Family Matters

A PUBLICATION OF THE 15TH DISTRICT PTA

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While you finish up this year’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA) activities, help make it possible for your PTA to make a smooth transition into the next school year. Here is a checklist of to-do items:

- Don’t forget to send your membership dues payment to the Kentucky PTA by March 15.
- Complete your Membership Report, and send it to the Kentucky PTA by March 30.
- Complete Evangeline J. Sansome scholarship applications by March 15.
- Make plans to attend the 15th District PTA Awards Banquet on May 10, and join us in celebrating your accomplishments.
- March is the time for you to review your bylaws that pertain to electing officers. PTAs usually elect their Nomination Committee at this time of year, and this committee should be working to find the best-qualified person for each elected office. Most PTA bylaws require the election of officers to be scheduled in the spring so that planning can take place over the summer months.
- If your school’s School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council elects its parent representatives in the spring, you need to begin that process.

I personally want to thank each of you for caring enough to donate your valuable time. Working together, PTAs and schools can make a difference and ensure a successful future for every student.

Calendar of Events

March
1 ............... 15th District PTA Awards Applications Due
2 ............... National Read Across America Day
7–9 ............. National PTA Legislative Conference
7–8 ............. Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE) Meeting
8 ............... Elementary grading period ends.
12 ............... Daylight Saving Time begins.
13 ............... Professional-Development (PD) Day (no school for students)
15 ............... Evangeline J. Sansome Scholarship Application Deadline
20 ............... Elementary Report Card Distribution
21 ............... JCBE Meeting
21 ............... 15th District PTA Board Meeting
29 ............. Middle and high school grading period ends.
30 ............. School Day (make-up day for Jan. 5)
31 ............. No School for Students or Teachers

April
3–7 ............. Jefferson County Public Schools (UCPS) Spring Break
8 ............... ACT
14 ............. Good Friday
14 ............. Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
16 ............... Easter Sunday
18 ............... 15th District PTA Board Meeting
18 ............... Middle and High School Grade Distribution
24–28 ........ School Lunch Hero Week
25 ............... JCBE Meeting (George Unseld Early Childhood Learning Center)

P re s i d e n t
Heather Wampler
15thdistrictpta.president@gmail.com
(502) 671-9451

Heath and Safety Chairman
Dana Moody
dana.mooey@passporthealthplan.com
(502) 821-0686

President-Elect
Autumn Neagle
auburn@kpnetworks.com
(502) 728-2590

First Vice President—Programs
Eddie Squires
program1515thdistrictpta.org
(502) 925-3316

Second Vice President—Membership
John Buie
membership1515thdistrictpta.org
(502) 439-7159 (ext 106)

Third Vice President—Ways and Means
Vacant

Fourth Vice President—Communication
Liz Cannon
annecannon1966@gmail.com
(502) 726-1203

Treasurer
Theresa Mayfield
15thdistrictpta.treasurer@gmail.com
(502) 699-2227

Secretary
Bon Keel
bonkeel@hotmail.com
(502) 225-3429

Awards Consultant
Patty Martin
patty.martin466@gmail.com
(502) 716-9446

Bullying Prevention Chairman
Callie Sone
15thdistrictpta.bullyingprevention@gmail.com
(502) 605-3426

Bylaws/Standing Rules Chairman (Local Units)
Kathleen Helm
kwherm@yahoocom
(502) 290-7363
(502) 432-8399

Diversity/Equity Consultant
Monica Lakhwani
monica.lakhwani@jefferson.kyschools.us
(502) 425-7249

Early Childhood Chairman
Carol Haddad
djdhk@aol.com
(502) 634-3134

Exceptional Child Education Chairman
Pink Jackson
ptajackson9@gmail.com
exceptionalchildren@15thdistrictpta.org
(502) 525-0371

Family Resource and Youth Services Center Director
Adrian Oldham
adrian.oldham@jefferson.kyschools.us
(502) 485-3703

