

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

September 26, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Maryland Family Engagement Month—October 2011

WHEREAS, Our children are our most valuable resources and are the key to our future economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers and have high hopes and dreams for their children's future; and

WHEREAS, Research shows when parents are involved in their children's education, students have better attendance rates, show increased motivation, earn higher grades, and have a greater chance of attending college; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools encourages parent and family involvement in the school community to support children's education, healthy development, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, All school system staff members are available to assist families with information and support to ensure parents, guardians, and caregivers may engage fully in their children's education; and

WHEREAS, When parents and schools supported by the community in shared partnership work together, our children benefit and become lifelong learners and contribute positively to our society; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools provides opportunities for parents to engage with school system staff by attending Back-to-School Nights, the Open House for K-12, parent-teacher conferences, and other activities scheduled throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, Parents may find answers to their questions by using the *Parent Guide*, which is available on the Montgomery County Public Schools website; attending the ASK MCPS Drop-In Coffees; participating in one of the Superintendent's "Listen and Learn" events or one of the Board of Education's Community Conversations events; or contacting the ASK MCPS call center; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools also connects with parents and students through *MCPS QuickNotes* e-mail newsletters, Montgomery County Public Schools Television Channel 34, and Twitter; and

WHEREAS, The importance of parent involvement in education requires not only recognition, but a firm commitment for our policies and actions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools hereby declare the month of October 2011 to be Maryland Family Engagement Month in Montgomery County Public Schools and encourage families, staff, and community members to recognize the importance of parent involvement in improving student achievement.

JPS:daf