

Spalding High Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

February 2019

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

A basic knowledge of science is critical in today's world. An interest in science begins at home. As a parent/guardian, you can play a crucial role in helping your child develop a positive attitude about science. You do not need to be a scientist to spark your student's interest. Please read this month's newsletter to find science tips to help you and your students at home.

As always, please feel free to contact me any time if you need support or information on how to improve your child's academic performance in school. You can reach me at (770) 229-3775 or Sandra.merritt@gscs.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/5/19 | You Have a Stake in SHS Stakeholder meeting in the Media Center at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. |
| 2/12/19 | Progress reports sent home |

Stakeholder Meeting

All parents are invited to attend and participate in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review and revise the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, to review and revise the School-Parent Compact, to discuss the reservation of funds, and to discuss building school staff capacity.

Science Academic websites

<https://phet.colorado.edu/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

<https://www.nsta.org/>

*The listed resources are not endorsed by GSCS but offered as possible tools that families may utilize.

Did You Miss...?

In January, we held the Mastering and Interpreting assessments parent workshop. We discussed information on understanding state and local assessments, proficiency levels students are expected to meet, Lexile scores and their meaning, how parents can support student achievement, ways to work with children to improve their academic achievement, ways to monitor student progress, preparing for standardized tests, test taking tips for parents and students, how to use school goals from the compact to help your student do well on state and local assessments including alternate assessments and interpreting assessment results and who to contact with questions.

We coordinated with Special Education to offer resources to families.

If you missed the workshop but would like the information presented, you may watch a video clip at <http://www.spaldingjags.org/Parents/index.html> or please contact me at (770) 229-3775 or Sandra.merritt@gscs.org.

Upcoming March Stakeholder Meeting

On March 14, 2019, all parents are invited to attend and participate in The Needs Assessment Meeting in the SHS Media Center at 5:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide input on the School Comprehensive Needs Assessment and to revise the School Improvement Plan.

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Griffin-Spalding County School System will work with homeless children and youths and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bonita Fluker, the system's McKinney-Vento liaison at bonita.fluker@gscs.org or 770-229-3700.

Promoting Science At Home

Science is a way of understanding the world, a perspective, and a pattern of thinking that begins in the very early years. That is why parent engagement is so important in a child's science education.

Families who explore together nurture great young scientists! Studies show that the family experiences that students bring to school are some of the biggest predictors of success.

Here are some additional tips:

- See science everywhere. Parents can take opportunities to ask "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be inquisitive and seek out answers. Children need to know that science is not just a subject, but it is a way of understanding the world around us.
- Lead family discussions on science-related topics. Dinnertime might be an ideal time for your family to have discussions about news stories that are science based, like space shuttle missions, severe weather conditions, or new medical breakthroughs.
- Encourage girls and boys equally. Be aware that both girls and boys need to be encouraged and exposed to a variety of subjects at a very early age.
- Do science together. Children, especially elementary-age children, learn better by investigating and experimenting.
- Obtain science resources. Follow up science discussions, home experiments, or classroom lessons with books, magazines, and other resources.
- Connect science with a family vacation. Family vacations are a great way to explore science. It could be a hiking trip where you explore nature or a discussion on tides during a beach vacation.
- Become active in your children's formal education by getting to know the teacher and the curriculum. Participate in your child's school science program and show excitement for science.

Monitoring Your Child's Progress

- One of the most important source of information about a child's progress is his or her teachers. Report cards provide some feedback about how a child is doing, however parents should also make an effort to communicate with the school on a regular basis.
- Parents can gather important information by observing their child in settings outside the classroom.
- Parents should talk to their child about school. They should ask about how what subjects are most enjoyable, how much time is spent on particular activities, and which assignments are easiest or most difficult. These types of conversations provide parents with useful information, and they can also help students develop the ability to monitor their own progress.

Your Input Is Valuable!

Each year we seek your input on how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement through the development of the School-Parent Compact. The compact is a written commitment that helps bridge the learning connection between school and home.

We also seek your input on how we can establish the expectations for family engagement and strengthen student academic achievement through the development of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The policy describes the different ways that the school will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

Please visit

<http://www.spaldingjags.org/documents/Compact%20Final%200-Correct%20Site-.pdf> to view the 2018-2019 School-Parent Compact and

<http://www.spaldingjags.org/documents/Spalding%20FY19%20Parent%20and%20Family%20Engagement%20Policy%20FINAL.pdf> Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/GSCSFY19PandFEngagementPolicy> to view the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

You may provide your feedback at

<https://tinyurl.com/GSCS2018FeedbackLink> or contact Sandra Merritt at (770) 229- 3775 or at Sandra.merritt@gscs.org.

Tips for Parents of Special Education Students

- Organize all paperwork

In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to maintain. Keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences.

- Review your child's current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

The IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program so it is important that you have a clear understanding of the plan. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

- Attend school events

Take advantage of all parent engagement events and resources offered to help promote academic achievement at home.