

PARENT PRESS

FAMILIES, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY PARTNERING TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN'S SUCCESS

f FOLLOW & LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/GRPSparents

You can also opt in for GRPS and Parent Engagement text messaging by texting YES to 68453.

Did You Know: there are lots of things that parents need to know throughout the year.

All parents that register for Parent University on the website at parents.grps.org will be entered into a drawing for that month for a Meijer gift card. Winners will be announced on Facebook each month.

SUCCESSFEST

Successfest on July 16 was a huge success. Students and their families from GRPS's summer school and the Believe 2 Become summer programs all gathered at Gerald R. Ford Academic Center for games, entertainment and food. Parents were invited to opt in for GRPS texting on their phone at the Parent Engagement Booth so they can receive notifications about school closings and Parent University classes right on their phones.

Don't Miss Important Info!
OPT IN FOR GRPS TEXTS!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD!

Learn more at wearegr.com

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION:

- Meet your child's teacher to inform yourself of the grade level expectations for the year
- Make sure the school has your current and correct contact information
- Meet your school's Parent Action Leader (PAL). They can help with filling out a volunteer form and help with all details parent engagement at your school.
- Get the school schedule for all the parent events
- Register for a Parent University class at parents.grps.org



THE PARENT ENGAGEMENT OFFICE IS COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL

This year a staff member of the Parent Engagement Office is planning on attending a staff meeting, at least 2 Parent Teacher Community Council meetings and at least 2 parent events at your school. Of course we are willing to attend more than that if asked. If there is a specific meeting or event that you would like us to visit please let us know, otherwise we will contact you regarding our visits.

Remember that we all need your PTCC meeting dates and parent event schedules

so we can update the website and be able to visit. If you have any questions please contact Jan Wilkins at 819-1977 or via email at parentengagement@grps.org.



A JOINT VENTURE
 GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 BELIEVE 2 BECOME



CAST YOUR VOTE!

This fall, Grand Rapids Public Schools is asking taxpayers for a \$175 million dollar bond to secure, connect, and transform. The GRPS bond is a long time in the making. It is the result of extensive community engagement, long term planning, sound fiscal management, and proven results. If the bond passes, GRPS plans to invest in every school in the district through technology, security, or construction. The average homeowner would pay just \$8.33 per month or \$99.96 per year. Please be sure to mark your calendar for Election Day, which is November 3. Learn more at wearegr.com

PARENT PRESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent Engagement Kick Off:
 Wednesday 10/7/15 6-8pm

School Choice Expo:
 Thursday 10/22/15 4-7pm

Next PAL Meeting:
 Thursday 11/19/15, 9-11am or 5-7pm

Make Sure Everyone Receives a Newsletter!

Since we include all PTCC members on our newsletter database we also need all the names, positions, and email addresses for all members of your school's PTCC. Please email to the office of Parent Engagement at parentengagement@grps.org by September 15.

2014-2015 ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE RESULTS!

We are pleased to announce that our goal was to reduce to chronic absenteeism numbers by 10%, the efforts of the schools and district actually decreased chronic absenteeism by 23%. A huge thank you to everyone who pulled together and worked hard to make this reduction possible. There is still work to do as 1 in 4 students are still chronically absent. Remember to recognize good and improved attendance with your parents and students. The top 5 schools that reduced chronic absenteeism were:

- GR Ford Academic Center (57% reduction)
- Sibley (56% reduction)
- Martin Luther King (48% reduction)
- East Leonard (45% reduction)
- Dickinson (40% reduction)

Questions? Contact Us:

PAL OFFICE

Edna Stewart 819-3673 | Nicki Tardy 819-2157

PARENT ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

Emmanuel Armstrong 819-2036
 Jan Wilkins 819-1977

COMMUNITY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

Mel Atkins & Esmeralda Garcia 819-2125

PARENT ACTION LEADERS- PALs

What is the Role of a PAL in your school? A parent action leader is a volunteer and an important member of the school community. Each month they attend trainings where they are provided valuable information about school opportunities that they can share with their parents. They sit on the school's PTCC and help recruit parents to be volunteers in the school. PALs are also the liaison between parents and the district. If you have any questions or concerns your PAL can help you find a solution or at least help you locate the personnel that can. They are not staff members so they don't hold consistent office hours, but most PALs are in the school buildings for hours a week. When you see your school's PAL thank them for the numerous hours that they donate to help your school run smoothly and ensure your child is having a great experience.



PARENT TEACHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL -PTCC

Every school has a Parent Teacher Community Council that helps plan and execute the monthly parent events, helps the principal with the school improvement plan and helps make decisions to improve the academic and community atmosphere of the school. If you would like to be on this committee please contact your school's principal. We are hoping that every school can add several parents to their committee this year that are not PALs so we can expand the leadership and engagement of parents at your school.

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE - STRIVE FOR LESS THAN FIVE

Remember that every month the principal receives by email the attendance data for the school and the district. The Attendance Challenge Leader Board Report gives the monthly attendance numbers, by grade, that should be written on the attendance leader boards that are in every school. Your attendance leader board keeps attendance in view of parents daily to serve as a regular reminder of the importance of good attendance. The students who have been flagged as having chronic absenteeism should be contacted regarding this issue by your attendance committee. The attendance reward assemblies and incentives were a huge hit and contributed substantially to the success of last year's attendance challenge. Keep up the good work so we no longer have a chronic absenteeism program at Grand Rapids Public Schools.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT KICK-OFF:

Our 4th annual Parent Engagement Kick-off is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 at the Ottawa Hills High School Mall. Reservations are necessary as each school is limited to 8 attendees. PTCC members are all encouraged to attend. Contact your principal if you wish to attend. Further details will come through your principal as the date gets closer.