Programs Chairman (Local Units)
Monica Lakhwani
monica.lakhwani@jefferson.kyschools.us
(502) 425-7249

PTA Contact Information

15th District PTA
www.15thdistrictpta.org
485-3353

Kentucky PTA
www.kypatra.org
224-6007

National PTA
www.npta.org
(703) 518-1200 or 800-307-APTA (4782)

For additional information about the PTA, visit the Kentucky PTA at www.kyptra.org or the National PTA at www.npta.org.
Tips on Creating Your PTA School Newsletter

By Elizabeth Cannon, Fourth Vice President—Communications for the 15th District PTA and a mom of Elise, a Dixie Elementary student. Cannon is the editor of the Dixie Elementary PTA newsletter and has sold ads to help pay for printing.

Creating a school newsletter is challenging but rewarding. The process can be stressful, but it is worth it when you get the finished product. Whether it is a printed hard copy or an online version, newsletters often don’t get read. But what they give the parents who do read them is a host of happenings and needed resources.

Here are a few tips to help you when you are creating your PTA school newsletter.

• **Decide first whether it will be a hard copy or a digital newsletter.** This will make a big difference when you start to plan and format the newsletter. Find out from parents if they would prefer online, hard copy, or access to both. A survey sent home will help figure this out.

• **Select the content of the newsletter.** What will be the regular articles? What will be special articles? Who will be the writers of those articles? Create a content calendar so that you won’t be rushing from month to month to think of articles. Some articles, depending on how frequently your newsletter is published, can stay in an additional issue. If your school has fewer than 100 students, I suggest a monthly newsletter. For 200 or more students, I suggest a biweekly publication, especially if the school events and happenings are minimal. Schools and PTAs serving more than 200 students are busy and require a biweekly newsletter to keep up with the PTA’s events and happenings.

• **Template.** There are thousands of newsletter templates on the Internet. I choose Word templates! My printer prefers that I use other formats, but it works for our school. That’s the key for your content and your writers—what works for your school.

• **Printing of the newsletter.** You can either print them at the school or you could have an outside company print and fold them, if they are a four-page newsletter. I have done it both ways. Keeping the printing in house works for 100 students, but student numbers of 450 or more could turn into a two-day project. What helped with the cost of printing was selling advertising in the newsletter—back page or small, business-card-style ads.

• **Distribution.** If you have a digital newsletter, you will email or text it out to the parents who want it sent that way. If you have hard copies, they will go out in the students’ backpacks at the end of the day, most likely Fridays. Keep a map of the school classrooms with the number of students who need hard copies in each class, and drop off the correct number at each classroom.

The final key to having an effective newsletter is planning. You must know what you are trying to achieve before you start the process. Gather a team of teachers and PTA members to work out an incredible newsletter that will be informative and engaging—one that you will be proud of at the end of the day!

**V-I-C-T-O-R-Y**

**SPELLING BEE WINNERS**

From left, JCPS academic coordinator and announcer Doug Wilham, second-place winner Isabella Jerger of Coleridge-Taylor Montessori Elementary, first-place winner Eden Gallup, third-place winner Caleb Masterson, and Heather Wampler, president of the 15th District PTA.
each Tuesday and Thursday, two students at Great-house/Shryock Traditional Elementary look forward to a visit from a man they have learned to know and trust.

“I wait in the hallway for them to come out,” said Dave Washer. “They know me. They look forward to seeing me. They say ‘Hey, Mr. Washer!’ It’s a great way for me to have a better idea of what is going in class.”

Washer, a nurse at Norton Audubon Hospital, is one of about 30 family members and community supporters who contribute each week to Fostering Individual Needs Everyday (FINE) Time, a daily 30-minute enrichment or remediation time for each student at the school. A high level of parental involvement and participation makes the schedule possible.

Similar to most parents of Greathouse/Shryock students, Washer learned about FINE Time in kindergarten orientation. His son, Donovan, is now in second grade.

