



## What's In This Quarter's Issue:

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### Attendance Matters



Each year, our goal is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. As your child/ren's first teacher, it is vital that you help them understand that school is their very first job! School attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success that starts in kindergarten and continues through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely, every day, and understand why attendance is important for success in school and in life. We look forward to seeing our scholars on time and present each day.

### Backpack Fairy

For two consecutive years, Costco has helped welcome students back to school with backpacks. Costco donated 380 backpacks, valued at \$5,700.00, for our "Title I Backpack Fairy" event. Several Title I schools benefited from this event. The donation not only helped families save money on back to school expenses but allowed students to feel confident and empowered to start the new year.



### Director's Message



Greetings,

The Leon County Schools Title I Office is excited to be working with you this school year! We are committed to helping students acquire resources and opportunities necessary to thrive academically. Title I aims to provide learning tools and support initiatives that increase student achievement. We invite you to be **Engaged** in school and district initiatives. These activities will **Empower** you with information and resources to **Enrich** the learning experience for you and your student.

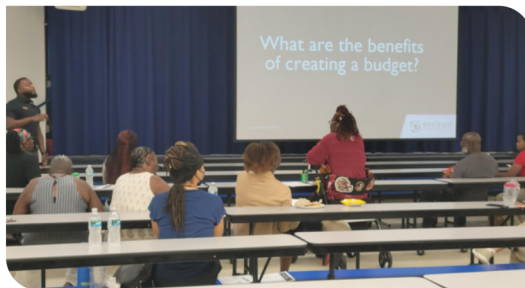
The Title I Newsletter will keep families informed and highlight the awesome things going on in our Title I programs. We hope that you will be a partner by participating in school and district activities. Be on the look out for your school's spotlight on the Title I Facebook page! Stay connected through the Title I Facebook page, website, and listserv.

Sign-Up for the Title I Listserv Here!



Wishing you a safe and successful school year,

April Knight, Director  
Title I Programs



### Financial Literacy

Who knew that learning about financial literacy could be fun! The Title I Office and Envision Credit Union teamed up to provide a financial literacy workshop for families. Parents were able to engage with tools to help manage budgets and prioritize spending . Thanks to Mr. Russell, parents learned the "50/30/20 Budget Rule." Parents walked away with a greater understanding of the importance of budgeting and how to stick to a budget. Mrs. Merck helped students to distinguish between needs and wants when budgeting. By the end of the workshop, students realized that things they considered needs were actually wants. Thank you to principal, Dr. Cassandra Poole, and the Astoria Park Panthers for sharing your campus! This event is one way to support financial independence.



### Dads Take Your Child to School

The Title I Office hosted "Dads Take Your Child to School Day: A Round Table Discussion" at Fairview Middle School. This event highlighted the important role fathers and father figures play in shaping the lives of children. Guest panelists were: Alphonso Dorsey, Royle King, Todd Lanter, Dr. Chris Small, Chris Warfel, and Gerald Williams. Our moderator for the evening was Brian Jackson, news anchor for WTXL ABC 27. Dads taking their child to school is more than the physical activity. Panelists shared the importance of being an active participant with their child and encouraging the value of education. Each dad took home tools to add to their dad toolbox. One of those tools was the Conversation Starters - things to ask instead of "How was school today?" Many of our schools also hosted events to highlight and showcase fathers and father figures at their site.

### Mobile STEM Labs

The Title I Office partnered with Florida A & M University's College of Agriculture and Food Science to present Mobile STEM Lab sessions. The students from Sealey and Pineview had a STEM-tastic time during their Mobile STEM Labs. After learning about density, families were tasked with assembling an ocean robot and making sure that their robot floated. Each family completed a mission that landed them in a place far away from Tallahassee! To get there, they practiced balancing their robot by adding weight to create the sinking and floating behavior. Families were able to modify the weight and retest their robots.



