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Academics Plus®, Inc. Educational and Assessment Center Newsletter

“Educating for Success since 1989”

Facts, Fun, and Information

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From the Desk of the Center Director

Are you one of the many people throughout this country that thinks their children and grandchildren are succeeding in school. The truth is students in America are being left behind when it comes to education. This is not a new occurrence. The state of our education system has been on the decline for decades now. Eventually the government intervened, establishing standards countrywide. The problem with the government’s solution to the problem is that the education system does not operate in a vacuum. Under the government’s plan, standards were implemented. Unfortunately, these standards are not fixing the system. The problem with the government’s plan is simple. It assumes that school districts, teachers, parents, and administrators want children to learn more than anything else. This is a reasonable assumption, but it is not based in reality. Anyone whose job hangs in the balance has a strong self-interest to demonstrate positive results. There are two ways to demonstrate these positive results. One is to encourage teachers, parents, administrators, and students to work collectively toward a shared goal. The other is to find a way to make it appear that positive results have been achieved when they have not. In a government system, many will simply choose the path of least resistance (and let’s face it—least effort). Additionally, too many parents and students are willing to accept whatever requires the least trouble and effort on their part. Our education system today is suffering because of our lack of healthy skepticism and our unwillingness to do what is right, regardless of the difficulty involved.

So, how do we fix the problem? We focus on a shared goal and find a way forward. It is not about who is at fault. We let the system fail ourselves and our children. We failed ourselves by not striving to do our best and for not expecting the best from others. We failed to hold children, teachers, administrators, local governments, and ourselves accountable. There are apathetic students, parents, and administrators. What is new about that? How do you fix apathy? You set an example. Be a leader. Eventually, others will follow. It is human nature and the nature of government. If the majority of people start to move in a direction, the minority will follow or be left behind. In particular, those holding political office will follow the majority out of self-interest. Think back to the dances you used to go to in school. When did people stop hugging the walls and begin dancing and having fun? Before someone braved the dance floor or after? It starts with leaders, so be a leader. Be outspoken. Be respectful, but be firm. Be part of the solution. It will take time. All important change does. Be tenacious. Be resolute. Remember that others have done the same. Our founding fathers, civil rights leaders, and many other groups that stood for change did so both individually and collectively; but change always starts with the individual. That individual is you. You fix the system by making a stand. You serve the children of

this country by demanding excellence. There will always be those that resist. Do not let that be an excuse for inaction. If you do, you are no different from those resisting, from those willing to fail our children. Be a leader. Let others see the way forward through you. Academics Plus, Inc. has been and continues to be a leader when it comes to education. We prove that the combination of caring parents, students, teachers, and administrators, working together for the good of children, can achieve excellence. That is what we have done since 1989. It is what we continue to do. So give us a call or drop by our offices. Let us show you what a successful education system looks like.

B. R. Coe
Learning Center Director
Academics Plus, Inc. Educational and Assessment Center

Quote of the Month

["Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."](#)-Ryunosuke Satoro

Are you smarter than North Carolina 5th Graders?

1. Erosion along the path of a river is **most likely** the greatest in what area?
 - A. The area with the least amount of rocks
 - B. The area that is the widest
 - C. The area that is the flattest
 - D. The area with the strongest flow of water
2. How is air pressure affected by summer heat?
 - A. Areas of high pressure are created when the air expands, becoming more dense.
 - B. Areas of low pressure are created when the air expands, becoming less dense.
 - C. Areas of low pressure are created when the air expands, becoming more dense.
 - D. Areas of high pressure are created when the air expands, becoming less dense.
3. Jesse, Charlie, Mia, and Me Ling ran a 100-meter dash. Jesse finished in 19.4 seconds, Charlie finished in 19.04 seconds, Mia finished in 19.44 seconds, and Me Ling finished in 19.044 seconds. Which runner finished first?
 - A. Me Ling
 - B. Charlie
 - C. Jesse
 - D. Mia
4. The Chan family was planning a vacation. A four-day hiking and horseback riding trip in the mountains would cost the family \$335.99 a day. An Alaskan cruise would cost \$1,925 for the whole trip. What is the difference in the cost of these trips?
 - A. \$582.03
 - B. \$581.04
 - C. \$518.04
 - D. \$580.03