



Parent Power

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 10

MAY 2019

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An End-of-the-School Year Guide for Parents



You can make this into a positive experience by praising good grades and offering support (instead of criticism) for mediocre grades. If grades are unsatisfactory, calmly discuss them so that, together, you can identify the problem and find a solution.

Find out about next year's teachers/curriculum

If possible, meet with next fall's teacher(s) to discuss curriculum and any other issues you feel are important.

Look into schools for next year

If you're planning to change schools, it's crucial to start searching well in advance of the summer months. If you've already chosen the school, make appointments to talk to the new people in your child's life—such as principal and teachers—during the current school year, before they leave for their summer break.

Send thank-you notes to teachers

It may seem trivial, but a gesture like a thank-you note can go a long way toward encouraging good teachers to continue the work they're doing. And the end of the school year is a perfect time to send a letter, or find other ways, to express your gratitude. Teacher appreciation gifts can be helpful as well.

Health Checklist

Make doctor and dentist appointments for your children.

This is a good time of year to schedule those annual physicals—and don't forget eye exams as well. It's helpful to schedule them while the kids are on their summer break so they don't miss any school time.

The end of the school year, and the transition to summer break, is an important time to take stock and review your child's scholastic progress while still looking ahead to summer activities.

With so much to think about in the spring and summer, including family vacations and summer camps, it's easy to get overwhelmed—but an end-of-year checklist can provide a valuable planning tool to help you organize and prioritize your family activities for the coming months. Here's a basic to-do list which you can easily adapt to your own family's lifestyle.

End-of-School Checklist

Help your child stay focused during the last weeks of school.

The last month or two of school can be a stressful experience, as your child deals with final exams along with end-of-year music/theater performances and athletic competitions. This is the time to show support and encouragement while keeping household stress to a minimum.

Review your child's report cards

An End-of-the-School Year Guide for Parents (continued)

Talk to your children about any important health-related issues that need attention. This includes mental as well as physical health; so it's also a good time to talk to them about their school life—are they happy with their teachers and friends? Is there anything that's worrying them about the coming school year? The end of the school year is the best time to think about changing schools, so speak to your kids about any issues that may warrant considering a new school.

Summer Planning Checklist

Look into summer camps



If you're planning to send your child to summer camp, it's a good idea to get a head start on your search at least a couple of months before summer starts.

Look into summer schools

As with camps, if summer school is part of your summer

plan, be sure to start looking several months in advance. Online summer school courses are also a possibility.

Make your vacation plans

Of course, vacations are different for each family; but it helps to plan ahead. Whether you choose a road trip or a visit to Disney World, you'll need to make plans early. Be sure to schedule important activities, such as medical appointments, so that they don't conflict with your vacation plans.

Help with summer job searches

If your child is old enough for a summer job and expresses a desire to have one, the best thing you can do as a parent is participate in the search. You might even be able to help by talking to business friends and acquaintances who need extra summer help.

Look for enjoyable summer activities for your child

If you feel that your child needs extra summer activities added to his/her schedule, look into local summer learning programs. Ideas include swimming/athletics, craft lessons (such as pottery or drawing), theater, or music. Be sure to get your child's input, and choose things your child will enjoy.

The end of the school year should give your child the opportunity to take a healthy break from the pressures and expectations of school. By planning ahead, you can help lower stress for your family while making the summer months a special season for everyone to anticipate and enjoy.



Warren Drake Named Superintendent of the Year by Magnet Schools of America



Left to right: Adam Smith—Associate Superintendent, Warren Drake—Superintendent, John McCann—Executive Director of Middle Schools, and Theresa Porter, Director of Magnet Programs

Mr. Warren Drake has been named Superintendent of the Year by Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the national association for magnet schools, who recognizes the important work of leadership within the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to keep magnet schools a priority in the portfolio of school choice options.

“Superintendent Drake has done a phenomenal job building magnet school culture in his district,” said Todd Mann, Executive Director of Magnet Schools of America. “Because of him, more East Baton Rouge Parish students have access to a high-quality magnet education. We are grateful for his leadership, and thrilled to celebrate his accomplishments.”

Magnet Schools of America (“MSA”) select a Superintendent of the Year annually based on a leadership skills, particularly in developing and supporting magnet schools/programs; commitment to improving the quality of education in his/her school district through the development and implementation of high-quality magnet programs/schools and that have diverse enrollments; commitment to the support of magnets at the local, state and national levels; involvement in education; and ability to build good employee relations among teachers and staff members.

Based on a report commissioned by Magnet Schools of America and conducted by the University of North Carolina-Charlotte’s Urban Institute in 2016, there are approximately 4,340 public elementary and secondary magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 million students in the United States.

Magnet schools are the largest form of public-school choice. They were originally created in the early 1970’s as a means of voluntarily promoting school integration and improving the quality of America’s educational system through innovative curricula and classroom instruction.

