

GCPS PARENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Level 3

Orientation: Team Building – Learning and Growing Together Social

The goal of the Parent Leadership Academy is to develop “Parent Leaders” who will become advocates for their children and their children’s education. As participants gain new knowledge they will grow as leaders and begin to support and guide their community through hardships, decision making, and personal growth, becoming Ambassadors for other parents. In this session, PLA participants are given an opportunity to meet and talk to Level 1 and Level 2 PLA members, hear presentations by PLA graduates, present, and ask questions.

**Other topics discussed: meeting nights, length of meetings, expectations, etc*

****Level 3 member must plan and participate in a project that benefits children and/or schools and/or community.**

Class 1: Graduation Criteria (State/Local)

PLA members meet and listen to a Graduation expert (Grad Coach, HS Counselor, and Administrator) present the new state and county criteria for graduation. When members become educated about graduation criteria, they know what is expected from their child(ren). In order for parents to support and guide their child(ren) through high school, this information is necessary. Only when parents have this information are they able to inform, guide, and support their child through his/her high school career.

Class 2: Now , Go Put Your Strengths to Work (Buckingham)/Project

As part of the book’s program parents take an online Strengths Engagement Track, a focused and powerful gauge that has proven to be the best way to measure the level of engagement of their strengths.

*PLA members will be expected to choose a project to work on that would benefit children and/or schools and/or families and/or community. Upon completion of the semester, participants will share their experiences, the knowledge gained, and the outcome of the project.

Class 3: Now, Go Put Your Strengths to Work/GCPS Monthly School Board Meeting

With structured exercises that will become part of the parent’s week and proven tactics from people who have successfully applied the book’s lessons, *Go Put Your Strengths to Work* will arm parents with a radically different approach to their life and the lives of their families.

*PLA Members are expected to attend one GCPS Board Meeting and/or Area Board Meeting

Class 4: Material Review and Adoption, How the Process Works

How does a school district select textbooks? How do parents know the textbooks used by their child meets his/her needs? PLA members participate in a “mock” textbook selection exercise and learn what GCPS educators look for when making new textbook adoptions.

Class 5: Data Disaggregation and Interpretation for County, State, and National Testing

Participants learn why and how to read National, State, and Local test scores through hands on activities in order to understand their children’s scores. Additionally, members will use this knowledge to assist other parents with learning and understanding how to read their children’s test scores. Having this understanding will enable parents to better support their children’s academic needs, as well as support other parents and their families.

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Class 6: Project Presentations

It is time to present! Member will present project. Project completion will be at separate place, so projects are presented as they are.

Graduation: Reflection, Discussion, & Evaluation

In the last class all PLA members (Lv 1, 2, & 3) participate in focus group discussions. They are asked to share one piece of information they learned during their time in the academy that had the greatest impact on them and one piece of information that had little to no impact. Participants share the benefits of the academy, as well as the challenges. In addition, the participants are encouraged to discuss any ideas and/or changes they would like to see added, and/or removed from the curriculum. Finally, participants are asked to complete an evaluation and encouraged to share their own ideas about parent leadership on the evaluation.