr. Adriane Williams (770) 651-3966

Reading in the Parking Lot

Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 10:50 AM - 1:00 PM (during lunch periods)
Parents will come out to enjoy a day of reading with their children during a picnic lunch. Students will be able to choose from a variety of literature to read and share with their parents.

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
Pam Bates (770) 651-4192 and Barbara Lark (770) 651-4167

Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 3

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 17 and 18, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Grades K, 1, 2 and 3 families will be trained to support children's academic goals by linking home and school learning.

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
Carmilla Hilton (770) 651-4833

Next parent workshop coming soon!

Visit the Parent Resource Center or see the next newsletter for more information.

Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center
8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134
Elizabeth Reid (770) 651-5473

Next parent workshop coming soon!

Visit the Parent Resource Center or see the next newsletter for more information.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
Schontal McClary (770) 651-4659

Testing Tips

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 9:00 AM
Hear from our counselor and others about how to support and prepare your child for the upcoming Georgia Milestones assessment. Learn how the scores impact your child's future. We will also cover testing for GKIDS and CDAs. All parents attending will receive free student workbooks (as long as supplies last).

Turner Middle School Parent Resource Center
7101 Turner Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
Dr. Carol Lobban (770) 651-5563

Next parent workshop coming soon!

Visit the Parent Resource Center or see the next newsletter for more information.

**Visit YOUR Parent
Resource Center Today!**