

News Release

Jan. 29, 2007

Take Your Family to School Week

The DeKalb School District is inviting students to take their families to school during Take Your Family to School Week, Feb. 13-16. The event is sponsored and organized by the Executive Parent Advisory Council #428 (EPAC).

Take Your Family to School Week, also sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association, is designed to connect families with their children's school experience. Families are invited to come and observe a typical day.

"We are very excited to offer this opportunity to the parents, students and teachers in the DeKalb school district. It is so important for parents or other significant caregivers to take part in the academic journey with their child. Student learning is a shared responsibility and it makes sense to create an atmosphere that brings parents and school staff together," said Mary Hess, EPAC president.

"Our primary goal for this program," Hess said, "is to help parents gain a better understanding of their child's school day. By participating in this event, parents will see firsthand the teacher and student classroom interaction and also witness the quality of instruction being provided to their children at school. Additionally, we hope this program will assist in building more comfortable relationships between parents and teachers. There is a tremendous amount of research that outlines the benefits of parental involvement in relation to academic achievement. The outcome of this research is clear and consistent – students, educators, and schools all perform better when parents are actively involved."

Each school in the DeKalb School District will celebrate the week in its own way. Some schools plan to invite parents for lunch and classroom time on specific days. Cortland Elementary has expanded its event to include evening programs such as Science Night and Family Fitness Night. DeKalb High School will host an Open House for parents on Feb. 13. Each school will send home information about its events and ask parents to let them know when they will visit. In order to minimize disruptions to the school day, principals ask that younger siblings not be brought to school.

"Take Your Family to School Week is an opportunity for parents and other family members to see firsthand life on a typical school day," said Superintendent Paul Beilfuss. "We appreciate the leadership and energy EPAC has shown in sponsoring this event. We look forward to working closely with them for the remainder of the school year and in the future."

The Executive Parent Advisory Council #428 (EPAC) is a parent-created and parent-led organization. It was formed in October 2006 as a means of improving relations between all schools groups in the DeKalb Community Unit School District #428. EPAC is composed primarily of parent members who are active in their school Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). School district officials and school board and principal liaisons attend EPAC meetings as ex-officio (non-voting) members. The purpose of EPAC is to ensure that parents have an organized voice in the school district; that parents are involved in decision-making processes as appropriate; and that parent needs, concerns and issues are regularly communicated to and addressed by the DeKalb School Board. In addition, EPAC members share information and resources relating to operating an effective PTA/PTO. For more information about EPAC, contact Hess at mhess93@netzero.com.