Washer works with his son’s peers, who—along with most of the other classmates—know him by his other title, “Donovan’s dad.” Washer’s weekend work schedule has allowed him to establish bonds at the school during the week, and he feels it has permitted him to forge a special connection with the school.

Each day, FINE Time allows all students a 30-minute period in which they break into small groups, sometimes with a ratio of two students to one adult. Students work on a two-week rotation with reading and math. Some receive individual help while others work with software programs, such as i-Ready or Education Galaxy. All students are able to expand upon the standards they are learning and grow their skills from where they currently are.

Educators work in a weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) to discuss what students may need and how they will best be served. This allows them to chart out a strategy for a student’s academic standing as well as what learning styles may work best with students whom they know well.

Last year, Angela Burns, now a P2 (grade one) teacher, saw the effort offer enrichment that took her fifth-grade students from Proficient to Distinguished.
Students benefitted from being encouraged to go more in-depth, allowing them to learn more about the writers they enjoy or how their writing processes work. Burns works early in the school year to recruit parents and families to become involved, if their schedules permit. Most parents grew up learning math using different techniques than are being taught now. A better-informed parent will provide better help and support at home as well as to other students in school who may be struggling or seeking more challenges.

“It’s the opportunity to be involved,” Burns said. “We invite them here, and then they realize what this is. Parents play a vital role. If they know what’s going on, they can extend that at home.” For many parents, it’s not a hard sell. Most families want to be involved and support the students; they are just looking for the right outlet. With FINE Time, they’ve found one that works with their schedules.

Greathouse/Shryock is one of four traditional magnet elementary schools throughout JCPS. A banner outside the school proudly announces that Greathouse/Shryock is the highest-performing elementary school in the state and a 2015 School of Distinction. That good-news banner is actually dated and could be clarified to illustrate the school’s more recent achievement. In September, results from the 2016 Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) tests showed Greathouse/Shryock Traditional Elementary with the highest overall score in the state, including all elementary, middle, and high schools. More than 93 percent of its students scored Proficient or Distinguished in reading, and 94.7 percent did the same in math.

Meigan Retic, a first-year goal clarity coach at Greathouse/Shryock, says FINE Time allows teachers to focus on what they do best—teach.

Meigan Retic, a first-year goal clarity coach, loves the level of staff and family involvement. The special area teachers, such as the science lab teacher or the computer teacher, work alongside Retic to help a group of advanced readers during FINE Time. There’s also a middle and high school JCPS teacher, whose child attends Greathouse/Shryock, who arrives at 3 p.m. to work with students in FINE Time.

The all-hands-on-deck approach also means less pressure for a classroom teacher to solve every issue. There is a community effort under way, Retic said. When Greathouse/Shryock gives tours to prospective families, they make a point to show families FINE Time as it happens, Retic said.

“It’s amazing to have parents value the education of other students and not just their own,” Retic said. “It’s another hand of love and care.” When Washer requested a time to volunteer, he thought it may be wise to not work directly with his son, but with his son’s classmates.

“They know I’m Donovan’s dad,” Washer said. “You just feel so much a part of the school and ingrained in what’s going on.”
Thirteenth Annual Children’s Advocacy Day

On Thursday, February 9, the Kentucky State Capitol was flooded with people and students with one thing on their mind: the youth of Kentucky! The Thirteenth Annual Children’s Advocacy Day at the Capitol was a wonderful time to show support for our students and to talk or leave “step up for kids” messages with legislators. Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) and the partners for Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children put this day together to rally for children. It started with a rally at 10 a.m. and honored the following legislators with the 2017 Champion for Children awards:

- Senate President Robert Stivers II
- Senator Danny Carroll
- Senator Whitney Westerfield
- Representative Joni L. Jenkins
- Representative Darryl T. Owens
- Representative Addia Wuchner

After the rally, there were many activities to participate in, such as the education committee meeting, visiting your representatives, or sitting in the gallery watching the Senate or House in action. This really was a day to advocate for our students, and I encourage everyone to join in next year.

