

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent

PULSE

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Parent Pulse is a publication created by the Office of Public Information. It is designed to keep parents of the St. Louis Public School District informed about news and events associated with their school system.

If you have questions, please contact Julie Linder at (314) 345-2367 or via email at Julie.Linder@slps.org.

Did You Know...

SLPS High Schools offer a wide array of programs to ensure that students are career and/or college ready upon graduation. Here are a few examples of programs that have received recognition for excellence in education.

Carnahan High School of the Future offers an introduction to engineering through Project Lead the Way, a national program which prepares students to be the most innovative and productive leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) model of education.



Transportation and Law Academy at Northwest enhances core curriculum through the study of law-related careers. As a result, students learn from groups such as the Secret Service, DEA, FBI and US Marshalls as well as judges, attorneys, colleges, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the St. Louis Fire Department, and other groups focusing on law-related education.

Roosevelt High School offers construction trades through the Division of Career and Technical Education. Students receive exposure to 19 specialized fields of

construction, including: electronics, HVAC, welding, plumbing, masonry, and carpentry.

Beaumont High School offers specialized instruction in airway management, CPR, mechanical ventilation, oxygen therapy, and medical terminology through the school's respiratory therapy program. Upon graduation students earn certification for two years in CPR, AED, and first aid, and will have served a semester-long internship.



Clyde C. Miller Academy offers students an advanced curriculum and career exposure in fields such as Biotechnology, Information Technology, Hospitality and Tourism, and Foodservices. Additionally, seniors participate in an internship with a respected company and/or organization within the community.



Gateway Institute of Technology offers a variety of

pathways to meet the diverse needs of students, including certification in areas such as Certified Nurse Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) and the Federal Aviation Administration Air Frame Maintenance License. The school also supports a renowned pre-veterinary science program for interested students.



Metro Academic and Classical High School serves as a college preparatory school, and offers a yearly scholarly program, a variety of advanced placement courses, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma. This diploma, recognized by the world's leading universities, is earned only through a challenging two-year curriculum and rigorous assessments.

Ensuring student success is important to the faculty and staff at SLPS. Because of this the Graduating Class of 2009 earned **\$42,968,553.00** in scholarships and grants towards higher education pursuits.

How Can I Be Involved in My Child's Education?

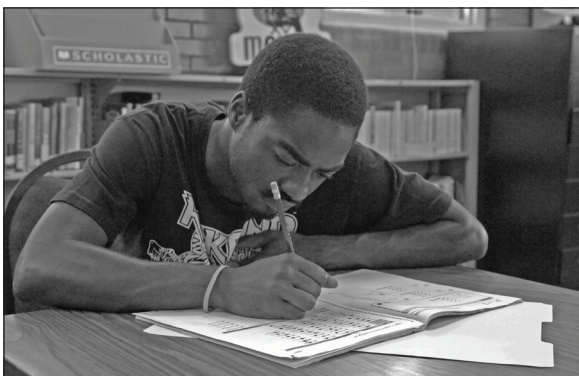
Research studies consistently reveal that high student achievement and self-esteem are closely related to positive parental participation in education. Because of this parents often ask the following questions:

Q: What can I do to involve myself with my child's school?

A: Schools value parent involvement by providing numerous opportunities for parents to interact with each other, with teachers, and with students. Please contact your child's school to find out how you can become involved.

Here are some other ideas:

- Visit your child's classroom; a visit will give you an idea of what your child does at school and how he or she interacts with other children.
- Volunteer to help in the classroom as an assistant (listening to children read, for example, or serving as an aide during computer work).
- Support student events and performances by helping with them (such as sewing costumes or painting scenery for a school play) and by attending them.
- If your school has a Parents' Room/Lounge or Parent Center, drop in to meet other parents and teachers there, or to pick up information and materials.
- Ask your child's teacher if he or she has materials that you can use to help your child at home and to supplement homework.

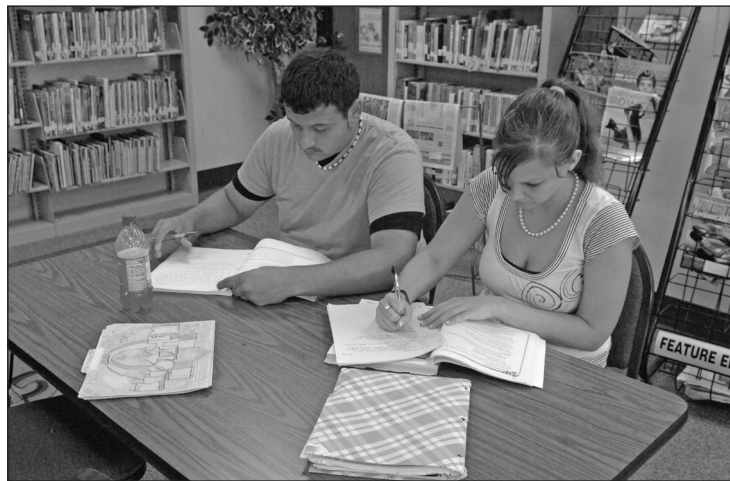


Q: How Can I Help My Child With Homework?

