

PARENT PRESS

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

CHALLENGE 5 - Strive for Less Than Five

GRPS continues to reduce our chronic absenteeism numbers every year. Although our yearly goal is 10% we were able to reduce it by 36% over the last two years. We had more students this past year than in dozens of years before that missed less than five days of school. When students are in school they can learn and their academic marks will show how improved attendance also increases each student's potential. Check your attendance leaderboards each month to see how your school is doing. Keep up the good work this year too.

Literacy Focus

The district continues to work hard on raising literacy scores, but literacy begins at home. That is where children learn to talk and learn vocabulary and the importance of reading. A literate home is an environment that encourages children to learn to read and write and become lifelong readers and writers. We will be providing ideas throughout the year to help parents interact with their child in ways that foster literacy development.

Schedule Reminder

Parents like to know ahead of time when parent events are scheduled so they can work around them. We recommend that all PTCCs dates, parent event and meeting dates should be scheduled for the year ahead and given to parents early. Make sure you also send copies to the Parent Engagement Office (PEO) by September 15. Don't forget to update your school website and Facebook regularly as well so parents are well informed of upcoming events. Within a week after an event is completed please send the agenda, sign-in sheets and any pictures to the PEO at parentengagement.grps.org

PARENT ENGAGEMENT KICK-OFF- BE A SUPER HERO PARENT THIS YEAR

This year we are holding a Super Hero Parent Engagement Kick-Off for all parents of GRPS on Tuesday, the 11th of October at Ottawa Hills High School. A light supper will be served to all and door prizes will be raffled off at the end of the evening. We will have several new opportunities for you; ten community organizations, such as The Literacy Center, The Hispanic Center, and Urban League's Opportunity Line, will share their resources with you. Several GRPS departments will be on hand to answer your questions about transportation, athletics, security, volunteerism and ELL, among others. After dinner, schools will discuss ways to increase and improve parent engagement with their Parent Teacher Community Council. Next, parents will choose a breakout session for more in-depth information on several topics:

- Special Education- *Ramp Up to Maximize Potential*;
- College Preparation- *To College and Beyond*;
- Partnering with parents and teachers – *Dynamic Duos*
- Six other parent-requested topics.

We will have child care for children up to 12 years old that will include games, activities and visits from several super heroes. Register at www.grpsparentengagementkickoff.eventbrite.com and see the full list of breakout sessions at parents.grps.org



PARENT TEACHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL- PTCC

GRPS is using the structure of PTCCs as the planning and decision making board of every school. Parents, teachers and community partners are invited to be a part of the PTCC to help the school plan parent events, improve parent engagement, increase attendance and to implement the school improvement plan. PTCCs provide opportunities for parents to join school personnel and community partners in making decisions that affect all the students and help everyone to reach their full potential. If you are interested in being a part of your school's PTCC please talk to your school principal.

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Computer classes have been a big hit. Being able to purchase a refurbished computer for only \$50.00 is also a smart purchase. The refurbished computers from Comprenew have been a huge success and have been able to change the lives of our parents and students. It is helpful for almost all jobs now that you know how to use a computer. It is also very helpful for connecting with people and keeping in contact with your child's teacher and school. Internet access opens the world to you. Your children will also benefit from having a computer in the house for research, writing papers, and so much more. Consider taking a basic skills computer class this fall. Last school year over 140 parents took the basic skills through Parent University and an additional 50 parents took the class over the summer. Almost 145 parents have now purchased these computers. Basic skill computer classes will start again this fall. Check with your school if they are offering a class or check the website at parents.grps.org to find a computer class near you.



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Facebook

Information regarding almost anything is now posted on FACEBOOK. Our parents are checking FACEBOOK daily. It is a great way to get messages out to parents about what is going on in your school and in the GRPS district. The Parent Engagement Office has a great FACEBOOK page as do several schools and community organizations. Having a school FACEBOOK is a great place to post notices of upcoming events, celebrations and attendance numbers to the wider GR community. We recommend you take advantage of this free marketing tool and let FACEBOOK show off the great things that are happening at your school.

GRPS Calendar

City Wide PAL Meeting

September 15 from 9-11am or 5:30-7:30pm at GRPS University

All parent event and PTCC schedules and memberships lists due to PEO

September 15

Super Hero Parent Engagement Kick-Off

October 11 at 5:30 at Ottawa Hills High School



PARENT ACTION LEADERS- PALs

Every school is privileged to have a parent action leader (PALs). PALs are parents who serve as the liaison between the district and the parents. They also supervise parent volunteers, serve on the PTCC and help plan and run parent events and meetings. A few schools are still looking for a PAL for this school year so if you are interested please contact your school principal.

LITERACY HELPS

Research continues to show that children who are read to do better in school. Children of all ages love to hear stories. In addition to stories, remember to read nonfiction texts. Pick something your child likes: maybe she's interested in animals or other countries. If a book or article is hard for your child to read, it's perfectly fine to read to her. If it's not too hard, ask her to read to you or take turns reading aloud.



When you are reading with your children remember to ask questions. This helps the child understand what you are reading and gets them to think. Here are some great questions to ask:

- What do you think will happen next in the story? Why?
- How do you think the character feels? Why?
- How are these two characters different? How are they the same? How do you know that?
- What is the most important information in this section? Why is it important?

KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to the following schools for receiving recognition for their efforts in reducing chronic absenteeism last year; Aberdeen, Buchanan, Burton Elementary, CA Frost, Congress, GR Montessori, Ken-O-Sha, Martin Luther King, North Park Montessori, Shawmut Hills, Sherwood Park, Southwest Community Center, and Stocking Elementary.

Kudos to the Harrison Park and Campus Elementary Schools for holding computer classes this summer.

Kudos to Stocking Elementary and Burton Elementary for being the first schools to send in their parent engagement dates to the PEO.

Kudos to Rocio Rodriguez and several other parents who form the new computer parent board that will help the PEO schedule and monitor computer classes in GRPS this year.

Kudos to Roosevelt Park Ministries who will be a new partner for computer classes this year.



Questions? Contact Us:

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