



The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

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Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please visit dcssga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

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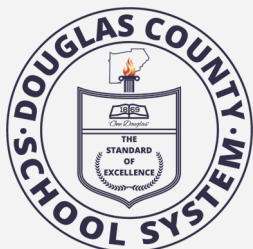
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Testing Tips for Parents

By Kayla Arnold, 1st Grade Teacher, Eastside Elementary School

Educators have worked diligently throughout the school year to teach students the state standards, and students have been absorbing all they can along the way. As standardized testing approaches, there are a number of ways you can support your child:

- Make attendance and homework a priority. Arriving at school on time ensures that your child is present for all of the material taught in class. If your child has to miss a day, or a class period, check in with them to make sure they can make-up for what they missed. Homework is an excellent tool that students have to further solidify the content taught in class.
- Communicate with your child’s teachers. Regular communication with your child’s teacher will keep you up to speed on what students are working on, your child’s strengths and weaknesses, and how you can offer extra support at home.
- Communicate with your child. Have open conversations with your child about the purpose of tests and how they help teachers determine the best teaching methods.
- Sleep and nutrition are keys. Make sure your child gets an ample amount of sleep and eats a healthy meal the night before and the morning of the test.
- Ensure your child is on time (or early, if possible) on testing days.
- Relieve testing anxiety. Although testing gives us great insight into a child’s academic performance, it can also be intimidating for some. Help relieve testing anxiety by letting your child know that their best effort will always make you proud.
- Plan a fun treat or activity. After testing is done, reward your child for their hard work with a fun activity or special treat.

Technology IQ

By Charmaine Martin, Instructional Support Specialist, Youth Villages Inner Harbour School

COVID-19 pandemic has caused a major shift in how we use technology in the classroom and home. It also caused a major change in thinking about how much access to technology and screen time a child should have. We cannot eliminate all risk when a child or adolescent is using technology but depending on the age and maturity level, we can set certain expectations and limit access to certain apps and screen time. Here are some helpful advice and resources.

Your kindergartner has already encountered the use of technology. Set expectations with the amount of time allowed using technology and access to google or other search engines. Once your child has hit upper elementary, they are probably helping you navigate the use of technology. Help your child find a healthy balance of time spent using technology collaboratively. Middle schoolers are at a unique stage in life. While wanting to become more independent, they still need healthy boundaries and expectations in their life. Help your adolescent during this transition to become more responsible and aware of the pros and cons of social media because their posts are permanent and for the whole world to see. If you have a high schooler, it is still not too late. You can encourage your high schooler

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to use technology for good. From staying connected by having a shared family calendar to randomly texting a message with words of encouragement.

Resources:

Phone apps that can help place time limits and prevent access to sites and apps that may not be age appropriate for your child. One such app is **Circle** app for the iPhone. This allows the parent to create an individualized profile for each family member. It allows the parent to set a bedtime, filters, and time limits for apps and categories. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers a digital resource for creating a [media plan](#) for your child.

AAP screen time recommendation: 18 months or younger: no screen time is best with the exception of live video chat with family and friends. **18 months to 2 years:** limit screen time, avoid solo use, and choose high-quality educational programming and watch with kids to ensure understanding. **2 to 5 years:** limit screen time to an hour a day. Parents should watch as well to ensure understanding and application to their world. **6 years or older:** place consistent limits on the time spent and types of media. Do not let screen time affect sleep, exercise or other behaviors.

Prepare to Show What you Know!

By Julie King, ESOL Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School

We are racing toward the end of the school year, and our English Language Learners (ELLs) are getting a chance to show what they know! In January, February, and March, all ELLs will take the ACCESS test. This assessment shows how much progress students have made in listening, reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English. The ESOL teachers have been preparing students for the ACCESS test, and we know our students are ready to do their best! In April, all third-eighth grade students will take the Georgia Milestones test (GMAS). High school students are preparing for End of Course tests. ESOL teachers and classroom teachers have been preparing students for these tests. Our ELLs will be ready to show how much they have learned this year. You can help your child to do his or her best on these tests, too!

- Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep at night.
- Your child needs to eat breakfast, either at home or at school.
- Attendance is important! Please try to make appointments after school.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best!

