Home-School Partnership: Working Together to Fulfill the Promise of Gwinnett

During the month of February, Gwinnett County Public Schools is focusing on the partnership between home and school and the important role this plays in helping students to fulfill their Promise.

While the nation and our public education system have changed a lot over the years, one factor—family engagement—remains critical to student achievement. Research shows that family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and builds parents’ confidence in their children’s education. Students with involved parents and caregivers earn higher grades and test scores, have better social skills, and show improved behavior.

**So, what can you do to make that critical home-school connection?** There are many ways to be involved:

- Help your child set and achieve academic goals;
- Frequently visit the Parent Portal—to view grades, check attendance, monitor progress, review test scores, and more;
- Develop a relationship with your child’s teachers and keep in touch with them, sharing concerns and issues that could affect your child’s achievement; and
- Advocate to ensure schools have the resources they need to provide a world-class education to every student.

The most significant type of involvement is what parents do at home... as a role model, a cheerleader, an advisor, a friendly critic, a lifelong learner, and an advocate. By monitoring, supporting, and promoting, parents can be engaged in ways that ensure that their children have every opportunity for success.

At its heart, The Promise of Gwinnett is found in the collective talents, will, passion, and dedication of all who make up the Gwinnett community. Whatever our ages, backgrounds, or status, we all are partners in the Promise. And parents and guardians play a critical role... they are a child’s first teacher and are needed to bring the Promise to life.

**Strategic Priorities... A part of “The Promise”**

The Strategic Priorities for 2010–2020 reflect Gwinnett County Public Schools’ ongoing commitment to excellence, instructionally and operationally. They outline the qualities and characteristics stakeholders believe are desirable for 10 major components of the school district. When it comes to one of those components—Parents and Guardians—we believe that pursuing the attributes outlined below will help our students to fulfill their promise and will move us closer to realizing our vision of being a system of world-class schools.

As partners with the school, parents/guardians of Gwinnett students will support their children’s education. They will be engaged with their children and teachers to optimize teaching and learning at school and in the home. They will reinforce high expectations for learning and behavior and will share accountability for their children’s success at school. Families will encourage personal responsibility, regular attendance, and a strong work ethic. They will routinely communicate with teachers and the school, sharing information, concerns, and ideas. Parents and guardians will be well-informed about their school’s direction and initiatives, as well as those of the district. As a result, they will exhibit high levels of support for their schools and confidence in Gwinnett County Public Schools as a school system of choice.

Explore The Promise of Gwinnett and meet highlighted staff and students at promise.gwinnett.k12.ga.us.
Learn more about the Strategic Priorities and GCPS’ strategic direction by visiting the district’s website.

Gwinnett County Public Schools
437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA  30024-2978
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

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