Magnet schools utilize a variety of academic themes to attract students of different racial, ethnic, and

socioeconomic backgrounds including: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), language immersion, business and communications, careers and technology, and visual and performing arts. Others use specialized instructional techniques like those found in Montessori schools or Immersion programs.

During his tenure, Superintendent Drake has continuously been praised for his efforts to expand theme-based programs in his school district. During the 2017-2018 academic year, he launched new magnet programs focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The district also secured a \$15 million STEM-based grant from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) under Mr. Drake’s leadership. Recognizing the importance of school choice and the role magnet programs have had in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Mr. Drake has continuously supported the expansion of magnet schools and increased the number of seats where possible, to ensure parents are provided additional choice options.

“I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the National Magnet Schools of America Award. As the superintendent of a district with students of diverse needs, I understand the importance of Magnet Programs, a choice option that has provided thousands of families with the opportunity to enroll and embrace innovative and specialized programs, which is the reason I have expanded seats in magnet schools,” said Superintendent Warren Drake.

He added, “During my tenure as the superintendent, I am constantly amazed at what our Magnet Programs have to offer our children. The principals, staff, students, parents and the community are a critical foundation for the success of our specialized programs; however, I recognize that it’s the strong leadership from the Director of Magnet Programs, Theresa Porter, who works tirelessly to make sure the programs in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System are not only known for its excellent programs locally, but also at the national level.”

To be selected as the Superintendent of the Year, candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by school board members, parents, colleagues and/or community members, the application must include a letter of nomination, and a signed acknowledgement letter from a current Board of Education member.

The nominee is also required to submit a narrative application and two recommendation letters and artifacts such as newspaper articles, pictures and videos. In addition, they must be a member of Magnet Schools of America and have served as superintendent for a minimum of two years. All applications are reviewed and scored by the Executive Committee for Magnet Schools of America.

EBRTV



“Bringing the students, programs and places of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System into FOCUS”

Please click on the links below to access EBR TV news segments:

SCHOOL/FEATURED NEWS SEGMENT	LINKS
Southeast Middle Magnet School Career Day	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-qT3i-TeXg
Bernard Terrace Elementary Harambee featuring Elijah Precciely	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8_2mwnVsNk&t=112s
Arlington Prep Academy support Hoops for Heart	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUbUOve2UZk&t=1s
“No One Eats Alone” program visit to Park Forest Middle	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcfd23zdaC4&t=39s
Line4Line Literacy Program visits White Hills Elementary	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oss4_VLfaeU&t=3s
2019 EBR Early Childhood Extravaganza	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZsOreJo1ns&t=3s
The Crazy Waffle Bar visits “Scotlandville Pre-Engineering Magnet Academy	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VS4t_FWA7E

EBR, help us to help you tell your story. Please click on the link below to Request Media Coverage:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9V6hm7O_qcwDpzOzBdxYSGHGF7lCx8fQGAY6Xn_24ITIPEA/viewform



Promoting Healthy Living for EBR Families

Join the Red Stick Sprouts



Shopping with your kids has never been more fun! The Red Stick Farmers Market encourages children between the ages of 2-12 to get involved with Red Stick Sprouts, a year-round local food education and incentive program. Children who sign up for "Sprouts" receive \$2 in market tokens with each visit and can spend them at any of the Red Stick Farmers Market locations. Kids can shop alongside mom and dad and ponder whether they want to spend their tokens on strawberries or raw honey! In addition to the tokens, there are weekly recipes featuring seasonal, local ingredients and an activity sheet such as a coloring page for the kids to take home. Once monthly, the downtown market hosts a "Sprouts Saturday" event featuring a local food activity. The Red Stick Farmers Market wants to help Baton Rouge parents empower their kids to make healthy decisions about what they eat. This becomes much easier week after week when the children are speaking directly with Louisiana farmers, trying new recipes and spending their own market tokens. See one of our kid friendly Sprouts recipes below and checkout breada.org and the Facebook page for the most current market schedules.

Don't forget, you can stop by our markets on Thursdays from 8AM-12PM at Pennington Biomedical Research

Center or on Saturdays from 8AM-12PM at 5th and Main Street Downtown.

Our Sprouts team was nice enough to share a kid-friendly recipe with us:

Oven Roasted Sweets and Beets

Ingredients

- 6 sweet potatoes
- 2 large beets
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil or vegetable oil

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Chop up sweet potatoes and beets into bite size chunks
3. Place onto cookie sheet lined with parchment paper and sprinkle seasonings and oil
4. Mix together and then place into oven
5. After 20 minutes of baking, give the sweets and beets a toss
6. Bake for another 20-25 minutes or until slightly browned



**FARMERS
MARKET**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA - PROJECT OF BREADA



Early Childhood Extravaganza!



Pre-K Seats Still Available

Online assistance will be provided

What to bring:

- ✓ Child's Birth Certificate
- ✓ Parent/Guardian Photo ID
- ✓ Current Shot Record
- ✓ 2 Recent Bills or Proof of Residency
- ✓ Proof of Income
(2 Recent Check Stubs or SNAP Benefits)



When: May 4, 2019 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Where: Claiborne Elementary
4707 Denham Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70805

For more information please visit ebreaklychildhood.com or call 225-226-7675

Do you encourage your child to spend time reading?



