

Success Xpress

Joint Base San Antonio School Liaison Newsletter

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Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Parent Involvement = School Success

This year, make a promise to encourage your kids in school

From America's Career Resource <http://cte.ed.gov/acrn/parents/schoolsuccess.htm>

Why Get Involved?

Research reveals many benefits when parents are involved in their child's education, including:

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attitudes and behavior
- Better school attendance
- More homework completed
- Less chance of placement in special education
- Greater likelihood of graduating from high school
- Better chance of enrolling in postsecondary education.

Showing an interest in your child's education, setting high expectations for achievement and letting your child know you believe in his or her abilities sets a positive context for growth and achievement.

How Do I Get Involved?

Make school important! You can reinforce the importance of school if you:

- Speak positively

about your child's teachers and counselors.

- Talk to your child about the benefits of education.
- Make sure your child gets to school on time.
- Attend open houses and parent-teacher conferences.
- Answer notes and calls from your child's teacher.
- Encourage reading and writing

What Can I Do I at Home?

You can foster school success at home if you:

- Make sure your child arrives at school well-rested.
- Make sure your child has a good breakfast before school.
- Set a regular time and ensure a quiet place for your child to do homework.
- Ask your child what he or she has learned in school each day.
- Limit his or her television, computer and video game time.
- Praise and encourage your child.
- Celebrate your child's successes.

Teachable Moments

You can turn ordinary time together into teachable moments if you:

- Use car time to talk to your child (about what you see from the car, about his or her day, about your day).



- Plan to eat at least one meal each day as a family and use this time for positive family discussions.
- Let your child help prepare the meal, and talk about each step.
- Look for things to do together as a family.

What Can I Do at School?

You can strengthen the connection with school if you:

- Attend open houses and back-to-school nights.
- Attend school programs.
- Read the school newsletter.
- Join the parent-teacher association.
- Take part in after-school events.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Support your child in school activities.

TAKE THE GREAT PARENT'S PLEDGE!

Visit <http://www.greatschools.net/pledge/> to pledge your commitment.

WEB RESOURCES OF THE MONTH

AWESOME LIBRARY FOR TEENS "The Awesome Library organizes 22,000 carefully reviewed K-12 education resources for teens. It contains a directory, an index, and a search engine." <http://www.awesomelibrary.org/student5.html>

LEARN 4 GOOD Free access to hundreds of educational games, activities, worksheets, lessons & top schools websites for all kids including teens. You will also find links to kids' toys, clothes and health issues. <http://www.learn4good.com/kids/index.htm>

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The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called "truth." ~Dan Rather

Transitions

Source: *Military Kids on the Move*

apps.mhf.dod.mil/pls/psgprod/f?p=MYOM:HOME:340771.1595453416

Helping your children adjust to a new school



Taking the time to find out what your child can expect at her new school will help ease a lot of anxiety.

School can become like a second home for children of any age, a place to make friends and discover new talents. Changing schools in the middle of the year, or even over the summer break, can be scary. If your family has moved before, you may already have great strategies in place to help your children deal with the experience again. No matter how many times you've moved, check out the information below for some ideas on helping your children smoothly transition to a brand new school.

SHARPEN THE SAW

How do I help my child adjust to a new school?

Focus on the positive. Although changing schools can lead to anxiety and worry, help your child focus on the positive side of the move. It's a chance to start over, meet new people, and learn new things.

Learn as much as you can about your child's new

school and share this information with the family. Find out what the new school looks like, how many children are in each class, even what they are learning. In addition, see what the school offers that your child will be excited about, like a good art program or a certain sport. This may help alleviate some of your child's fears. Get involved. Is there any way to visit the school before your child attends? Can your child get a tour of the school before school starts? Can your child meet or e-mail with the new teacher or a student ahead of time? Can you arrange to have your child meet someone who already attends the school? The more familiar you can make the school, the easier it will be when your child begins attending.

Contact your new installation and see if it has a Youth Sponsorship Program. If so, get your child paired up with

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- Help edit the school newsletter.

What About the Teenage Years?

Teens are developing a sense of self and independence, but parents still have a strong influence in these years. You can provide positive support if you:

- Keep the lines of communication open.
- Set fair and consistent rules with your teenager's input.
- Support his or her future and continue to show that education is important.
- Set a good example through your own involvement in school and community.
- Continue to make time for family activities.

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Parent Involvement = School Success

- Spend time at the school as a volunteer or visitor. By doing so you can find out:
 - How your child is doing with class work
 - How your child interacts with other children
 - Whether the teacher is having any discipline problems.

If you can't spend time at school because of work and other commitments, you can still connect from home. For example, you could:

- Offer to call other parents to notify them of school events.

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SCHOOL LIAISON

The school liaison office helps to connect parents, schools, and the military by providing direct assistance to parents in all matters to do with K-12 schooling: school selection, enrollment, and resource referral; educating schools and districts on important issues affecting military children K-12; and keeping the installation, wing, and unit commanders informed on all issues affecting the local educational community. Please contact our office if you would like to be added to our volunteer or newsletter distribution lists or if you have ideas/input for future parent/community workshops or ideas for our newsletter.

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Transitions

another youth who already lives there to find out what kids are wearing and where they hang out before you move.

Make extra time. Your child is going to have concerns and questions about the new school. Make yourself available to answer these questions and listen to their concerns. Especially on the first day of school, make arrangements to be there to support your child if at all possible.

