DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

THE PARENT POST

FACILITATING FAMILY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

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Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

STRONGER TOGETHER: CELEBRATING NATIONAL PARENT ENGAGEMENT MONTH

BY KALEENA LATTIMORE, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CONTACT, NEW MANCHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November is National Parent Engagement Month, a special time to celebrate the incredible role parents and families play in their children's education. So here is a big hat off to each and everyone of you for all that you do! At any grade level, the impact of family involvement is HUGE!

As a parent of two school aged children myself, I know just how daunting the end of the day can be when you are met with the expectation of helping your child with homework, projects and all of the other things the school day can bring. I want to encourage you to start off the evenings with questions that can lead to meaningful conversations. Try questions like, "What made you smile today?" "What was something new you learned?" or "What was the hardest part of your day?" You will be surprised by all the things your student will say.

Here are a few simple ways to STAY ENGAGED:

- Check the Backpack Daily and the School Calendar often! Look for school notices, assignments, upcoming events, and important dates. Staying informed helps children see that home and school are working together.
- Read, Read, Read! Read together, take turns reading aloud, visit the library, or let your child read something they love to you. Even a few minutes each day can help build strong reading habits.
- Celebrate your child's effort in addition to celebrating their grades. Acknowledge persistence, improvement, kindness, responsibility, and good attendance. Children need to know that their hard work matters, even when everything isn't perfect.
- Stay Connected and volunteer when possible.
- Attend family events, communicate with your child's teacher, participate when you can, and reach out when you have questions. Parent engagement can happen at school, at home, and even through a quick email or phone call.

This National Parent Engagement Month, we celebrate our parents, grandparents, guardians, and caregivers. Thank you for being our partners in education and for helping our students learn, grow, and soar into "destination excellence."

CELEBRATING PARENT ENGAGEMENT

BY JULIE KING, ESOL TEACHER, ANNETTE WINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MICHELE ANDUZE, ESOL TEACHER, EASTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This month we are excited to celebrate our English Learners' first teachers...YOU! We recognize that parents are a child's first teacher. As educators, we are proud to partner with you to help your EL achieve success. You can help your child by becoming more involved in his or her education.

- Read to your child. This is the most important way to help! Whether you read in your home language or in English, it will impact your child in a positive way. Encourage your child to read to you as well.
- Talk to your child. Having conversations in any language builds vocabulary and improves listening skills.
- Participate in school activities. We love for parents to come eat lunch, join us for special events, and attend meetings or conferences.
- Communicate with your EL's teachers. We are happy to answer questions and help in any way we can.
- Share your culture and family traditions in our schools! There are so many opportunities for parents to teach our students about people and places from around the world.

Thank you for allowing us to partner with YOU to continue your child's learning! We love our students and their families so much! We learn from each other every day. Let's continue to work together to help our students make great progress!



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DCSSGA.org
THE STANDARD of EXCELLENCE

THE POWER OF PARENT ENGAGEMENT

BY LAUREN CRABTREE, PRINCIPAL, YOUTH VILLAGES INNER HARBOUR

Parent engagement goes hand in hand with student success. When families, parents, guardians, and caregivers take an active role in their child's education the outcomes can be everlasting. Some ways that parents, guardians, and caregivers can get engaged include communicating with teachers, monitoring academic progress, attending school events, and encouraging learning at home.

As parents, guardians, caregivers, and teachers build a collaborative and positive relationship, students will see and feel it. The strong partnerships between families, guardians and schools can create a supportive network where students feel valued, motivated, and connected. The power of connection helps students feel a sense of safety. When students see that their parents, guardians and caregivers are working together with their teachers, they understand that their education is important and that they have a team cheering them on every step of the way.

We encourage all families, guardians, and caregivers to stay active, stay engaged, ask questions, participate in school activities, and celebrate their child's growth. By working together, we can create the foundation for every student to learn, grow, and succeed.

Please remember that your involvement makes a difference. By collaborating, we can ensure every student feels supported, empowered, and prepared for success. Let's make this a year of strong partnerships and outstanding growth for all students.

WHAT IS OUR DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN?

Think of this policy as our district's official promise to you. Because some of our schools receive federal Title I funding, we are committed to making sure families have a real voice in their children's education.

In short, it's a shared roadmap for how home and school work together as a team:

- **Parents help us write, review, and update this policy every year.**
- **It outlines how we share tools, workshops, and resources to help you support your child.**
- **It promises that school news will be easy to understand and translated when needed.**
- **It ensures every family can participate, regardless of language, schedule, or background.**
- **It guarantees federal funds are set aside specifically for family events and resources.**

When families and schools team up, our students win! To view the DCSS Parent and Family Enagement Plan, click HERE.

MAKING THE MOST OF PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

BY PATTI SULLIVAN, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Parent-teacher conferences are a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and collaborate on their growth. Most conferences are brief (about 15 to 20 minutes), so a little preparation goes a long way toward making the conversation meaningful and productive.

Whether you meet in person or virtually, remember that you are the expert on your child, while the teacher is the expert on the classroom environment. Working together as a team ensures your child has the support they need to thrive.

What to Share with the Teacher

Help the teacher get to know your child beyond the classroom day and test scores. Some of the topics to share can include:

- Favorite subjects, hobbies outside of school, or what excites them about learning.
- How they handle homework, screen time, or independent study.
- Any medical needs, physical health updates, or dietary considerations.
- Major events that can impact your child's focus or emotional well-being—such as a recent move, family changes, or a new sibling.

