



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Charter Schools Encourage Parents to Aid Homework Assignments

Children flourish in school when they get positive feedback at home, studies show

Tucson, AZ (08/16/12) – Now that schools are back in full swing, three Arizona school systems superintended by Raena Janes -- La Paloma Academy, Heritage Elementary and Liberty Traditional Charter School – are reminding parents and students that learning doesn't end when the bell rings. "Homework" might not be one of the most welcomed words in a student's vocabulary, but it's a vital part of the learning process. Homework helps reinforce material and skills in class, introduce material for future lessons and teach students how to apply learned skills to new or multiple situations.

"At our schools, parents and guardians are an integral part of the learning process, and, in addition to volunteering time to the school and school functions, parents are encouraged to be an active participant in homework assignments," said Superintendent Raena Janes, who was recently profiled in a Family Circle magazine article, "A School That's More Than Academics." "Numerous studies show that parents can have a positive impact on how the student values homework. Parents can even speed up a child's learning by becoming more active in supervising homework."



"Seeing how children handle homework is a direct indication of how they are doing in school," added Chief Academic Officer Jackie Trujillo-Watins. "If a child is struggling and taking a lot of time to complete homework, that's a good time for a parent to contact us so we can figure out how we can work together to help the student. The more active a parent is in a child's education, the better the student's chances of being a well-rounded citizen, which is something we emphasize at our schools."

Raena Janes suggests these tips to help parents and students with homework:

- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework with no distractions like TV, visitors, etc.
- Be positive about homework, because children will pick up your enthusiasm and be more motivated.
- When possible, during homework time, parents can perform tasks that utilize skills the student is practicing (balancing checkbook for math, writing letters for reading/writing, etc.) to show real-life uses of homework skills.
- If the homework assignment includes parental involvement, cooperate. But if the assignment is to be done by the student alone, stay out of it.

- Keep in touch with your child's teacher, know what the purpose of homework is and what the class rules are. Studies show the more active a parent is with a child's homework, the better the communication is with the school.
- Parents shouldn't think that they need to correct and grade homework assignments, but when a child completes a task well, parents should acknowledge the accomplishment.

To interview Raena Janes, superintendent of La Paloma Academy, Heritage Elementary School and Liberty Traditional Charter School, please call the contacts listed at the bottom of the press release.

About La Paloma Academy

As the largest and fastest-growing charter school system in Southern Arizona, La Paloma Academy continually discovers new fun and innovative ways to make the educational experience at each of its campuses entertaining and challenging. In just a few short years, La Paloma experienced unprecedented growth, expanding from one campus in Tucson with 350 students to three campuses with more than 1,800 students. Raena Janes, the founder and superintendent of La Paloma Academy, focuses her efforts on education with individualized instruction, incorporation of extracurricular activities and emphasis on the importance of family and community values. La Paloma Academy was awarded the State of Arizona's 2005 Excellence in Education Award. In addition, Ms. Janes was named as one of Tucson's 40 Under 40 in 2006, Phoenix's 40 Under 40 in 2011 and Tucson's Mentor of the Year in 2008. Visit the school's website at www.lpatucson.org.

About Heritage Elementary School

Heritage Elementary School, founded in 2002, is one of Arizona's fastest-growing charter school systems. The tuition-free, character-based charter school is home to two campuses, one in Glendale and one in Williams, and serves more than 1,000 students in preschool through eighth grade. Both the Glendale and Williams locations offer bus/van transportation. Students who go to Williams are offered a five-day school week, while traditional schools in the area have been cut back to four days. Raena Janes, an active advocate for Arizona education and charter schools, is the superintendent of Heritage Elementary School. Visit the Glendale school's website at www.hesglendale.org and the Williams school's website at www.heswilliams.org.

About Liberty Traditional Charter School

Liberty Traditional Charter School is a not-for-profit charter school providing an exceptional educational environment that focuses on incredible academics, community involvement and family values. Our campus in Phoenix, Arizona operates out of two buildings: 45th Avenue building is home to first through eighth grades, while kindergarten classes are located just down the street on West Indian School Road. The second and newest campus recently opened in Douglas for grades K-5. Visit the Phoenix school's website at www.ltsphoenix.org and the Douglas school's website at www.ltsdouglas.org.

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