Autumn Neagle
President-Elect of the 15th District PTA

March 1
Engelhard Elementary, Foster Traditional Academy, Greenwood Elementary

March 2
Frost Sixth-Grade Academy, Valley High, Wheeler Elementary

March 7
Barret Traditional Middle, Fairdale High, Stonestreet Elementary

March 8
Conway Middle, Johnsontown Road Elementary, Zachary Taylor Elementary

March 9
Farnsley Middle, Cochrane Elementary

March 14
Dunn Elementary, Doss High, Newburg Middle

March 15
Fern Creek Elementary, Highland Middle, Kerrick Elementary

March 16
Auburndale Elementary, Butler Traditional High, Watson Lane Elementary

March 21
Dixie Elementary, Moore School, Semple Elementary

March 22
Corderidge-Taylor Montessori Elementary, Frayser Elementary, King Elementary

March 23
Cochran Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Seneca High

March 28
Olmsted Academy North, Rutherford Elementary, Western High

March 29
Hartstern Elementary, Trunnell Elementary, Westport Middle

April 1
Indian Trail Elementary, Louisville Male High, Brandeis Elementary

April 12
Jacob Elementary, Klondike Lane Elementary, Camp Taylor Elementary

April 13
Bowen Elementary, Knight Elementary, Hazelwood Elementary

April 18
Ramsey Middle, Watterson Elementary, Young Elementary

April 19
Laukhuf Elementary, Kenwood Elementary, Roosevelt-Perry Elementary

April 20
Atkinson Academy, Wilt Elementary, Academy @ Shawnee

April 25
Layne Elementary, Stuart Elementary

April 26
Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School

April 27
Western Middle, Eisenhower Elementary

The following schools are scheduled to send volunteers to CAP. For more information or to reschedule, call 485-7450 or contact them on Twitter at @PTA_CAP.

March

1........ Engelhard Elementary, Foster Traditional Academy, Greenwood Elementary
2........ Frost Sixth-Grade Academy, Valley High, Wheeler Elementary
7........ Barret Traditional Middle, Fairdale High, Stonestreet Elementary
8........ Conway Middle, Johnsontown Road Elementary, Zachary Taylor Elementary
9........ Farnsley Middle, Cochrane Elementary
14....... Dunn Elementary, Doss High, Newburg Middle
15....... Fern Creek Elementary, Highland Middle, Kerrick Elementary
16....... Auburndale Elementary, Butler Traditional High, Watson Lane Elementary
21....... Dixie Elementary, Moore School, Semple Elementary
22 ...... Coleridge-Taylor Montessori Elementary, Frayser Elementary, King Elementary
23 ...... Cochran Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Seneca High
28 ...... Olmsted Academy North, Rutherford Elementary, Western High
29 ...... Hartstern Elementary, Trunnell Elementary, Westport Middle

April

11....... Indian Trail Elementary, Louisville Male High, Brandeis Elementary
12....... Jacob Elementary, Klondike Lane Elementary, Camp Taylor Elementary
13....... Bowen Elementary, Knight Elementary, Hazelwood Elementary
18....... Ramsey Middle, Watterson Elementary, Young Elementary
19....... Laukhuf Elementary, Kenwood Elementary, Roosevelt-Perry Elementary
20 ...... Atkinson Academy, Wilt Elementary, Academy @ Shawnee
25 ...... Layne Elementary, Stuart Elementary
26 ...... Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School
27 ....... Western Middle, Eisenhower Elementary

Clockwise from left, Sharon Whitworth, 15th District PTA Parliamentarian; Dr. Terry Brooks, KYA Executive Director; Janet Jones, Kentucky PTA Board of Directors; Cherie Dimar, Kentucky PTA President; Dee Schwartz, Anne Mason Elementary PTA President; Autumn Neagle (and Nicholas and Athena), 15th District PTA President-Elect

March is National Reading Month, and this is a great time to have a family event that focuses on reading. National PTA has a wonderful event toolkit, Family Reading Experience, which can be accessed at www.PTA.org/familyreading.

