



“Successfully Engaging Georgia’s Parents”

PARENT ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

“HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION”

Like most parents in Georgia, it is important for me to know what my child is learning in school and to monitor her progress throughout the year. As a parent of a high school senior, I especially want to see that my child is receiving a rigorous education that will prepare her for post-secondary plans. While the countless nights spent reading to my child may be a distant memory, I am still able to find other ways to be active in her education. One of the best ways for parents to be involved

is to stay informed of the latest educational news.

As State School Superintendent, I have the opportunity to share news and updates with parents about education in Georgia. Many parents may not know that Georgia was recently ranked 17th in the nation for K-12 Achievement by Education Week’s 2014 Quality Counts Survey, which measures scores on national exams, graduation rates and improvement over time. While

there is still room for growth, it is encouraging to see our schools showing great progress and moving in the right direction. This good news is a reflection of the outstanding teachers and staff in our schools, as well as the support and hard work of parents like you.

With this news of encouraging progress for Georgia’s public schools, I ask that you continue being involved and informed parents – I know that I will!

-DR. JOHN D. BARGE, STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIELD

Stories of Success

This is a series of articles written for parents by parent involvement coordinators.

“Returning to Greatness”

The last three years have been a time of hard work, dedication, and commitment for the parents, students, faculty and staff at Kendrick High School. We faced an uphill struggle to improve student achievement and increase our graduation rate, but we did not face this struggle alone. Parental input and involvement were an essential part in changing the school culture and returning Kendrick to greatness.

After listening to concerns from parents, we realized that a lack of communication between the school and parents was creating a barrier. When school-family communication improves, parents become better informed which leads to a greater understanding of the school and ways they can support their students. Most importantly, we focused on improving positive and two-way communications with parents.

Therefore, we sent parents weekly emails notifying them about upcoming events as well as postcards sharing good news about the academic achievements of their students. Parents were also provided the opportunity to receive helpful information and participate in conversations with staff members at all school events and activities.

Thanks to the voice of our families, we realized that there was a communication problem. When parents use their voices, schools can gain new insight and ideas to solve a common problem. Through teamwork, we provided our parents, students, and the local community the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations to improve student achievement. Now we see families and students take pride in their school. As a result of this team effort, we are proud of the

fact that our graduation rate has increased by 12.9% as we continue to work to return Kendrick High School to greatness.

Angela Fontain
Family Services Coordinator
Kendrick High School
Muscooge County

Are you a family engagement professional interested in sharing your story with parents? Please contact Nate Schult, Parent Engagement Specialist, at nschult@doe.k12.ga.us



2014 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Inspiration Station

Over 1,200 parents, community partners, and educators gathered at the Classic Center in Athens, GA for the 2014 Family Engagement Conference. Throughout the 3-day conference, white boards were posted in different locations within the Conference. Attendees were encouraged to write thoughts and messages on what inspired them throughout the conference. We received hundreds of replies, here are a select few...

Be the sun-shine in the life of a child.

Parent leadership is necessary!

BE POSITIVE! ☺

Make your school a welcome school!!

SHOW YOU CARE! CARING MATTERS!

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY OR TOO LATE TO MAKE A CHANGE. BE A LEADER!

I will make a difference in someone's life everyday!

PARENTS ARE THE KEY!

TELL CHILDREN THEY ARE IMPORTANT!

Family Engagement is the center for strong student success!

TELL PARENTS THEY ARE NEEDED!

MARCH 14, 2014

International Ask a Question Day

- this day encourages parents to sit down with their children and allow them to ask questions about topics of interest.

APRIL 24, 2014

Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day

- this program was created to inform the future generation of young boys and girls about the variety of career paths they can take.

MAY 3, 2014

National Scrapbooking Day - this day invites scrap bookers all over the country to celebrate their passion for scrapbooking! Parents can teach their children how to scrapbook on this day.



MAY 6, 2014

National Teacher Day - this day focuses on teachers who make public schools a great place for students to achieve and soar. This day honors and recognizes our teachers for the contributions they make to our children and families.

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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.

Have a Question?

AskDOE

404-656-2800 ❖ askdoe@doe.k12.ga.us

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>