### Parent Engagement Training



The Title I Office hosted district-wide training for all Title I administrators, faculty, and staff. This training provided attendees with an overview of Title I programs and ways to support parent engagement.

School-level parent liaisons enhanced their knowledge of increasing parent engagement through business partnerships and best practices. Eric Clark, Director of the Foundation for Leon County Schools, shared the importance and benefits of partnering with local businesses. Javon Austin, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator of the Children's Home Society, shared best practices to increase and sustain parent engagement.

The district Parent and Family Engagement Plan, deliverables, and evaluations were also reviewed.

### Title I & Title IV Team Up for Science



Title IV expanded its STEAM initiative this year by purchasing STEAM carts for Title I schools. On the cart is a 3D Printer, document camera, microscopes (for both elementary and secondary age students), a small group set of iPads, and Scratch JR. Coding Cards for elementary schools. Teachers will be trained to use the cart and items provided. As another part of the STEAM initiative, Title IV expanded the STEAM Library. Teachers will soon be able to search the database and request STEAM kits that are both low tech (building items) and high tech (Robotics kits).

# PARENT CORNER

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ **Break tasks into chunks:** Help your child break down school work or even chores into smaller, more manageable steps. This will help them to see the beginning, the middle, and the end; which can lessen the feelings of being overwhelmed.
- ✓ **Do regular backpack audits:** Schedule a time each week for your child/ren to clean out and organize their backpack. Stress that the backpack is an important piece in home school communication.
- ✓ **Ask for help:** Take advantage of afterschool programs.

## PARENT PORTAL: REPORT CARDS



We made it through the first grading period! **Friday, October 14th marked the last day of the grading period. Report cards will be available on the Focus Portal October 26th.** Families need a Focus Portal account to access student grades and attendance. Contact your child's school for the parent portal letter which includes your child's name, student ID, and parent portal pin. Then visit <https://leon.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/> and follow the directions that are included on the letter.

## STAY CONNECTED

**Make sure your contact information is up to date!** Join the teacher's Remind, the school's listserv, and commit to attending at least one (1) school event by December 15. Strong communication between school and home are essential! A child's academic performance improves when there is positive communication between parents and teachers. If you haven't already done so, contact your child/ren's teacher to schedule a parent-teacher conference. Ask for tips to help your child at home.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parent engagement in their child/ren's education has a positive impact on student achievement. Students with engaged parents are more likely to have better social skills, show improved behavior, attend school regularly, and graduate from high school. There are a range of opportunities for engagement, so consider some of the ways listed below to become engaged in your child/ren's education.

- Join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)/School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Participate in school sponsored activities
- Volunteer in the school
- Complete the parent surveys
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Talk with your child/ren about school on a daily basis
- Have a quick conversation with school personnel
- Provide feedback



**Do you want to know about upcoming Title I events? Scan the QR Code below and subscribe to the Title I Listserv.**




# PARENT CORNER

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Upcoming events are listed below.

- **September 27th - November 4th:**  
Fall Parent and Family Engagement Survey
- **November 9th, 6:00 p.m. @ Bond:**  
Mobile STEM Lab
- **November 16th, 6:00 p.m. @ Lively Technical College:**  
Pathways to Entrepreneurship
- **November 14th - November 18th:**  
Parent and Family Engagement Spirit Week
- **December 7th, 6:00 p.m. @ Riley:**  
Mobile STEM Lab
- **December 14th, 6:00 p.m. @ Godby:**  
The Math of Cooking - attend a live cooking show with our celebrity chef!



LCS TITLE I  
presents  
Mobile STEM Lab

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS



**Bond Elementary School  
November 9th @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Door Prizes  
Light refreshments**

**RSVP Today**

**\*Students must be  
accompanied by an  
adult.\***



**Scan Me**



## YOUR OPINION MATTERS

**LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS IS  
SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK.**

**\*You may click on the link or scan the  
QR code to complete the survey.\***

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**The survey administration period is  
Tuesday, September 27, 2022 through  
Friday, November 4, 2022.**