

NEA advises parents to be involved in school

By now, most Kentucky students have returned to school. Experts recommend a healthy, open dialogue with older children about back-to-school. The National Education Association has this advice for parents regarding older students heading back to school:

- Engage in discussion about your children's friends, classes, and activities.
- Work with your children to set measurable goals and expectations.
- Urge your children to be involved in extracurricular activities at school and in the community.
- Help your children budget their time and homework load.



Parents play a key role in helping make the back-to-school transition smooth. Here are just a few tips to help parents get started:

- Determine set times and location for homework.
- Meet your child's teacher and principal.
- Prepare for and go to parent-teacher conferences.
- Get involved in the school's PTA.
- Stay on top of the school calendar.
- Keep track of and attend school events.

For more tips about getting the school year off to a great start, visit the National Education Association Web site: <http://www.nea.org/parents/startnewyeartips.html>

Source: Kentucky Department of Education, ParentInfo, August 15, 2008.

We need to help students in Grade '13'

Life after high school isn't easy. It never has been, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for high school graduates to feel successful in their "Grade 13."

For Madison County students, "Grade 13" may be the first year of college, the military, workforce, a technical school, or vocational training. No matter what the path, "Grade 13" is challenging.

In today's times, we are faced with the preparation of students for a global marketplace. Our students must be ready for jobs that may not yet exist. We know our students will need certain skills to bring with them from our schools like communications skills, collaboration skills, team member skills, global perspective, and the ability to continue learning.

In Madison County, students have access to dual high school and college credits through collaboration with Eastern Kentucky University. They also have the opportunity to take foreign languages such as Spanish, French, Latin, and now Chinese during their coursework. Academic rigor and relevance have never been more important than they are today.



Thomas G. Floyd, Superintendent, Madison County Schools

How much students choose to take advantage of these opportunities is up to them, but the district is aware that preparing students for a global society is no longer optional. With the influence of the Internet and outsourcing of jobs, we will never live locally again. In order to be successful in their "Grade 13," our students are going to have to continue to ask for more.

Madison County Schools will continue to work to provide every student with the opportunities they need for a successful tomorrow.

Thomas G. Floyd, Superintendent
Madison County Schools

Video aims at keeping drop outs in school



Teachers and Parents — If you know of a student who is thinking about dropping out of school, the "Think Again: The Connection Between Education and True Independence" video may be one to add to your resource library. The video is "youth friendly" because youth were heavily involved in its development. Just think — youth giving youth advice about not dropping out.

To view the video and other resources, visit the Commonwealth Corporation Web site: <http://commcorp.org/p21/thinkagain.html>.

??Questions/Comments??

Do you have questions or comments about this issue of the *GEAR UP Gazette*? Would you like to submit your own story for publication? If so, please contact:

Jevonda Keith

Phone: (502) 573-1555, ext. 268

FAX: (502) 573-1535

E-mail: Jevonda.Keith@ky.gov

A chance to GEAR UP in Wayne County

Good things are happening in Wayne County! A College and Technical Fair will be held on November 6, 2008, in the gymnasium of Wayne County High School between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Don't pass up this opportunity to talk to representatives from over 31 colleges, community colleges, and technical schools. You could have a lot of fun and walk away with some great information for your future. Everyone is welcome!

Wayne County High School address: 200 Kenny Davis Boulevard, Monticello, KY 42633