

Title I District Monthly Newsletter

Get to know me & check out the tips below



August

Summer's gone
and a whole lot of
teaching going on!

New to the District but not to the Vision!

Hello schools, families, and the Americus community. My name is Tracy Barber and I'm the new Title I Family & Community Engagement Coordinator for the Sumter County School District. My job is to build relationships within the community and the families which live in Sumter and use those relationships to increase the success of our students. In addition, it is also my role to provide technical assistance to schools to ensure families are invited and engaged in school decision-making meetings that affects your child's education.

What qualifies me for this position?

LIFE! As a single parent, I know first-hand the frustrations that parents have. I also know all too well the desire parents have to see their children succeed but not know exactly what steps to take to make sure it happens.

My life has had many ups and downs which include: being a single parent; working from paycheck to paycheck; having a child with a disability; losing that precious child; getting bruised by divorce; and the list goes on and on.

I qualify for this position not only because I have a degree in Human Resource Management, worked in two school districts, been a P2P trainer, and facilitated over 30 meetings in seven school districts for the Georgia Department of Education, but because I made it with the help of those who wanted to see me and my daughter succeed. **Together we can do the same for our Sumter County Students!**

I CHARGE YOU!

Parents: You are your child's first teacher. Nurture that opportunity that has been given to you. Not everyone is lucky to have their children with them. Sit and have actual conversations with them. Help them with their homework, and support their school by attending workshops that are held to help you.

Staff: We have been trusted to take the knowledge that parents have installed in their children and build upon it. Honor that trust, build relationships with those parents, and provide their children the very best that you have to offer.

Together, we have 4,440+ students in our schools counting on us. It is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility to ensure they **ALL** graduate college and career ready.



Enough about me!

Check out these 3 simple tips to get you and your child started for the new year.

#1 Talk to your children not at them!

Get in the car! Stop! Sit Down! NO! Sounds familiar? Try asking your child how was his or her day. Don't settle for one word answers such as "good" or "bad". Ask questions. "What was good/bad about it?" What did you learn in math today? Etc. Whether you know it or not, you are helping their minds develop just by doing that. It's called "Vocabulary Building". See, I told you that you were your child's first teacher! Communicating with them increases their vocabulary and writing skills. So ask specific questions that will

require them to think and/or explain. When kids know their parents are interested in their school day, they'll begin to take school seriously. Before you know it, they'll start telling you all about what they learned in school without you even asking.

#2 Homework! Yep, It's Important!

Homework helps reinforce what was taught in the class. Find a quiet well lit location that is free of clutter for you both to sit down together and complete assignments. When your child gets one-on-one teachings from you, it

helps them get a better understanding of the lesson. Plus, teachers just love it when they see that a parent helped their child complete homework!

#3 Attend Parent Workshops!

Did you know that your school has parent meetings every month? Not only that, they have them well after their working hours because they want to share with you many ways to help your child be the very best he/she can be academically. **IT'S FREE OF CHARGE!** Why not take advantage of it! Check your child's Wednesday courier for meeting dates!

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