Questions to Ask

Here are a few questions to help guide the parent teacher discussion:

- What are the main learning goals and expectations for this grade level?
- How is my child progressing in reading, math, and other core subjects?
- How does my child perform on daily classroom tasks versus formal assessments?
- How does my child interact with other students?
- What is their learning style, and how do they respond to classroom routines?
- How do they handle challenges or frustration?
- What is your preferred way to stay in touch?
- Are all assignments and attendance records up to date in the parent portal?

Next Steps: Building a Partnership

- Focus on some clear strategies you and the teacher can implement—both at home and in the classroom—to support your child.
- Ask about ways to support the classroom (volunteering, supplying needed materials, etc.)
- As students grow older, student-led or joint conferences are a great way to encourage self-advocacy and ownership over their learning.

To schedule your upcoming parent-teacher conference, please reach out directly to your child's teacher or log in to the school parent portal (Infinite Campus).

UPCOMING TITLE I PARENT WORKSHOPS

PARENTS OF CHILDREN BEING SERVED WITH TITLE I FUNDS MAY ATTEND ANY WORKSHOP, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION. PLEASE CHECK THE SCHEDULE TO DETERMINE IF PARENT WORKSHOPS WILL BE VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.

Dorsett Shoals Elementary School
5866 Dorsett Shoals Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3700 dses.dcssga.org

Donuts with Grown Ups
November 20, 2026 at 7:30am
Come start the school day with your child! Students will have the opportunity to read with their "grown up" and provide a glimpse into their day-to-day learning.

Eastside Elementary School
8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3800 eses.dcssga.org

The Write Stuff - A Family Celebration
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 5:30 pm
Join us for an exciting evening filled with fun, creativity, expressive writing, and learning! Families will have the opportunity to write, create, share ideas, and discover the joy and power of putting thoughts into words.

Factory Shoals Elementary School
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3900 fses.dcssga.org

Homework Help 101
November 11, 2026 at 5:00 pm
Discover strategies to end homework battles and cultivate your child's independence through a growth mindset. Perfect for parents whose kids get frustrated or stuck during home study time.

Factory Shoals Middle School
3301 Shoals School Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5800 fsms.dcssga.org

Math and STEM Night
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm
We will highlight our Math Standards and how STEM activities bring learning to life. Community partners will offer activities and/or presentations to help families connect classroom learning to real-world experiences.

Lithia Springs Elementary School
6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4100 lses.dcssga.org

Math Night
Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Join us to explore how math is taught in our classrooms and discover how your child solves problems in class. You'll leave with practical, simple strategies and everyday activities to support your child's math confidence and learning at home.

New Manchester Elementary School
2242 Old Lower River Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4400 nmes.dcssga.org

Math Takes Flight at New Manchester Elementary
Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Math Takes Flight is an engaging, hands-on workshop for K-5 families designed to build student confidence and number sense through interactive games. Parents will discover fun, practical strategies to support their child's math fluency at home and help them achieve excellence.

North Douglas Elementary School
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-4800 ndes.dcssga.org

Helping with Homework & Study Skills
Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 5:30 pm
This workshop equips parents and educators with practical strategies to create a peaceful, structured study routine that builds effective time management and independent problem-solving habits. By fostering these skills, students learn to eliminate distractions and take full ownership of their learning.

UPCOMING PARENT WORKSHOPS

PLEASE CHECK THE SCHEDULE TO DETERMINE IF PARENT WORKSHOPS WILL BE VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.

Chapel Hill Elementary School

4433 Coursey Lake Road, Douglasville, GA 30135

(770) 651-3600 ches.dcssga.org

Thanksgiving Thankful Thursday

November 11-12, 2026

Thankful Thursday is a beloved tradition where parents join their children for a Thanksgiving lunch and interactive classroom activities. Get a firsthand look at daily learning and academic standards, helping bridge the gap between home and school.

Holly Springs Elementary School

4909 West Chapel Hill Road, Douglasville, GA 30135

(770) 651-4000 hses.dcssga.org

STEM Night

November 5, 2026 at 5 pm

We will explore hands-on science, math, and coding alongside high school student mentors. It's a fun-filled evening designed to ignite curiosity, spark future careers, and show our students what's possible!

Mason Creek Elementary School

3400 Johnston Road, Winston, GA 30187

(770) 651-4900 maes.dcssga.org

Addressing Parent Concerns

November 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm

This workshop brings parents and administration together for open dialogue to address concerns, collaborate on solutions, and strengthen our partnership in supporting our students.

Mirror Lake Elementary School

2613 Tyson Road, Villa Rica, GA 30180

(770) 651-4300 mles.dcssga.org

Lunch and Learn

November 19, 2026 - during school day

This will be an opportunity for families to have lunch with their students and then join them in the classroom for fun math activities. Families will be able to learn the math strategies that their students are learning and using to apply their math skills.

South Douglas Elementary School

8299 Highway 166, Douglasville, GA 30135

(770) 651-4500 sdes.dcssga.org

Science Night

November 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm

At Science Night, Bear Cubs and their families can conduct fun experiments and think like scientists. It's an unforgettable evening designed for the whole family to explore, discover, and learn together!

Turner Middle School

7101 Turner Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

(770) 651-5500 tms.dcssga.org

TMS, How are we doing?

November 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Join us for Coffee, Doughnuts, and Discussion. We invite all parents to this informational meeting to discuss the results of the recent parent survey regarding school climate and culture.

Yeager Middle School

400 Kings Highway, Douglasville, GA 30135

(770) 651-5600 yms.dcssga.org

Homework without the Hassle

November 5, 2026 at 11:00 am

Learn practical, stress-free strategies to help your child stay organized, complete assignments, and build strong homework habits. Discover ways to provide support at home while encouraging independence and confidence.