



## **PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM**

### **2007-08 OVERVIEW Effective Fall 2007**

The purpose of the awards program is to build support and resources for our children. The desired outcome is to boost student achievement. We all want our youth to have the greatest learning opportunities possible and recognize that parent and community involvement is key to attaining that goal.

The foundation research for the program is Henderson and Mapp's 2002 assessment of 25 independent research studies. Their review concluded that "Students whose parents are more involved than average have academic achievement rates a full 30 percent higher than other students."

Parents can log time to contribute to the tally of volunteer and involvement hours at their children's school. Log books are located in each school office. The totals of parent and community logged time contribute to award recognition for each school.

The 2007-08 program guidelines are based on the following priorities expressed by parents during the 2006-07 school year:

**Priority 1:** I want my child to be successful in school.

**Priority 2:** I want my child to be in the *best* school.

**Priority 3:** We need more opportunities, constructive activities, and positive things for kids to do in our community.

**Priority 4:** We need more specific guidelines for the volunteer awards program.

#### **Priority 1: Helping Your Child Be Successful**

**Overview:** Based on research, *home discussion with your child* is the area of parent involvement that has the greatest influence on student success. The program seeks to encourage and promote the concept of "parents are a child's first and most important teacher."

Examples:

- Reading to or with your child books, magazines, newspapers, etc. (TV turned off)

- Setting aside specific time to listen and talk with your child about what is going on in school, his/her concerns, goals, and needs
- Supporting successful completion of homework and projects
- Family meetings to plan home expectations and educational outings
- Watching educational TV programs (such as the History or Discovery Channel) with your children *and* discussing the program afterward
- Educational outings to historical sites, museums, programs at state parks, *and* discussing what you heard and saw – encouraging children to relate it to things they have studied in school
- Participating in children’s beyond school educational activities such as recreation department programs
- Actively supervising student’s educational activities on the computer such as learning games (not violent or just for entertainment kind of games), research, letter writing *and* discussing results
- Engaging your child in cooking which includes planning nutrition, reading recipes, and measuring amounts
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Volunteering at school helps parents understand their children’s world and enriches home discussions.

## **Priority 2: Helping Your Child’s School Be the *Best***

**Overview:** What can parents and community members do to make a school the best it can be? Parents and community can provide those “extras” that make learning more fun and dynamic for students. Parent involvement can have significant impact on staff morale and can help maintain the attractiveness of the school. Parents can be present at meetings to receive important information and communicate to teachers that the parents in the community *care*. In short, parents can make a difference in the “spirit” of a school by being involved.

Examples:

- Time contributed as a PTO officer, committee chairman, or member. If you have an idea of something that you would like to do, contact your PTO president or leave a message in the school office.
- Being a “Room Mother”
- Assisting with a phone calling tree
- Coordinating an email parent notification list for class or club
- Volunteering in the media center
- Volunteering in the classroom
- Mentoring
- Attending organized school functions such as PTO meetings (Be sure to sign-in at the beginning of the meeting)

- Attending breakfast events and other school social events such as Doughnuts for Dads *if workshop or curriculum information is presented such as “Tips to Help Your Child Understand Measuring” or “How to Help Your Child Be More Responsible”*
- Fund Raising
- Landscaping
- Assist or sponsor school clubs
- Volunteering to help with Fall Festival, Title I Annual Meeting, Curriculum Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, etc.
- Volunteer coaching and concession stand duty
- Chaperone field trips

### **Priority 3: Helping Provide More Opportunities for Youth in the Community**

**Overview:** Research has shown that positive activities for youth have significant impact on the well-being of the child and the community. Communities that “put their arms around their youth” are less likely to have gangs and youth crime. Students who are active in community programs are more likely to succeed in school and less likely to participate in personally destructive activities such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and teen sex.

To be included on the log at your child’s school the activity should include your child and/or students at that school.

Examples:

- Leading or assisting with a Boy or Girl Scout Troop
- Coaching or helping with a recreation league team
- Volunteering at the Boys and Girls Clubs
- Mentoring
- Volunteering with other character building organizations

### **Priority 4: Helping Create More Specific Guidelines**

**Overview:** For this program to be successful the guidelines must be defined. The guidelines are available at [www.pickenscountyschools.org](http://www.pickenscountyschools.org) The guidelines can also be found in the log books in each school office. Please email your ideas or questions to [ameliamcintyre@pickens.k12.ga.us](mailto:ameliamcintyre@pickens.k12.ga.us) The log sheets are checked before hours are tallied to ensure fairness. However, it is each individual’s responsibility to follow the spirit of the honor code listed on each page of the sign in sheet.