

Educationally Speaking

August 2010

Monday, August 30, 2010. For students and parents of students, this date should have significant meaning. It is the first day of the 2010-2011 school year. And, while there are approximately twenty-five calendar days between now and the first day of school, this time will fly by rapidly. Are you ready? Will you be ready? What does being ready mean?

Students' success this school year will be significantly influenced by their emotional readiness for school. This summer, they should have had numerous opportunities to engage in social and recreational activities. They should have had the opportunity to wonder, wander, and explore. Students should also be beginning preparations for the first day of school by evaluating the attitudes and behaviors they demonstrated last year and the success or lack of success that resulted. A mind set needs to be developing at this time that positive decisions will be made. What are examples of such commitments? Attend school on time every day. Attend each class prepared to learn. Complete class work and homework.

There is a physical readiness factor also. Medical, dental, and other health-related appointments should be scheduled and occur before school starts. Students should be in possession of school-related supplies prior to the start of school, not scrambling to obtain items the very last weekend or after school has started. Students should feel rested.

What does parent readiness look like? First, consider that student emotional and physical readiness is not likely to occur unless you provide guidance and support. Ensuring your student's readiness will also result in your being ready. Second, discuss the coming school year with your student. Ask about what goals are hoped to be accomplished and how you can support your student's efforts.

Student success for the 2010-2011 school year begins now. Please utilize the time and opportunities to establish the foundation for a successful year.

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