

Title I Parent Newsletter

Biannual, Issue 1

September, 2009

Special points of interest:

- Title I News, Updates and Events
- Helping Children Succeed
- Increasing Parent Involvement
- Parents Make a Difference

2009-2010 Title I Schools in CCPS

During the 2009-2010 school year, the following schools have been identified to participate in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Title I Program:

- C. Paul Barnhart
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd

- Eva Turner
- Indian Head
- J.P. Ryon
- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy

Each year schools are ranked to identify who is eligible for Title I services. This is determined by the

number of students who qualify for the National School Lunch Program. The CCPS Title I Program serves elementary schools that have 49% or more students who qualify for the National School Lunch Program.

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The Title I Program strives to assist parents in helping their children achieve academic success.

This year the CCPS Title I Program will be hosting a *Parenting Toolkit Speakers Series*. Leading experts will be brought to Charles County from across the country to speak about various topics that will focus on strategies for parents to assist their students.

There will be six different sessions. Mark your calendar for the entire school year to attend the topics of your interest. You may come to just one or all of the events. All events in the *Parenting Toolkit Speaker Series* are **FREE!**

The dates and topics for this year are:

October 5th (6:30-8:30pm)

All About Math! Learn how to help your child in math. See how math is different from when you learned it.
Speaker: Anita Chin
Location: North Point HS

November 18th (6:30-8:30pm)

How Male Role Models Affect A Child's Education! The importance of male role models and what dads, moms, and the community need to know.
Speaker: Roland Warren
Location: La Plata HS

December 10th (6:30-8:30pm)

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Reading! Speaker: CCPS Reading Resource Teachers
Location: La Plata HS

January 27th (6:30-8:30pm)

Learn How to Partner With Your Child's School!
Speaker: Eileen Kugler
Location: North Point HS

February 24th (6:30-8:30pm)

Building A Better Family! Learn to build strong relationships.
Speaker: Rita Pierson
Location: La Plata HS

April 8th (6:30-8:30pm)

Building Positive Behavior! Learn practical strategies.
Speaker: Mollie Thorne
Location: La Plata HS

Look for Flyers!



An Overview of Title I



Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was reestablished by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

Title I is the largest federal education grant that provides financial assistance and resources to state and local education agencies.

Title I is designed to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers. The purpose of Title I is to help

ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments.

An Annual Title I meeting is held each year. This meeting is to inform parents about the school's participation in the Title I Program, the Title I requirements, and their rights as parents to be involved.

The Title I Program provides each school with educational

support beyond the regular classroom. Some benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increased opportunities for parental involvement;
- Parent Liaisons at each school;
- Parenting Toolkit Speaker Series;
- Increased technology;
- An Early Childhood Program;
- Additional teachers, aides, and tutors;
- Extra staff development; and
- Extended learning opportunities

"When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more."
-Ann Henderson

Parental Components of Title I

When schools and families work together towards promoting academic achievement, students receive a consistent message that school is important.

The Title I Program works jointly with parents to reinforce this belief and collaborate on creating two documents to support parent involvement in Title I schools.

The Home-School Compact and the Parent Involvement Plan are two important components of Title I. Parents are invited to assist in the development of both documents at their child's school in the spring of each year.

The Home-School Compact is a voluntary agreement that describes the responsibility of the parent, school staff, and

student in order to increase student achievement throughout the year. This document is signed by all parties to reinforce the value of the Home-School Compact.

The Parent Involvement Plan is the document that guides the parent involvement activities in the school throughout the year.

Getting Involved in Your Child's Education

There are several ways that parents can be engaged in their child's education:

Communication - Communicate with the school regularly, through meaningful two-way conversation.

Parenting - Provide the necessary materials and an atmosphere for learning. Develop

and reinforce skills in your child such as responsibility, goal-setting, and respect.

Volunteering - Assist in school programs and workshops or make yourself visible at the school.

Learning at home - Have your child recall his/her day and what they learned. Sup-

port students with homework. Read with your child and practice math skills everyday.

Decision Making - Participate in the PTA or be a part of developing the Home-School Compact & Parent Involvement Plan.

