

Dickson County Schools: Shaping Students for Success

Office of:

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To the Parents and Families of Dickson County Students,

I am sharing letters with you that each school board member and I received this summer from Dr. Tim Webb, the Commissioner of Education, and the Tennessee School Board Association concerning "Education Reform" in Tennessee public schools.

Educators and students are being asked to do more to prepare our students to be successful in college or the career they choose. This means taking more rigorous classes and "Expecting More" from students and educators.

The Tennessee State Board of Education has adopted the second most rigorous set of curriculum standards (what students must learn and teachers must teach) in the nation. The state of Massachusetts is the only other state with more rigorous curriculum standards. In order for our students to be considered proficient they must:

1. Learn the more difficult material.
2. Answer more questions correctly than on previous test in order to score proficient.

Don't be surprised if you are notified this fall that your child is "Not Proficient" in some areas. We are implementing effective strategies each year to improve education in Dickson County.

The purpose of this reform movement is to better prepare your child to face the challenges of the future. Most careers our young people are going to enter will require more than a high school education.

What you can do to help your child be successful:

1. You should make school attendance a priority in your home. (schedule appointments after school or during school breaks)
2. You must make doing their school work very important. Make it a job for your child.
3. Your child will have some homework nightly. We are asking our teachers not to give our elementary students more than 45 minutes nightly, 60 minutes for middle school students, and 90 minutes for high school students. **Failure will not be an option for our students.**
4. Provide a quiet place for your child to do their school work and study. You should have what they need (dictionary, thesaurus, paper, pencils, etc.).
5. Talk to your child regularly about what is going on academically. You should be aware of all school issues related to your child.
6. Encourage your child to give his or her best effort at all times.
7. Stay in contact with your child's teachers. Insist they inform you when your child experiences any academic problems. Do not miss any parent/teacher meetings.

What our schools will do to help your child be successful:

1. We will offer free tutoring before school and after school in most of our schools.
2. During the school day a block of time will be reserved to allow children to get extra help.
3. Our high schools will have a "Mathematics Lab" available for students during the school day.
4. Knowing that all children learn at different speeds we will offer several interventions during the summer to allow students to be prepared for their next grade. We will offer Pre-1st, Pre-4th, Pre-5th, Pre-7th, and a Pre-9th (Algebra/Reading Camp) in June of 2011.

A quality education is a must in today's world. If we work together our children will have a much better chance of being successful.

Sincerely,



Johnny Chandler,
Director of Schools