This toolkit has an event checklist, interactive learning stations, turn-key event promotion tools, take-home family tip sheets, and videos to share. You’re able to make your own theme or use one of their four examples. It also comes with sample social media messages, morning announcements, and even newsletter articles. This is a complete out-of-the-box program that will give families the tools to read as a family. Research shows that when families read together, learning happens and memories are made that last a lifetime.
15th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 2017-2019 Executive Board Officer Nominations

Elections will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at the Annual Awards Banquet at Ramada Plaza, 9700 Bluegrass Pkwy

As per the 15th District PTA Bylaws:
"Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the election meeting. Those nominees from the floor must have given 30 days notification of their intent to run. Notification must be in writing to the District President and the Nomination Committee Chairperson."

You have from March 2 to April 2, 2017, to give notice. Anything after April 2, 2017, falls beyond the 30 days notice.

If you are interested in running from the floor please mail written intent, attention to Heather Wampler (President) and Adam Kesler (Nominating Committee Chairman) to:

15th District PTA
PO Box 35444
Louisville KY 40232-5444

For questions or concerns, call (502) 485-3535.

- Kesler—VP of Kentucky State PTA, Board member of 15th District PTA, President of Cane Run Elementary PTA
- Kolb—Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School PTA, Co-President
- Gamertsfelder—Noe Middle PTSA, Treasurer
- Newman—St. Matthews Elementary PTA, President
- Summerville—Seneca High PTSA, President
- Squires—VP of 15th District PTA, President of Pleasure Ridge Park High PTSA, Past Kentucky State PTA President
- Cannon—VP of 15th District PTA, VP Dixie Elementary PTA
- Hockman—VP of 15th District PTA, Acting President of Liberty & Mary Ryan Academy Community PTSA, VP of Indian Trail Elementary PTA Elementary PTA
Award and Grant Opportunities

Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award
The National PTA is now accepting applications for the 2017 Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Awards. These awards recognize PTAs that best demonstrate outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion as well as efforts to end discriminatory practices. The application deadline is 8 p.m. on Friday, March 17. For more information, visit www.PTA.org/Awards.

Mary Lou Anderson Grant
The National PTA Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant provides up to $1,000 in matching funds to support local PTA arts projects within your school community. Funded projects will increase access to learning opportunities in the literary, media, visual, and/or performing arts for at-risk or underserved audiences. The application deadline is Friday, March 17. For more information, visit www.PTA.org/Awards.

Can you answer these five questions?

1. What are four types of categories to consider when writing a speech?

2. The location of a speech and the audience are very important.
   a. True
   b. False

3. What are some ways to practice your speech?
4. Which one of these should you do during your speech?
   a. Apologize for any nervousness.
   b. Speak quickly.
   c. Read your handouts verbatim.
   d. If you don't know the answer to a question, tell the person you will get back to him or her.
   e. Continue talking and taking questions even if you are over your set time.

If you struggled or don’t know the answers, then check out Creating and Delivering a Speech from National PTA E-Learning! This quick e-learning course will answer all these questions and more. The National PTA wants you to excel not only as a PTA leader but also as a leader in your everyday life. It has added several Leadership Enhancement e-learning courses. Find them at www.PTA.com/elearning.
The 15th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) invites you to attend our

**Annual Awards Banquet**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Ramada Plaza Louisville Hotel and Conference Center
9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, KY 40299

We look forward to a fantastic banquet. Join us, and celebrate all of your PTA/PTSA accomplishments for the year. Each table seats eight people.

