

FACE to FACE  
with



Education  
Leaders

## Helping your child **succeed** in school

By Lara Krupicka



**T**here is no magic formula for school success, but there are plenty of things you can do to improve your child's performance at school. Such as:

1. Keep a consistent bedtime for your child. Being well-rested enables kids to better focus in school.
2. Serve a healthy breakfast. A protein-rich breakfast, such as eggs, or cereal with milk will give your child fuel for his body and brain.
3. Initiate regular communication with her teacher. Let her know of any concerns you have or if there are any irregular circumstances at home. Ask for her feedback on how your child is doing.
4. Read regularly with your child. Not only does reading provide a good parent/child bonding time, it also encourages development of reading skills.
5. Take a look at her take-home folder or assignment notebook on occasion. Review deadlines and your child's plan for meeting them.
6. Encourage your child to explore deeper into topics that interest her. Learning is a lifelong skill and kids need to see that they can find enjoyment in it.
7. Ask open-ended questions about what your child is studying in school. Let him teach you. Passing along skills and information is a good way to reinforce what they're learning.
8. Buy them books. Buy yourself books. Children raised in a print-rich environment are shown to be more proficient readers, according to Educational Testing Service.
9. Praise growth rather than achievement. Psychologist and researcher Carol Dweck emphasizes a growth mindset that values learning for its own sake as a better predictor of success than "talent" or IQ.
10. Get involved in your child's school when you are able. Interacting with other parents can offer insights on what happens in your child's school day and alert you to upcoming big deadlines.
11. Talk about current events as a family. Awareness of the world around them and thinking critically about what is happening make children better learners.
12. When working with your child on homework, guide them in strategies for completing it without doing the work for them. ■

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### Brett Marcoux, Principal & CEO Provident Charter School

Children with dyslexia flourish in a learning community where their success is the driver of every decision. At Provident Charter School, the region's only school designed to serve children with dyslexia and other language-based differences, Brett Marcoux, principal and CEO, leads a group of highly skilled educators as they deploy a specialized, multi-sensory curriculum that capitalizes on each student's strengths.

Brett's career in education spans more than 16 years – including Pittsburgh Public Schools, The Campus School at Carlow University, and The Key School in Annapolis, MD, as well the South Wales, NY-based Gow School, a well-known private school for students with dyslexia. Provident is now enrolling third, fourth and fifth grade students for the 2017-18 school year.



PROVIDENT  
CHARTER SCHOOL

## Todd Aiken, Upper School Principal & Chief Academic Officer Eden Christian Academy



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A leader at Eden Christian Academy since 2002, Todd Aiken serves as Principal and Chief Academic Officer at the school's Ohio Township campus, serving 7th–12th grade students.

Early in his tenure, Aiken was the architect of Eden's highly successful high school program and led a rigorous, national dual-accreditation process. Since then, he has developed Eden's Advanced Placement and College in High School programs; created a vibrant spiritual life program with community service and mentoring components; started an international program that has hosted students from Asia, South America, and Europe; and implemented a 1:1 technology

program. Aiken also coaches the varsity boys' basketball team, boasting over 375 career victories.

"Our goal is to provide a Christ-centered, full, and engaged school experience that translates into early success at the next level," says Aiken. "Every day, we encourage students to become lifelong learners, directed by faith and passion."

Founded in 1983, Eden Christian Academy educates over 630 students in preschool through grade 12 on three beautiful campuses in the North Hills. Eden's new, state-of-the-art academic building, which includes classrooms, a media center, and science labs, is set to open in 2017.



EDEN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## Anthony Hamlet, Ed.D, Superintendent Pittsburgh Public Schools



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### PPS Superintendent Hamlet tells students: 'Expect Great Things'

As Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Anthony Hamlet, Ed.D prepares for his second year on the job, he is excited for what lies ahead.

Hamlet spent most of his first year learning about his new district literally from the ground up. He visited each of the District's 54 schools, received input from more than 3,500 people, and sought the assessment of the Council of The Great City Schools (CGCS), the only national organization composed of 70 large urban school districts.

The result is a series of district-wide changes designed to raise the bar for what public education means in Pittsburgh. Toward that end, many of the new strategies planned by the district focus on

reducing suspensions, training teachers and principals in positive behavior support systems, and implementing restorative practices at all schools.

Hamlet points to a 2016 Gallup Poll that finds hopeful students are nearly three times more likely than their discouraged peers to achieve excellence.

"For me, that's our mission in a nutshell," he says. "As educators, it is our job to instill a sense of hope and help our kids stake their claim in the future being created by all the innovation surrounding Pittsburgh today."