Reading for pleasure helps students build valuable comprehension and vocabulary skills. But many middle schoolers say they just don't have time to read. Are you encouraging your child to make time for reading? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out:

_____1. **Do you keep** all types of reading material around the house? Include magazines, newspapers. Books, manuals, catalogs—anything with words!

_____2. **Do you schedule** regular trips to the library so your child has plenty of opportunities to check out

books?

_____3. **Do you link** reading to your child's interests by suggesting books on topics that are important to her?

_____4. **Do you set** good example by reading in front of your child and talking about the things you read?

_____5. **Do you have** a regular time for family reading? You might set aside one evening a week.

How are you doing? Mostly *yes* answers mean you are strongly encouraging your middle schooler to read. For *no* answers, try those ideas.



Don't let electronic devices derail your middle schooler's studies!

Sometimes it seems that middle schoolers are permanently attached to their phones, tablets and other devices. They text from the minute they wake up until they go to bed. They share funny videos and pictures with their friends. They scroll through social media.

So it's no surprise that students often try to use their phone while they're working in class or doing homework. But several research studies show that the more time students say that they text, use social media or read online while they do schoolwork, the lower their grades are.

Students often think their devices can help with their work. After all, they can watch a video of the Pyramids while studying history. They can check their answer to a math problem.

There's just one problem: Kids seldom stay focused on the work they are doing. Pretty soon, they click from the history video to the latest internet joke. From then on, history is not their focus.

What can you do to help your child stay focused on his work and not on his smartphone? Here are some tips:

- Talk about multitasking—and how research shows it

doesn't work. Students need to focus while studying or they won't learn.

- Follow the rules regarding devices in class. Many teachers have a "parking lot" where students must leave their phones or tablets.
- Limit the use of devices during homework time. Studies show that the more time students spend multitasking, the longer their studies take.
- Be a role model yourself. Don't check your phone during family dinner or (especially) in the car.

SOURCE: K. Kowalski, "When Smartphones Go to School," *Science News for Students*, niswc.com/mid_smartphone.



LIFE HACKS FOR EBR PARENTS

A collection of life hacks, tips and tricks to optimize your life.

life-hack

'lɪf, hæk/

Noun

Informal

noun: **life hack**

1. a strategy or technique adopted in order to manage one's time and daily activities in a more efficient way.



life hacks

You can enable "undo send" in Gmail labs for a chance to reconsider or change a message you just sent.

#964

1000LifeHacks.com

life hacks

If ever you need a program you want for free (for example a video/photo editor) don't search for "free", search for "open source" to avoid limited trial versions, adverts and malware.

#981

1000LifeHacks.com

life hacks

Tools have rust buildup on them? Soak them in a jar of vinegar and salt overnight. They'll look good as new in the morning.

#980

1000LifeHacks.com

life hacks

Trying to lose some weight? Eat more spicy food! Spicy foods fool your taste buds into being more satisfied with smaller amounts. They have also been proven to temporarily increase your metabolism by about 8 percent.

#990

1000LifeHacks.com

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 <small>Last Day for Seniors</small>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <small>Early Dismissal</small>	21 <small>Early Dismissal</small>	22 <small>Early Dismissal/Last Day for Students</small>	23 <small>Last Day for Teachers</small>	24	25
26	27 <small>Memorial Day</small>	28	29	30	31	



EVENTS

- May 9th—Last Day for Seniors
- May 20th—22nd: Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m. Secondary/12:45 p.m. Elementary)
- May 22nd Last Day for Students
- May 23rd—Last Day for Teachers
- May 27th—Memorial Day

EBR



ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION



The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and all of its entities (including Career and Technical Education Programs) does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, disability or gender in its educational programs and activities (including employment and application for employment), and it is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of gender by Title IX (20 USC 168) and on the basis of disability by Section 504 (42 USC 794). The Title IX Coordinator is Andrew Davis, Director of Risk Management (ADavis6@ebrschools.org) - phone (225) 929-8705. The Section 504 Coordinator is Elizabeth Taylor Chapman, Director of Exceptional Student Services (ETaylor@ebrschools.org) – phone (225) 929-8600. The Title II Coordinator is Dr. Sandra Horton, Administrative Director of Federal Programs (SBHorton@ebrschools.org) – phone (225) 922-5538.

All students have an opportunity to participate in Career & Technical Programs of Study including, but not limited to, areas of Health Care, Construction Crafts & Trades, Automotive Technology, IT Computer Technology, IT Computer Technology, Culinary Programs, Criminal Justice and Agriculture. Admission requirements for each course can be found in the student course guide/schedule packet of the individual campus where the course is being offered. Please contact the Guidance Counselor at the specific school site for additional information, program requirements and/or any questions you may have.

Parent Power is a publication of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System

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