A: Most teachers assign homework on a regular basis because practice is needed before children fully understand new skills or concepts. Homework also increases the amount of learning time available and allows students to do more in-depth learning.

Here are some general guidelines for helping with homework:

- Reward progress; use lots of praise; display good work.



- Find out how much and what type of homework is assigned in each class, how students are expected to prepare it and turn it in, and what students can do when they don't understand something; help your child manage the workload by dividing it into small doses.

- Help your child develop a homework schedule that he or she can stick to.
- Talk to your child each day about homework assignments; go over work; see if it's complete; ask questions about it. But don't do your child's homework yourself.
- Provide a suitable place for study (if possible, make it



quiet and away from the distractions of TV, phone, and loud music).

- Avoid making homework a punishment.

Q: How Can I Make Our Home a Good Place for My Child To Learn?

A: A few suggestions that are recommended are:

- Have high expectations for your child's learning and behavior, both at home and at school.
- Praise and encourage your child.
- Emphasize effort and achievement, and be a role model for getting work done before play.
- Establish rules and routines in the home.
- Monitor television viewing.
- Limit after-school jobs and activities.
- Encourage your child to share information about school and respond with empathy.
- If you don't do anything else, read to your young child or have him or her read to you every night. Encourage older children to read by reading yourself and by having interesting and appropriate materials available.

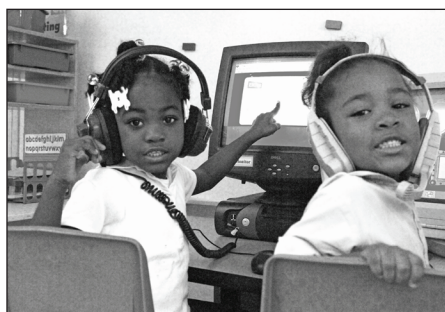
Works Cited: <http://www.kidsource.com/>

Early Reading First Program Improves Literacy Skills in Early Childhood Classrooms

In October 2006, the St. Louis Public Schools District was awarded a grant as part of the No Child Left Behind Act to support local efforts enhancing early language, literacy, and pre-reading development of preschool age children, particularly those from low-income families, through the Early Reading First Program.

The Early Reading First Program is designed to help early childhood centers improve their programs, by creating centers of excellence that provide preschool-age children with language and cognitive skills, and an early reading foundation.

At SLPS, 18 schools and four classrooms



through a community partnership with New Northside Child Development Center receive program benefits, and the results are impressive.

During the 2008-2009 school year, SLPS Early Reading First classrooms met or exceeded those standards in a variety of measurements set by the US Secretary of Education:

- According to the Federal standard, 83% of students participating in the program must know 20 or more upper case letters. SLPS proudly had 91% of the students meet this requirement. A difference of +8%.
- According to the Federal standard, 67% of participating students must demonstrate a 4 or more point gain on the Peabody Vocabulary test. SLPS proudly had 76% of the students meet this requirement. A difference of +9%.
- According to the Federal standard, 69% of participating students must achieve a standard score of 85 or higher on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary test. SLPS proudly had 83% of the students meet this requirement. A difference of +14%.



• 10 SLPS classrooms had perfect scores on the ELLCO (Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation)

• 16 SLPS classrooms were designated "Preschool Model Classrooms of Excellence" by the ELLCO.

• On the Pre-LAS (language assessment scales), 100% of the students made a one level gain and 63% made a gain of two levels.

For more information please contact the Office of Public Information (314) 345-2367.

FUTURE TREK

Did you know that eating a cookie dipped in liquid nitrogen would give you one heck of a brain freeze? Or that a fresh cut flower dipped in liquid nitrogen would disintegrate with a simple touch? If you answered no, then you missed an exciting morning at "FUTURE TREK".

Co-sponsored by the St. Louis Public Schools' Division of Career and Technical Education, the Saint Louis Science Center and the Academy of Science of St. Louis, "FUTURE TREK" exposes sixth grade students to careers in mathematics, science and technology. It also reinforces the district's literacy skills initiative, the Show-Me Standards, and the Missouri Assessment Program Test by providing teachers with activities to show students how relevant school subjects are in the working world.

Recently, sixth grade students from Mason eMINTS, Peabody Elementary, Gateway Middle, Bunche International Studies Middle, and Patrick Henry

Elementary schools spent time at the Taylor Community Science Resource Center where they analyzed skulls, designed robots, explored the effects of liquid nitrogen, and learned valuable lessons from respected scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and field specialists from the Boeing Company, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis School of Medicine, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Students then went to the Saint Louis Science Center for a scavenger hunt.