The ESOL teachers use several computer programs which can help ELLs achieve success. **Lexia Core5 Reading** is used for Kindergarten-Fifth grade students. Lexia helps students improve their reading, writing, and listening skills in English. Students in middle and high school use **Lexia Power Up Literacy**. This program focuses on word study, grammar, and comprehension. Both Lexia programs can be used at home, on a computer or an iPad. Check with your child’s ESOL teacher for login information. In the classroom, ESOL teachers use **Nearpod** to teach interactive lessons that may include videos, games, and activities. Teachers also use **Flocabulary** to teach academic vocabulary using fun hip hop music. Your ELL student’s teacher may assign activities on Nearpod and Flocabulary through Google Classroom.

While these computer-based programs help ELLs prepare for ACCESS and GMAS testing, there are other options that will help students as well. Reading is the best way to improve your child’s academic performance. You can read to your child, listen to your child read aloud, or just talk to older students about what they are reading. Reading in your native language as well as in English is beneficial to your bilingual learner! Talking with ELLs is another way to prepare them for testing. Having conversations in English and in their first language can expand their vocabulary and improve listening skills.

Thank you, parents, for partnering with us this year! We are proud of our ELLs and expect them to do great things!

Resources for Parents of English Learners!

The Douglas County School System has posted new resources for parents of English Learners on our website. Our goal is to provide effective outreach to parents of our English Learners and to assist them in being involved in their child’s education. Please visit our website [here](#) or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.



Finish Strong

Give extra effort to make it through to the end.

*This month we are challenging students to work hard and stay determined. **We are partnering with you to acknowledge your child's achievement of goals- big and small!** By helping your child develop perseverance now, you can prepare them to learn from their future failures and work hard to achieve future successes. This month, look for opportunities to teach and model the power of perseverance!*



1 ENGAGE: Power of Yet

Ask each family member to write down a list of things they would like to learn to do but just haven't done yet. For example, "I haven't learned ____." Choose a few phrases from each family member and repeat these phrases, adding the word "yet" to the end. Remind your family that we must work daily to learn new things and keep trying even when it's hard.



2 EMPOWER: The Best Version of You

Ask each family member to think of a word that describes the best version of themselves or a word they would like to live out. It may be a word from their class or family Social Contract. (For example., respectful, responsible, a good listener, etc.). After each member decides on one word, ask everyone to identify three actions they can take to persevere and model their word to ensure they become the best version of themselves. Have weekly check-ins to see how things are going.



3 EXCEL: Winning Over Weeds

This spring, plant a garden as a family. It can be big or small! Discuss the daily commitment needed to help this garden grow and the patience necessary as you wait for the final product. Weed this garden together and as you do, discuss how this garden is like many challenges in life. Perseverance helps us to win over weeds!

Conversation Starters

♥ What is something you're good at that took a lot of hard work and practice?

♥ What is something you're still learning to do in school that is difficult?

♥ Who is someone at school you feel comfortable asking for help from when you need it?

U P C O M I N G T I T L E I W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location. Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center
3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3100 awes.dcssga.org

Factory Shoals Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3900 fses.dcssga.org

APTT Meeting #3

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM (grades k-2)
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM (grades 3-5)
Grades K through 5 will meet with the parents of their child's homeroom to discuss data based on foundational skills they have chosen. They will then create and practice activities to work with their children at home and discuss goals.

Study Skills & Homework 101 (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Parents will learn tips and tricks on how to help their children with their homework and study skills.

Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center

1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3300 bees.dcssga.org

GMAS Informational Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will have an opportunity to hear about the Georgia Milestones, see sample questions, and get tips to help their child succeed on the English/Language Arts, Math, and Science (5th grade only) tests that students will take in April 2023.

Read Across America (IN-PERSON)

Friday, March 3, 2023 at 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Beulah is excited to host Read Across America Day on Friday, March 3rd from 8:00-2:00. Join us for a day filled with exciting stories, engaging activities and interactive lessons! We would love for you to join us as a Mystery Reader! If you are interested in reading to one of our amazing classes, please call Bianca Perez at 770-651-3307. Come join the fun as we spend the entire day on an exciting journey in the world of books!

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center

6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4100 lses.dcssga.org

GMAS/Science Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Parents will learn helpful tips and resources to help their child prepare for GMAS. They will also engage in science experiments based on the standards taught in their child's grade level.

Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center

2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5100 clms.dcssga.org

Mt. Carmel Elementary School Parent Resource Center

2356 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4200 mces.dcssga.org

Test Prep Night

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM (VIRTUAL) and 6:30 PM (IN-PERSON)
Our Instructional Lead Teacher will present materials and strategies to parent and students that will help with test preparation.

