

Parent Engagement Newsletter



SAVE THE DATE!

January 9-11, 2014

The Parent Engagement Program is excited to announce the second statewide family engagement conference, **Building Connections: Sharing Responsibility to Impact Student Achievement and Success**. Parents, educators and community members are invited to attend. Please talk to your PIC for more details. This event will be held in Athens, GA at the Classic Center. Registration will open August, 2013.

Perseverance in Education



**Dr. John D. Barge,
State School Superintendent**

With the end of the school year approaching rapidly, many of you are making plans for your child's summer vacation activities. Like most parents, you know that while the summer months are a welcome opportunity for fun and relaxation, the lag in learning causes many students to struggle when they return to school in the

fall. I urge you to take advantage of the summer months by encouraging your child to read - instead of endless hours of television and video games. Stimulating activities like reading during the summertime will help improve your child's literacy and critical thinking skills as he or she prepares for the coming school year. We are constantly looking for innovative ways to make education work for all Georgians, and we simply cannot succeed without parents and families. Research proves that involvement in your child's education has a dramatic impact on student achievement and a school's

achievement and a school's environment and culture. As you set goals for the next school year, please consider ways you can be more active in your child's school. Join the PTA, serve on your school's improvement team or be that critical parent voice at school board meetings.

Thank you for all that you do for your children. Your support and input are critical to our success as a state.

Sincerely,

Dr. John D. Barge
State School Superintendent

Best GET INVOLVED Parent Moments...

September 17, 2012 was Math Night at Pearl Stephens Elementary School. Everything was so different compared to when I was in school years ago and my daughter, whose in the second grade, was trying to explain everything to me. The Math Night was a lot of fun and helped me to get a better understanding of the new math requirements. Now my daughter and I are able to work so much better together when I'm helping her with her homework. Thanks PSES and keep up the good training!

-Sonja Bean,
Pearl Stephens Elementary

My best GET INVOLVED moment was the summer before my daughter entered kindergarten. We were given a list of site words that the students would need to know when they entered school in the fall. The focus on teaching and learning these words became a family assignment. We made flash cards and hung them all around the house. We looked for those sight words in books and other places. We even set up a reward system when new words were learned. My daughter really enjoyed this process. The best moment for me came when we formed sentences with the sight words and my daughter

was able to read the sentences! That was a great moment- the coolest ever!

-Willie Thorpe, Shirley Hills Elementary School

Parents, we would love to hear from you! Please submit your Best GET INVOLVED Moment to the Parent Involvement Coordinator at your school or you can submit your story electronically to nschult@doe.k12.ga.us. Make sure that your story provides details of the event, including what happened and who was involved, as well as explains why it was your best GET INVOLVED moment.

Sharing Responsibility to Impact
Student Achievement and Success



Parents | Educators | Students | Communities

What are AP Courses and How Does My Child Benefit?

Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses offered by trained high school teachers in the regular high school setting. In recent years, over one-third of the students in Georgia's public high schools were enrolled in AP courses. AP courses guarantee rigor in your child's classrooms. The high school teachers who offer AP courses are trained by The College Board to offer the course at a college-level and have a syllabus approved by The College Board. AP courses are challenging and require significant study time on a daily basis. Assessments in these classes require sophisticated critical

thinking skills. In May of each year, AP students take the AP exam. Students who score at the 3, 4 or 5 level may be able to earn college credit for these courses taken in the high school. Policies for credit differ from college to college, so take care to check college admissions and credit policies. Development committees meet throughout the year to create new exams, each of which may contain a free-response section, either in essay form or problem solving, and/or a section of multiple-choice questions.

The multiple-choice questions are scored by a computer, while the free-response portions are evaluated by a team of skilled college professors and high school teachers who meet annually to score exams in their subject area. The involvement of college faculty at all levels of exam development and scoring ensures that the AP exams truly reflect college-level achievement. One huge benefit to students who perform well in these classes and on these exams is that they can receive course credit and advanced standing at thousands of universities worldwide.

Check with your counseling department to learn which AP courses are offered in your high school. Some of these may include:

- ▶ US History
- ▶ Calculus AB
- ▶ Physics B
- ▶ Chemistry
- ▶ Statistics



Visit the official AP website APCentral at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jsp> to learn more!



Remember to block off these important dates!

National Bike to Work Week
May 14-18, 2013

World Environment Day
June 5, 2013

National Culinary Arts Month
July, 2013

International Joke Day
July 1, 2013

Independence Day
July 4, 2013

International Picnic Day
July 18, 2013

National Cheesecake Day
July 30, 2013

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Vision Statement

The Parent Engagement Program believes that parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains across the board in student achievement.

Calling All Parents!

Have an idea to contribute to the newsletter? Send your parent involvement ideas and articles to us through your **Parent Involvement Coordinator** or e-mail us directly. If your idea or article is published, your name will appear in the newsletter!

Have a Question?

AskDOE
404-656-2800
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We're on the Web!

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/Parents.aspx>
<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Engagement-Program.aspx>