



## PARENT UNIVERSITY

Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123

### Empowering

Parents are the single most important factor in a child's continued success! Join the conversation. **Participate at any school** during the times listed to the right. Workshops are open to all D123 families.

### Engaging

Small group Parent University workshops are intended to foster meaningful partnerships for learning new things, as well as offer information and resources for all parents.

### Enlightening

Educators and parents will come together to discuss the impact of educational ideas on our entire learning community. The program is intended to jointly involve parents and schools in conversations that shape the lives and schooling of our children.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact your child's school office.

### Common Core **Math** Learning Standards: What parents need to know!

- ✓ What are the key shifts in mathematics education called for in the Common Core?
- ✓ What are the new strategies and practices being used for mathematics instruction in D123?
- ✓ What are the resources that can be used to support children at home in the area of mathematics?

### Join Us

February 26 - Hometown - 8870 South Duffy Avenue

March 4 - Covington - 9130 South 52nd Avenue

March 5 - Hannum - 9800 South Tripp

March 11 - Sward - 9830 South Brandt Avenue

March 12 - Kolmar - 10425 South Kolmar

March 19 - OLHMS - 5345 W. 99th St.

Join the discussion!

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

<http://d123.org/parentuniversity>

If you plan to attend, please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher or complete the form found online at <http://d123.org/parentuniversity>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults Attending \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level(s) of your student(s) \_\_\_\_\_



## D123 Parent University

### Frequently Asked Questions

Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 District Office

#### WHAT IS PARENT UNIVERSITY?

The D123 Parent University is a program designed to help parents support their child's education. It is designed as a collaborative effort between School District 123 families and staff to help bring our school, home, and community together through participation in relevant educational conversations. Small group workshops are intended to foster meaningful partnerships for learning, as well as offer training, information, and resources to all parents and caregivers. PARENTS are the single most important factor in a child's success. Parent University will offer opportunities for parents to sharpen their skills as they work in one of life's most important and demanding roles—PARENTING!

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PARENT UNIVERSITY?

The purpose of the D123 Parent University is to provide a partnering opportunity for educators and parents to share stories and discuss the impact of educational ideas on our entire learning community. The program is intended to jointly involve parents, schools, and the community in educational conversations that shape the lives of our children. The focus of our program will be based on Epstein's Framework for School, Family, and Community Partnerships (2011).

#### WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF PARENT UNIVERSITY?

The goals of Parent University are to:

- ENGAGE parents as collaborative partners in the school community in order to foster student success
- EMPOWER parents to become informed partners in education by having relevant educational conversations within the school community, to advocate for parental voice, and provide parent feedback into school decisions
- ENLIGHTEN perspectives of parents and educators of what can be further learned in the field of education across school communities, as well as how it applies to our community and our children

#### WHY BE INVOLVED?

Research has shown that parents can increase a child's academic success through their involvement with schools and communities. Parental involvement improves student morale, attitudes, and academic achievement across all subject areas. Whether you are a parent, family member, or caregiver, we encourage you to partner with the school district and become involved with Parent University. Sessions will meet for one hour and a "D123 Badge" will be awarded to each participant.

#### HOW IS THE PARENT UNIVERSITY BEING DEVELOPED?

Collaboration with a District Parent Steering Committee will meet with District leadership, educational institutions, and community partners to identify needs, as well as design and schedule workshops. All groups

within the district will work collaboratively to provide information and help plan meaningful workshops for our parents.

### WHAT TOPICS WILL BE COVERED?

Parent University will integrate workshop offerings within four primary strands:

- Strand I is Parent Awareness. These offerings will provide information that can empower parents to raise confident, educated children ready for the future.
- Strand II is Helping Your Child Learn in the 21st Century. These offerings will provide parents information about how to support children's academic opportunities and challenges today.
- Strand III is Health and Wellness. These offerings will support information and activities to help families build healthy lifestyles physically, as well as emotionally.
- Strand IV is Personal Growth and Development. These offerings will help parents to grow personally and professionally, so they can become the most effective advocates for their children.

### WHO CAN ATTEND?

Anyone! If you'd like to come and invite a friend please feel free. We will be promoting classes to anyone interested. Our philosophy here is "The more the merrier!" You do not have to have a child that attends School District 123 to attend sessions.

### WILL CHILDCARE BE PROVIDED?

No, unfortunately at this time childcare will not be provided. However, we do encourage parents to bring children with them to workshops. Children of age can either read or work independently at a nearby table.

### WHERE AND AT WHAT TIMES WILL WORKSHOPS BE OFFERED?

Workshops will be offered at four flexible times on **Thursdays** in the fall and spring at all of our D123 schools. Sessions will run precisely one-hour and be repeated each Thursday at different school locations from 7:30AM-8:30AM, 8:45AM-9:45AM, 2:00PM-3:00PM, or 7:00PM-8:00PM. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to just "pop-in" and are welcome to attend any of the workshops, at any location since the workshops all share the same objectives throughout the month.

### WHO LEADS THE WORKSHOPS?

Workshops are facilitated by school district leadership, with the support of parents and community resources.

### REFERENCES

- Epstein, J. L. (2011). *School, family, and community partnerships: Preparing educators and improving schools* (2nd ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Epstein, J. L., Galindo, C. L., & Sheldon, S. B. (2011). Levels of Leadership: Effects of district and school leaders on the quality of school programs of family and community involvement. Revised and submitted to *Educational Administration Quarterly*, 47, 446-461.
- Epstein, J. L., Sanders, M. G., Sheldon, S., Simon, B. S., Salinas, K. C., Jansorn, N. R....Williams, K. J. (2009). *School, family, and community partnerships: Your handbook for action* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.