

Griffin High School Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2015

Parent Involvement Corner

Welcome back! I would like to introduce myself; my name is Theresa Tolbert and I am the Parent Liaison for Griffin High School. A Parent Liaison works to bridge the gap between home and school by assisting parents in understanding ways they can help their children with academics. Each month during this school year, a parent workshop will be held. Please look for information throughout the year regarding these workshops. If you are looking for additional resources to assist your student at home, please visit our school Parent Resource Center located at in the counseling suite in room 1016. Open during school hours, parents can browse through our assortment of: manipulatives, folders, brochures, pamphlets and handouts to find wonderful resources to work with your child at home. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you need support or information on how to improve your child's academic performance in school. You can reach me at 770-229-3752 ext 121 or Theresa.tolbert@gscs.org.

Estimados padres:
Este es un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo. Si ustedes necesitan que traduzcamos esta información, por favor, llamen a Pearla Hodo al 770-229-3710 ext. 395.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Annual Title I Meeting August 26, 2015 5 pm

Educational Community Forum August 31, 2015

Curriculum Night September 3, 2015 6 pm

September Parent Workshop September 3, 2015 6 pm

2014-2015 Spring Survey Results

Griffin High School had 93 responses to the Title I Spring Parent Questionnaire.

Grades Reporting:

Ninth-36%
Tenth-23%
Eleventh-25%
Twelfth-24%

94% of parents believe their child is **prepared to transition** to the next grade.

Effective Communication Channels:

#1 Open House-82%
#2 Parent tTeacher Conference-79%
#3 Parent Link Calls-76%

Parent Struggles:

#1 Helping with homework 23%
#2 Attending school functions-22%
#3 Meeting with teachers 17%

40% of parents attended classes, workshops or programs on how parents can help children have more academic success.

69% of parents felt their child's school provided parents with opportunities to share feedback and ideas regarding the school's parental involvement program and activities.

Parent Needs for Workshops:

Child Care-4%
Transportation-9%
Translator-5%

19% of parent indicated they used the school or district Parent Resource Center.

PARENT RIGHT TO KNOW

As the parent of a child in a Title I school, you have the right to:

- Be involved in the planning and implementation of the parent involvement program in your school.
- Ask to read the progress reports on your child and school.

Griffin High School's Parent Involvement Policy

The Parent Involvement Policy is the foundation of home, school and community partnerships. It sets forth the expectations for parent involvement activities and describes how these activities will be implemented and evaluated. You can read the policy:

- On the Griffin High School Website under the parent link.
<http://www.griffinhighschool.org/parent-information/>
- Front Office
- Guidance Department

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact **Theresa Tolbert** at 770-229-3752 ext 121 or Theresa.tolbert@gscs.org.



School-Parent Compact

A School-Parent Compact is an action plan for our school. The compact states our school's goals which have been agreed upon by parents, teachers and students and how we can relate them to increased student academic achievement. The compact outlines how the parents, entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

Our school goals are:

- Our goal is to reach a graduation a rate that equals or exceeds 72% in 2016.
- At the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year 80% of ninth graders will advance to tenth grade.
- Our goal is to have a pass rate that equals or exceeds 97% on the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT).
- Our goal is to increase our Advance Placement participation from 210 in 2014 to 235 in 2015.
- We will increase our overall average Lexile score by 5points by the end of the school year.

In order to meet Title I requirements, the compact cover sheet must be signed, dated and returned to the school. Compacts were distributed during Open House. If you did not receive a compact, please contact **Theresa Tolbert** at 770-229-3752 ext 121 or Theresa.tolbert@gscs.org.. We look forward to working with you to help your student achieve greater academic success.



GSCS District Parent Involvement Policy

Like the school level Parent Involvement Policy, the District Parent Involvement Policy outlines the expectations for parent involvement activities and describes how these activities will be implemented and evaluated at the district level. You can read the policy at:

- eBoard
(<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/Listing.aspx?S=4079&Sch=4079&C=L>)
- Parent Involvement Page of the GSCS website
(http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/files/_GbCmb/33b5eae835833f143745a49013852ec4/GCS_FY16_PIP.pdf)
- New Student Orientation Packet found in the front office of your school

Additionally, the District Parent Involvement Policy was sent to all parents via U.S. mail on July 30, 2015.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact Jessica Layfield at (770) 229-3710 ext. 363 or jessica.layfield@gscs.org.

Title I Information Sheet

Have you seen a copy of the Title I Information Sheet? This document contains important information about Title I schools including information about Title I, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Parent Involvement Program.

This informational sheet can be found in your student's agenda or on the GSCS district webpage:
http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/files/_FKGOI/_960ca270d67a48c23745a49013852ec4/FY16_Title_I_Fact_Sheet.pdf

2015 Fall Parent Survey

Have you taken the fall parent survey? If not, please take it here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJDMRFR>

GEORGIA'S ESEA WAIVER

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 is a law that significantly raises expectations for states, school districts and schools. These expectations include:

1. **Academics:** The ESEA act holds the state, the school district and the individual school accountable for every student's academic success.
2. **Highly Qualified Staff:** The law also states that teachers and paraprofessionals must be highly qualified in the subjects they teach.
3. **Parental Involvement:** Additionally, the law has a strong focus on parental notification and involvement.