Other SLPS schools who have participated in "FUTURE TREK"

include Monroe eMINTS Academy, Compton Drew Investigative Learning Center, Fanning Middle, Cole eMINTS, Lyon @ Blow K-8, Mann eMINTS Academy, Stevens Middle, Busch AAA, Carr Lane VPA, Langston Middle, Long Middle, and McKinley CLA.



Students of Achievement

Kennedy Stomps, a junior at Metro A&C High School, was named a contestant for the prestigious Jeopardy!® 2009 Teen Tournament. Stomps surpassed approximately 3,000 students who passed the online screening and the 350 students selected for the “in-person” audition to earn one of the 15 spots in the national tournament.

Gracious Massaquoi, a fourth grade student at Oak Hill Elementary, has published her third book called *The Day My Teacher Got Married*. This story, like all of Massaquoi’s books, addresses serious issues facing families from the perspective of a child.

Nanette Ashford and **Carl Lewis**, seniors at Clyde C. Miller Career Academy, were elected to state offices with SkillsUSA, a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

Eric Martin, a senior at Fresh Start Academy,, serves as the co-president of the school’s Student Council. He actively recruits other young people to stay in school, graduate, and pursue one’s dreams. He also testified before the State of Missouri’s Taskforce on Dropout Prevention held in September.

KiOntey Turner, **Latasha Renner**, **Najma Nasiruddin**, and **Kanisha Hayes**, students at Gateway IT High School, were named recipients of the Brenda Schaefer Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship helps the students in the program defray the costs associated with obtaining an EMT license.

Jasmine Johnson, a senior at Soldan International Studies High School, was named a winner of the “Characters Unite National Town Hall Student Contest” sponsored by USA Network. Moderated by Tom Brokaw, the Characters Unite National Town Hall was broadcast live across the country and brought together the nation’s best and brightest leaders to see what can be done to inspire productive dialogue, promote tolerance, and foster understanding on the issues facing the nation today.

Elizabeth Glenn, a freshman at Metro A&C High School, has partnered with Catholic Charities and AmeriCorps to create the “Youth Planting Roots” project, which teaches students the importance of nutrition and the value of gardening. It also encourages community service and social business concepts by allowing the youth to take the vegetables they have grown and create an annual plan that would distribute the produce to vulnerable and low income families in their neighborhood.

SLPS SUPPORT NUMBERS

Weather Emergency Hotline:

(314) 345-2466

Events Hotline:

(314) 345-INFO (4636)

School Safety Anonymous Tips Hotline:

(314) 345-SLPS (7577)

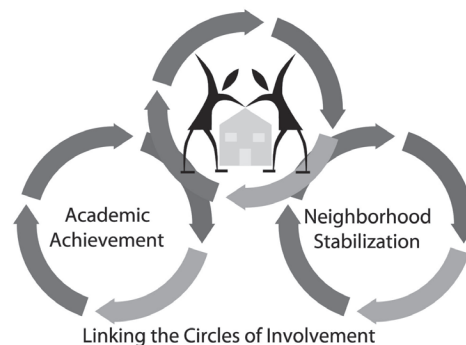
Transportation Support:

(314) 633-5100

Recruitment and Counseling:

(314) 633-5200

Community Education Full Service Schools’ Student Ambassadors Named



To become a Community Education Full Service Schools Student Ambassador a student is appointed by the CEFSS site administrator and council. In addition, the student should exhibit good behavior, have the ability to participate with city-wide activities, demonstrate leadership qualities, and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Please congratulate:

Bevo-Long CEFSS Ambassadors
Daniel Connors and Alexis Robinson

Clay CEFSS Ambassadors
Nianna Smith, Samara Miller, Aaliyah Scott, and LaKeySha Bosley

Ford CEFSS Ambassadors
Paulnisha McCleary and Kylynn Hunter

Hamilton CEFSS Ambassadors
Kiah Garrison and Nashawn McBeth-Spears

Lyon@ Blow CEFSS Ambassadors
Khalil Stone and Maya Peal

Mullanphy CEFSS Ambassadors
Cameron Ming, Tianna Smith, and Brittany Cummings

Nottingham CEFSS Ambassadors
Rebekah Ainsworth and Cortez Sayers

Shaw CEFSS Ambassadors
Jada Fowler, Kirsten Ellis, Tiana Jackson and Travis Jackson

Sigel CEFSS Ambassadors
Steven Corrigan, Robert Burns, Roderick Williams, and Torriana White

Stevens CEFSS Ambassadors
Aretha Brown and Alicia Townley

Vashon CEFSS Ambassadors
William Wallace, Sequoia Hudson, and Whitfield Montgomery

Walbridge CEFSS Ambassadors
John Norman Jr., Daisha Spencer, and Kayla Allen

Yeatman CEFSS Ambassadors
Collin Carter and Victoria Carlock

In addition, the Division of Community Education would like to remind students and families to enroll in afterschool programs. Please call (314) 345-4590 for more information.