The Parent-Teacher Conference

A Parent-Teacher conference is a great opportunity for two-way communication about your child's education. Both parents and teachers have important knowledge about your child! The Home-School Compact can be frequently used to start a discussion about student achievement and academic progress. You may also want to write questions to ask the teacher. Some examples are:

- How are my child's work habits?
 - Does my child need help in a particular subject?
 - How is my child's behavior?
 - Does my child participate in class?
- Ask about specific things that you can do to help your child.
- Be prepared to take notes and ask for an explanation if you don't under-

stand.

Tell the teacher if you think your child needs special help and about any special family situation or event that might affect your child's ability to learn. Mention if there has been a new baby, an illness, or a recent or an upcoming move. You might also tell the teacher what kind of person you want your child to become and what values are important to you.

About the Parent Liaison

In each Title I school, there is a Parent Liaison. This person is responsible for helping to connect parents and the school.

The job is very important because they support communication between home and

school. Parent Liaisons might refer parents to county agencies that may be able to provide them with assistance. They also encourage involvement in education by helping to plan and coordinate educational workshops as well as opportunities to volunteer.


Visit the Parent Liaison at your child's school. Introduce yourself and ask them about upcoming events, workshops, and suggestions about how you can become more involved in your child's education.

Technology in Title I

Did you ever think your child would use an iPod to learn? Did you ever think a 4th grade student would have their own laptop for all day use at school? Did you ever think your child's reading assessments would be administered with the use of a Palm Pilot?

These are just a few opportunities your children have every day in our Title I schools. Through Virtual Field Trips students can visit places such as the *Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum* in Michigan without leaving their classroom. During this Virtual Field Trip stu-

dents learn about animal adaptations to extreme weather. This is one example of many Virtual Field Trips students might take. With daily integration of technology our students are engaged in learning and our teachers are energized to teach.



*Raising a
successful
learner takes
teamwork.*

Early Childhood in Title I

Four of the six Title I schools include a full-day Three Year Old Program. In the 2009-2010 school year, all Title I schools will incorporate a full-day Pre-Kindergarten Program. Students are granted access into the early childhood programs through criteria established by Maryland State Department of Education.

Charles County Public Schools will provide early childhood students with a discovery-based, literature rich learning environment. Research-based developmentally appropriate practices are implemented to ensure early childhood students have successful learning experiences. Our early childhood program also includes community

partnerships, extensive technology integration, as well as focusing on the whole child's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Lastly, we also have Judy Centers located at three Title I schools. Judy Centers provide a multitude of services for families that have children from birth to age five.



Charles County Public Schools Title I Program

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One Vision

Closing the achievement gap

One Goal

Providing additional support for children

One Unit

School, families, and the community
operating as one to help students achieve
academic success

One Child

Helping each and every child

Title I!

Parents Make the Difference - Parent Tips

Goal Setting

Parents can help students by teaching goal-setting. Goals help children focus on what is important. Students who are goal-oriented set themselves up to achieve. Children can set goals for school work, homework, sports, or anything else they want to improve. Here is how parents can help:

1. Help your child identify one goal at the beginning of the week to finish by the end of the week.
2. Have your child write the goal on paper and post it on the refrigerator.
3. Talk about how to accomplish the goal. Help your child break the goal down to smaller steps.
4. As the week goes on, check to see how things are going. Help solve any problems.

At the end of the week, help

your child evaluate how well they did. Was the goal completed? Why or why not?

Responsibility

Parents can also help students by teaching and enforcing responsibility. Students must learn to take responsibility for their own learning and behavior at home and school. Students who learn to take responsibility will not have to be nagged about school work. A parent is a child's most influential teacher. This makes the home a great place to learn to take responsibility. Start by teaching your child to be responsible by:

- Making choices such as getting to school on time;
- Setting time to prepare for the next school day;
- Making time for schoolwork;
- Not allowing your child to make excuses; and
- Accepting consequences

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Mission Statement

The mission of CCPS is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquires, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Dr. Patricia Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646; 301-932-6610, 301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.