Grounded for Grammar (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Parents will learn the strategies and tools that we are using to assist with grammar.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3800 eses.dcssga.org

Gearing Up for Assessments (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 5:00 PM
Information will be shared about the upcoming Spring assessments for all students in K-5. Additional resources will also be provided. This event will be in person.

Parent GMAS Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM
GMAS Night will be an opportunity for parents and students to learn useful test-taking strategies in preparation for the GMAS.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center

2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4600 swes.dcssga.org



Visit YOUR Title I
Parent Resource
Center Today!

Testing Tips (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 12:00 PM
We will discuss testing tips for parents to help their child prepare for the Georgia Milestones and other major tests.

FRESHMAN EXPO ~ March 23, 2023

FINALIZE ELECTIVES, MEET COACHES & JOIN CLUBS

Click each high school's logo for more information about their Freshman Expo!



U P C O M I N G P A R E N T W O R K S H O P S

Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below or visit the school website.

Arbor Station Elementary School

9999 Parkway South, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3000 ases.dcssga.org

We Love to Read a Latte (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 (grades k-2) at 6:00 PM
Thursday, March 2, 2023 (grades 3-5) at 6:00 PM
Parents are invited to read with their child and enjoy hot chocolate, cider and cookies.

Bill Arp Elementary School

6550 Alexander Parkway, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3200 baes.dcssga.org

Reading Under the Stars (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM
We will be hosting a reading-themed parent night. Parents are encouraged to join their students for "Reading Under the Stars" as we focus on the academic benefits and enjoyment of reading.

Chapel Hill Elementary School

4433 Coursey Lake Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3600 ches.dcssga.org

Grade Level Meetings (VIRTUAL)

Monday, March 13, 2023 (grades k, 1, 2, 3 and 4), various times
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 (grade 5) at 5:30 PM
Kindergarten - teachers will share a recording with parents on March 13, 2023.
Grade 1 - 9:00 AM - Fact Fluency: activities to help practice at home
Grade 2 - 2:00 PM - MyOn/Renaissance/AR Tips, Suggestions and Q&A
Grade 3 - 11:00 AM - GMAS Prep
Grade 4 - 12:00 PM - Mastering the Milestones: At-Home Strategies for Reading Test Preparation - during this meeting we will discuss strategies and how to help your child prepare the test.
Grade 5 - 5:30 PM - Georgia Milestones

Factory Shoals Middle School

3301 Shoals School Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5800 fsmc.dcssga.org

Study Skills (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Families will review GMAS information and learn ways on which to help their students study best for the assessment.

Mirror Lake Elementary School

2613 Tyson Road, Villa Rica, GA 30180
(770) 651-4300 mls.dcssga.org

Night of the Arts (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM
Student art work will be on display throughout the building for parents and students to view. The Mirror Lake 4th grade chorus will showcase a preview of their upcoming Spring Chorus Performance and the Mirror Lake 5th Grade Honor Chorus will showcase what the ensemble they have prepared for the upcoming Honor Chorus Concert. We are excited to showcase the many talents of our Mirror Lake students with our first Talent Showcase.

New Manchester Elementary School

2242 Old Lower River Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4400 nmes.dcssga.org

Town Hall Meeting - Testing (VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 6:00 PM
The Georgia Milestones are quickly approaching. This is the time where the students are able to showcase all that they have learned throughout the school year. Join the New Manchester Elementary Administration for the annual testing meeting. Walk away with a clearer understanding of the expectations of the GMAS assessment and what you can do to support your student(s).

South Douglas Elementary School

8299 Highway 166, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4500 sdes.dcssga.org

Testing Training (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM
Find out more about the test format, scoring, parent resources, and ask any questions that you may have about the GMAS.

Winston Elementary School

13691 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Winston, GA 30187
(770) 651-4700 wes.dcssga.org

GMAS Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM
GMAS testing can be an overwhelming feeling, especially if this is your student's first year testing. Parents, please join us to learn everything you need to know about GMAS testing, including testing formats, section time limits, and suggestions to make your student's testing go smoothly.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS: Spring 2023 Georgia Milestones Testing Calendars



For more information on the upcoming Georgia Milestones testing, scan here to visit the Douglas County School System Testing Calendars.

