

August 2008

CONNECTIONS

Dallas ISD connecting with parents



**Dallas
Independent
School
District**

3700 Ross Avenue, Box 40
Dallas, TX 75204-5491
(972) 925-3700
www.dallasisd.org

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Connections is a newsletter designed to keep parents of Dallas Independent School District students informed about news and events associated with their school system. This publication is produced at no cost to the school system or taxpayers. The advertising contained in the *Connections* envelope offsets the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter. The district does not endorse any of the companies whose ads appear with this publication. If you have any questions, please call (972) 925-5555.

School starts Aug. 25

Begin preparing your children now!

THE FIRST DAY OF school is less than two weeks away. Below is a list of ideas you can begin using now to prepare for school.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

■ To lessen your children's fears about the upcoming school year, keep a positive attitude, let them know you think education is important, and have them participate in back-to-school shopping.

■ Set routines for your children to follow, such as bed and wake-up times and eating a nutritious breakfast.

■ Read and write with your children and talk about what they are reading.

■ Give children opportunities to work on simple math calculations while driving to the mall, cooking dinner, or shopping for school clothes.

In addition, the Dallas ISD Web site provides information you need to enroll your children in school. You can find this information at www.dallasisd.org. From the home page, click on *For Parents* from the tabs across the top.

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD

■ Get the required immunizations (find at www.dallasisd.org, *For Parents, Immunization*).

■ Buy school uniforms for your children and school supplies (find at www.dallasisd.org,

For Parents, Student Dress Code and School Supply List).

■ Enroll your children in school (find at www.dallasisd.org, *For Parents, Enrollment*).

■ Sign your children up for the district's breakfast and lunch programs (find at www.dallasisd.org, *For Parents, Menus/Nutrition*).

DATES TO REMEMBER

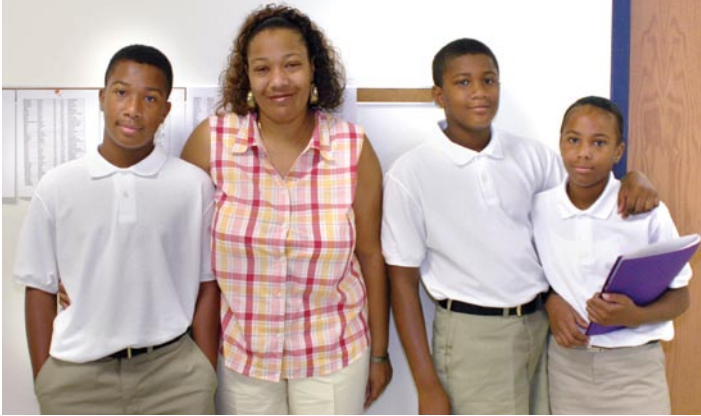
■ **Parent conferences:**
Oct 13, 14, and 16

■ **Early release day:**
Oct. 17

To view the student calendar, go to www.dallasisd.org/about/calendars.htm.

The Dallas ISD on Aug. 25 will welcome approximately 155,000 students to district schools, including Francisco F. "Pancho" Medrano Middle School, the last of 20 schools built under the 2002 bond program.





Helping your children succeed in school

IF YOU ARE A PARENT and have been out of school a few years, you may have forgotten how to work an algebraic equation, the capitals of all 50 states, or in what year the Civil War began. Even so, you can support your children's learning and find ways to reinforce lessons taught in the classroom.

- Discuss with your children some goals for the school year—yours and theirs.
- Schedule a regular time for homework each day and provide a suitable study area.
- Remove distractions during homework time—turn off televisions, radios, and iPods and don't allow telephone calls.
- Show an interest in your children's schoolwork and homework, but allow them to do their own work.
- Remind your children that you support their teachers' expectations for homework to be completed and turned in on time.
- Take your children to the library and show them how to look for books and reference materials.
- Search the Internet for fun and easy experiments and activities you can do at home with your children.
- Put an encouraging note in the textbook of your child's most challenging subject.
- Ask your children what they want to be when they grow up, take them to the library or go on the Internet to research what it takes to enter into that profession, and see how what they are learning in school applies to this profession.

THANKS TO DALLAS VOTERS FOR APPROVING THE DALLAS ISD'S \$1.35 BILLION BOND PROPOSAL. The bond program will fund building eight elementary schools, four middle schools, and three high schools; replace portable classrooms and modular temporary classrooms with 12 school additions; and improve existing school facilities through renovation of district buildings and properties.



Parents can support schools through volunteering

VOLUNTEERING AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL is a great way to show them you think education is important. Schools need the help of parents to tutor and mentor students; serve as guest speakers and readers; judge contests; assist in the library, main office, cafeteria, and in classrooms; supervise and chaperone field trips and school events; and to serve on advisory committees.

To ensure the safety of students and staff, all volunteers, including parents, must submit an application before they are approved to work in the schools. The application process includes a criminal background check, which is board policy.

Volunteers receive training related to the type of services they will be performing in the schools—tutoring, mentoring, chaperoning, assisting in classrooms, etc. The training includes guidelines and regulations for working with students and dealing with situations that may arise during their time in the schools.

For more information, contact the principal or community liaison at your child's school or visit www.dallasisd.org/partners.