In July 2015, Georgia was approved for a renewal of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver. With this renewal of its flexibility waiver, Georgia remains committed to its goal of increasing the quality of instruction in all subject areas for all students, defining a system that will support continual improvement of student achievement and closing the opportunity gap in access to high-quality instruction and resources for all students.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html>.

PARENT RIGHT TO KNOW

As the parent of a child in a Title I school, you have the right to:

- Request information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s) including the degrees and certifications held, and whether the teacher is certified in their respective area of instruction.
- Help to decide if Title I is meeting your child's needs and offer suggestions for improvement.
- Ask about your child's school designation under the new Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver.
- Know if your child has been assigned, or taught by a teacher that is not highly qualified for at least four consecutive weeks (20 school days).
- Help develop your school's plan for how parents and schools can work together.

SCHOOL DESIGNATION STATUS

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver affirms the strength of Georgia's education reform initiatives in the areas of improving educational outcomes for all students, closing achievement gaps, increasing equity and improving the quality of instruction. Under Georgia's own statewide accountability system, all stakeholders will be able to share a common understanding of school and district performance. In the past, a school either met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or did not but many people did not know what this meant or why the school received that rating. Under Georgia's new system, stakeholders will have a complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not beyond student test scores. Using 2010-2011 school year assessment and graduation rate data, a percentage of schools will be identified as Reward, Priority, Focus or Alert schools. These new school designations will provide all stakeholders with a deeper understanding of what resources schools need in order to be successful in their efforts to prepare students to be college and career ready. The designations are:

- **Reward School**-highest-performing (top 5% of Title I: highest performance/all students for 3 years or highest graduation rates) or high progress (Top 10% of Title I: highest progress in performance/all students for 3 years or highest progress in increasing graduation rates).
- **Priority School**-a school among the lowest 5% of Title I Schools in the state based on specific achievement factors.
- **Focus School**-accounts for 10% of Title I Schools with a large gap between their highest-achieving subgroup and lowest-achieving subgroup or schools that have had a graduation rate lower than 60% for two years in a row.
- **Alert Schools**-these can be both Title I and non-Title I schools that have low graduation rates, low achievement in a particular student subgroup such as English Learners or Special Education, or low achievement in a particular content subject area such as mathematics or science.
- **No Designation Schools**-these schools do not fit in any of the categories above and will work to continue providing a quality education to all students.

For more information about the status of your school, please visit www.gadoe.org and click on school reports or speak with an administrator at your school.

I am very proud to tell you that Griffin High School **has not been given a school designation this year**, which means we are continuing to provide a quality education to all of our students. At Griffin High, we take pride in the teaching we provide for our children. Our teachers and staff members work very hard to meet the needs of all students to ensure they achieve at their highest potential.

GRIFFIN-SPALDING COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PARENT RESOURCE CENTER (PRC)

Did you know that the Griffin-Spalding County School System also has a Parent Resource Center?

Find activities, books and brochures for your student in our District Parent Resource Center. The center is designed to provide educational resources for parents to help their students succeed academically. Parents can also find computers with internet access at the center. The best part is resources are FREE! You can find the Parent Resource Center located in the Parent Services Center Building, Room B112 on 234 E. Taylor Street, Griffin, GA 30224. The Center is open, by appointment, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you would like more information or make an appointment, please contact Jessica Layfield at 770-229-3710, ext 363 or jessica.layfield@gscs.org.

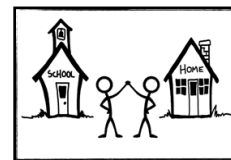


Back to School

Getting back in the academic saddle is a family effort as you organize and prepare for the busy year ahead.

Get your house ready by dedicating an area for homework that is quiet and comfortable. Make sure your student has all of the materials needed to complete an assignment. If your student needs help on an assignment, provide guidance, not the answer. For example, help them search for the word they do not know the meaning of in the dictionary rather than giving them the definition outright.

Look at your calendar now and pencil in plans to get involved at your child's school; the rewards are immeasurable. Before your schedule fills up, talk to the teacher, principal, PTA president, parent liaison or librarian and find out what kinds of periodic assistance they need. Perhaps you can write a newsletter, volunteer at a parent workshop, take home and sort a few folders or shelf books once a month.



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PERFORMANCE INDEX (CCRPI)

CCRPI is a comprehensive school improvement, accountability and communication platform for all educational stakeholders that will promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students. It is based on a 100% system. There are three indicators that make up the score:

- Achievement: 70%
- Progress: 15%
- Achievement Gap Closure: 15%

If you have any questions or concerns about the CCRPI, please contact Theresa Tolbert at 770-229-3752 ext 121 or Theresa.tolbert@gscs.org.

GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) was implemented during the 2014-2015 school year and is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take an end-of-grade assessment in each content area while high school students will take an end-of-course assessment for each of the eight courses designated by the State Board of Education.

If you have any questions about the Georgia Milestones Assessment, please contact Theresa Tolbert at 770-229-3752 ext 121 or Theresa.tolbert@gscs.org