Reservations are $35 a person if received by **Monday, May 1**. Reservations are $45 a person if received between **Tuesday, May 2**, and **Saturday, May 6**. We are unable to accept reservations after **Saturday, May 6**.

All reservation requests must include a check made payable to the 15th District PTA.

To be sure that your PTA holds as many seats as you require, send in your reservation as soon as possible. If you need or want to be seated with another school, please send in both reservations at the same time.

Send reservations to:
15th District PTA, Banquet Reservations
P.O. Box 35444
Louisville, KY 40232-5444

A vegetarian plate will be available if it is ordered at the time you make your reservation.

**Please note: NO refunds will be made after May 1.** For more information, call (502) 485-3535.

To reserve your banquet tickets, complete and return the below form with payment.

Name of PTA, school, or JCPS department: __________________________________________

Name and phone number of contact person: __________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Total number of tickets: _____________ x $35 (May 1, deadline)

Total number of tickets: _____________ x $45 (May 2 through May 6, deadline)

Amount of check enclosed: ___________________________  Number of vegetarian plates needed: ________________
Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) “Literacy &” summer programs! We are excited to offer engaging learning opportunities for students at various schools. We will be accepting applications beginning Friday, May 13, through Friday, May 27. Students will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Literacy &” programs will begin on Monday, June 6, and continue through Thursday, June 30 (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day). Transportation will not be provided. However, all camp expenses, program materials, breakfast, and lunch will be provided free of charge to program participants. Students will need to be dropped off at 9 a.m. and picked up at 4 p.m. Below are the summer sites and programs open to incoming third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students.

Please specify two sites you are interested in by marking next to the listed program in order of preference, “1” being your first choice and “2” being your second choice. Parents will be notified of their assigned location no later than June 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>June 6–16, 2016</th>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>June 20–30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Community Center—Literacy &amp; Drama</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>California Community Center—Literacy &amp; Chess</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price Elementary—Literacy &amp; Photography</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>Price Elementary—Literacy &amp; Drama</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangeland Elementary—Literacy &amp; Dance</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>Rangeland Elementary—Literacy &amp; Chess</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Traditional—Literacy &amp; Robotics</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>Shelby Traditional—Literacy &amp; Karate</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engelhard Elementary—Literacy &amp; Chess</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
<td>Engelhard Elementary—Literacy &amp; Yoga</td>
<td>Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application Deadline: May 27, 2016, at 4 p.m.

Please return applications to Veronda Hawkins at veronda.hawkins@jefferson.kyschools.us, or fax them to 485-3630.
Summer Break ‘Literacy &’ Parent Registration Form

Participant Information

Student Grade: _____________

Last Name _____________________  First Name _____________________  Date of Birth ____________ ________

Address _______________________  City _____________________  State ______  ZIP Code ______

School Site:_________________________  Student Shirt Size: _____________ ______

Parent/Guardian Information

Last Name _____________________  First Name _____________________  Email _____________________

Phone Number __________________  Work Number __________________  Cell Number ________________

Emergency Contact _____________________  Emergency Contact Number _____________________

Emergency Contact _____________________  Emergency Contact Number _____________________

€ Check here if you authorized your emergency contacts to pick up your child in your absence.

€ Check here if you authorized your child to walk home.

Health Information (The information you provide here will be held in the strictest confidence. It will be kept on file in our health binder.)

Allergies:
€ Yes  € No

If yes, please describe the severity of the reaction, requested accommodations, and what is done to manage them.

________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any other medical conditions we should be aware of regarding your child.

________________________________________________________________________________________

Jefferson County Public Schools also reserves the right to remove participants from the program if they present a threat to the children or if they abuse the privilege of the mission statement of Jefferson County Public Schools. I hereby grant permission to the Jefferson County Public Schools to take my child’s photo while participating in the activities to use for publicity.

I have read this entire Registration Agreement (including guidelines), I fully understand it, and I agree to be legally bound by it.

______________________________________________  _____________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor  Date