

GEORGIA PREPARATORY ACADEMY

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



PARENT INFORMATION

Welcome Back

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year at Georgia Preparatory Academy. It is our pleasure to serve and support your student while here at GPA, either as their case manager, teacher or as a staff member invested in their education and positive school experience.

We hope to guide your child toward success this year and in their future endeavors. Students will be successful if they put forth their best effort. It is imperative that parents are involved in their child's education. Research links parental involvement in education to student achievement.

"When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more." It is our hope that parents will commit to partnering with teachers and other professionals in planning their child's educational program and journey.

Coming Soon....Join Us for Open House

Georgia Preparatory Academy's Open House includes a brief information session, an opportunity for families to meet school administrators, speak with teachers, tour the school and ask questions.

We highly encourage our parents to come out to meet us during Open House. Please join us!

Check with your child's school for dates and time.



What is Parent Engagement?

According to experts, the definition of parent engagement is parents and teachers sharing a responsibility to help their children learn and meet educational goals. Parent engagement happens when teachers involve parents in school meetings or events, and parents volunteer their support at home and at school. In this way, they make a commitment. Parents commit to prioritizing their child's educational goals, and teachers commit to listening and providing a space for collaboration with parents.



Planning for the Life After High School

Transition planning helps students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) prepare for life after high school.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act (IDEA), a student's IEP must include transition services by the time he/she turns 16. However, planning often starts earlier. IEP teams may sometimes begin working with students as early as middle school to help them explore their interests and possible careers.

The purpose of transition planning is to help your child prepare to be an independent young adult. Students should be encouraged to attend IEP meetings and to play a leading role in planning for their future.



CONNECT WITH YOUR PARENT MENTOR

Parent Mentor

A Parent Mentor is the parent of a child with a disability employed by a local education agency to help school districts and families by providing training, support, and information services.

The goals of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership are to:

Build collaborative partnerships between families, schools and committees to benefit students with disabilities.

Guide families through the special education process, including rights and responsibilities.

Listen and provide support to families and educators on an individual basis.

Provide information and resources to families and school personnel on programs, services and community resources.

For assistance or additional information, contact GPA's Parent Mentor, Doricia Thompson at 404-508-6689 or email dorciathompson@djj.state.ga.us.