Plan something special. Even without a lot of money, come up with something special for your child's first days at school. A couple of new outfits or a new backpack can help your child get excited about the new school.

Helpful Tips

Making new friends is the best way for your child to get more comfortable and excited about a new school.

Check out the "I'll Never Meet Anyone There" section of our web site for ways to help your child do just that.

If your child has special needs, make sure you call ahead and talk to someone who can ensure your child's needs will be met. Make sure the new school gets a current copy of your child's IEP or any other records they may need. Register with your new Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and access their help if you need it.



College Corner

www.collegeprep101.com

College Checklist for Mobile Military Students September-December

Juniors:

- Check your GPA for accuracy and determine class rank. Gather information on how these are determined in case there is a move before graduation.
- Ask if you need to take a high school exit exam. If so, learn what it covers and when it will be administered so you can prepare. If you missed some topics (such as state history) due to moves, ask for waivers or alternatives.
- When you feel prepared, take the SAT exam. <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg.html>
- If you are applying to a military academy, begin the process.
- Write a first draft of your resume. Include employment history, volunteer work, classes and hobbies. Ask a counselor or an English teacher to review it and make suggestions for improvement.
- Draft your college application essay. Make sure to highlight those issues that make you special.

Seniors:

- Meet with your counselor to make sure you are on track for graduation.
- Request official transcripts early in the fall, as they can

sometimes take some time to obtain.

- Check if you need to take a high school exit exam. If so, gather all necessary information to prepare.
- If there are college-specific admission tests, auditions or portfolio submission, collect materials and make appointments.
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, pay careful attention to deadlines and requirements.
- Add to your resume and finalize it after asking your counselor or teacher to review it.
- Continue to take AP classes—they are available online if your school does not offer them.
- Check when financial aid applications are due.
- Finalize your college application essay.
- Complete and mail application to your first and second choice colleges.
- Continue to take advanced math classes, such as Statistics, Pre-Calculus, or Calculus.
- Talk about Work Study options with colleges.
- If interested, ask about ROTC programs.
- Take your mid-year exams very seriously. Some colleges may want transcripts of your fall semester grades.

The Grab Bag

Texas Homeschool Regulations

Source:

www.soarathome.com

Student Online Achievement Resources In Texas, home schools have been legally recognized as private schools



since 1994. The home school must use written curriculum, teach the five core subjects of reading, grammar, math, spelling and good citizenship (civics course). Homeschoolers do not have to register with the school district, submit to home visits, or submit curriculum for approval by the school district. The school district cannot mandate standardized testing. As a result, you are not required to administer annual testing to your students.

For more information contact:
Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)
www.hsllda.org

Texas Homeschool Coalition
www.thsc.org

San Antonio Home Education Resources and Opportunities (SAHERO)
www.sahero.org

USO Launches "Me and a Friend" for Military Kids

Source: www.usometro.org

The Washington Nationals are the first organization to formally activate this program through its local USO, the USO of Metropolitan Washington, on the 4th of July. Fifty tickets will go to families to launch the program. The children will be recognized in the stadium during the game, and they will be the first to run the bases following

the game. This initiative will continue throughout the season and beyond. "Me and a Friend" was designed by the USO in cooperation with various partner organizations and in consultation with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Community Relations and Public Liaison. The program recognizes the unique challenges and sacrifices made by the children of military service members, especially those who have a parent who is deployed. Most military children move every few years and must adjust to a new community and make new friends. This initiative provides an opportunity to connect with their peers. The USO is reaching out to professional sports teams across the United States and partnering with local military organizations to support military kids nationwide through this program. The Nationals and the USO-Metro will partner with other military support organizations to distribute tickets for all Sunday home games. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis through USO-Metro's TicketLine program. Military families can also visit www.usometro.org/tickets to check availability.

SAT/ACT Prep Program for Military Families

FREE SAT/ACT software is available to military families. The SAT and ACT PowerPreptm DVs include more than 11 hours of video instruction and 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material, thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, practice tests and graphic teaching illustrations are indexed for easy use. Eligible recipients include service members from all



branches of the military who are active duty, retired, Veterans, Guard, Reserve, DoD employees, and civilians performing military support. Also eligible are relatives and dependants of anyone who otherwise qualifies from the prior list. To place an order: www.eKnowledge.com/USA Enter Sponsorship Code: 9F2C2942EB.

Scholarship Hunt

Freshman & Sophomores

National High School Poetry Contest:

For all high school students who submit an original, unpublished poem of less than 20 lines. Several awards of up to \$1500 available. (www.highschoolpoetrycontest.com)

John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest:

Students are asked to write an original and creative essay of less than 1,000 words that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in Profiles in Courage. Students should use a variety of sources such as newspaper articles, books, and/or personal interviews to address this year's essay topic. The essay topic, submission guidelines, and contest details can be found at: (www.jfklibrary.org/Education+and+Public+Programs/Profile+in+Courage+Award/Essay+Contest+for+High+School+Students/)

Juniors & Seniors

NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund:

For college-bound high school juniorFor all high school students participating in a writing contest. 1 award of \$4,000 is available. (www.nradefensefund.org/writingcontest.aspx)

Dell Scholars Program: The Dell Scholars Program is offered to those high school students participating in an approved AVID program. The funding for each Dell Scholar is substantial: \$20,000. (www.dellscholars.org)

