

PARENT PRESS

FAMILIES, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY PARTNERING TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN'S SUCCESS

January's Theme: Playing by the Rules

Policies & Procedures that Affect Your Child. Part of empowering students includes setting boundaries for behavior and helping them learn to take responsibility for their actions. You can help your child by improving their **Attendance**, talking to them about the dangers of **Gang Activity**, and setting up a routine for **Homework**.

(Excerpt from page 31 of the Parent Manual. Available at parents.grps.org)

THE PARENT UNIVERSITY WEBSITE HAS INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE!

We encourage all GRPS administration, teachers, staff and community partners to take a look at the <http://parents.grps.org> website. It is important that we all know what is available to parents so we can talk about PU to all our parents. And as parents ourselves, we can all learn important information as well.

THERE ARE FUN & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT STUDENTS CAN USE FROM HOME DURING SNOW DAYS!

- Khan Academy - Learn for free about math, art, computer programming, economics, physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, finance, history, and more. Visit www.khanacademy.org
- GRPS OverDrive - Students can take advantage of this digital library to read hundreds of books from home instantly. All they need is their GRPS username and password. Visit www.grps.lib.overdrive.com and start reading today!

Research shows that students whose parents communicate regularly with their teachers will do better in school, have less discipline issues and complete homework more regularly. How does that happen?

1. Parents will contact teachers if they feel like a partner in their child's education. Are parents given specific suggestions on how to support their child's learning?
2. Parents will contact teachers if they have been invited to contact the teachers. Do parents have the personal contact information of the children's teachers?
3. Parents will contact teachers if there has been regular two-way communication right from the beginning of the year. Have parents been called regarding positive communication?

See www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_30334_51051-262889--,00.html for additional suggestions.

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE PARENTS THAT HAVE ACHIEVED POWER PARENT STATUS. Thank you for your active participation in your child's academic success!

Araceli Alcazar
 Mel Atkins
 Rene Chatman
 Debra Collier
 Angela Gloetzner
 Tennille Harkness
 Earlina Libbett
 Rachel Love

Jody Morris
 Marie Morris
 Amanda Pierce
 Krista Schmidt
 Carol Morgan Williams
 Deanna Wilson
 Monica Zavala



ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE - STRIVE FOR LESS THAN FIVE

EARTH is an online grade and attendance tracking system for GRPS Middle- and High-school parents and students to track their academic progress. To access the system, visit earth.grps.org and enter your student's ID number and the password that should have been mailed to parents at the beginning of the school year. If you do not have this information, contact your child's school. You may need to see the school counselor and provide proper identification in order to obtain this information for confidentiality and safety purposes.

Once you have logged in to EARTH you will have access to your child's grades and attendance for each class. You can also send and receive emails to each of your student's teachers. Having access to this information, one parent says "I use the site as a tool to keep track of my child's progress between conferences."



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WHO IS THE PARENT ACTION LEADER (PAL) FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

You can find out on our website. Go to parents.grps.org and select the Parent Groups tab. Enter your child's school and find out who you can contact for more information on how to get involved.

Next PAL Meeting:
Thursday, January 22
 9:00-11:00am or 5:30-7:30pm

EARLY BIRD SCHOOL CHOICE EXPO

On November 20th, Gerald R. Ford Academic Center hosted the Early Bird School Choice Expo. Guests enjoyed a free dinner, giveaways and activities for kids while exploring GRPS School options including the new Grand Rapids Public Museum School that will open September 2015.

Next School Choice Expo:
January 29, 2015 at City High Middle
 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 16
 First Semester Ends

January 19
 MLK Day-No School

January 29
 School Choice Expo from 4-7pm

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:

PAL OFFICE

Edna Stewart 819-3673

Nicki Tardy 819-2157

PARENT ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

Emmanuel Armstrong 819-2036

Jan Wilkins 819-1977

PARENT ACTION LEADERS - PALs

The November PAL training included valuable information from the following speakers:

- Michigan's new academic assessments for 2015: Presented by Steve Petros and Tam Crampton
- Digital Library/Overdrive: Jan Baker introduced GRPS digital library which allows students to access hundreds of e-books form home. Visit grps.lib.overdrive.com and sign in with your GRPS username and password. If you have any questions, contact your school's librarian.
- SLD Read: Sue Garza and Amy Barto introduced this tutoring program that is offered in several of our GRPS schools. Check out their website at www.sldread.org
- Graduation requirements and dual-enrollment: Emmanuel Armstrong spoke about the graduation requirements for the class of 2015 and dual enrollment options available to GRPS high school students.
- New Parent Website: The Parent Engagement Office spoke about the new website created for parents, <https://parents.grps.org>



PARENT TEACHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL - PTCC

Support the Goals of the School

The 2nd function of every PTCC is to support the goals of the school. In addition to the objectives of the district, every school has individualized goals outlined in their School Improvement Plan.



WHY? Every school has its own unique strengths, challenges, and communities which affect them differently. Every parent should know the goals of their child's school. Go to grps.org. Click on the "Schools" tab, choose your child's school, and learn more about the school's Annual Report and School Improvement Plan. What can your PTCC do to help the school work on their unique goals?

KUDOS KORNER

Tis the season for giving. Kudos to these schools:

KUDOS to Ford Academic Center whose student leadership team made several Thanksgiving baskets for distribution for Thanksgiving and who also held a pajamas drive.

KUDOS to Sibley Elementary parents and students who made several hundred sack suppers for Kids Food Basket. (Picture of sack suppers)

KUDOS to Coit and East Leonard whose students will also be doing a service project with Kids Food Basket next month.

KUDOS to Campus Elementary who gave every student 3 books to read over the break thanks to a generous book donation from Ada Christian School. They also were able to host a Holiday Shop where parents who attended conferences and parent meeting were able to select toys and clothes for their students thanks to generous donations from Campus' community partners.

