



Alliance of Parents and Children for Educational Empowerment, Inc.

**Special Administrative Board of the
Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis &
The Alliance of Parents and Children
for Educational Empowerment, Inc. (APCEE)**

APCEE PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011-2012

The Alliance of Parents and Children for Educational Empowerment (APCEE) has, since contracting with St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) in 2011–2012, furthered its mission to promote high quality education among public school students by empowering parents and strengthening student’s positive interaction at school and with the overall educational experience.

METHODOLOGIES

Center Coordinators are extensively trained in:

- **parent involvement in schools**
- **family interventions**
- **student one-one-on interventions**
- **parent and student wraparound support**
- **assist in enforcing truancy laws**

APCEE Centers are points of origin for:

- **volunteer activities**
- **parent recruitment**

The following summarizes these methodologies.

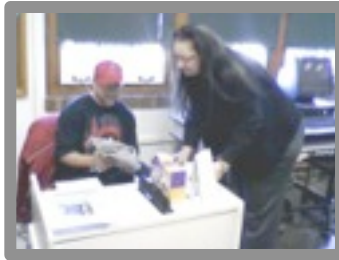
Wraparound Services for Parents

Family and School Intervention

- Research makes clear that African American and Hispanic children have higher rates of suspension, expulsion, and police are called with more frequency.**
- APCEE Centers offset potentially dehumanizing elements of low-income families' experience at school, via bridging the gap between home and school environments.**
- Chiefly, APCEE obtains parental permission for troubled and low performing students to be routed to its Centers for refocusing and academic support. APCEE Centers prevent removal of children from school, becoming the last stop before suspension.**
- Coordinators review truancy and absentee lists daily and contact or visit parents to encourage compliance, emphasizing that APCEE's intervention will preclude Department of Social Services follow-up.**

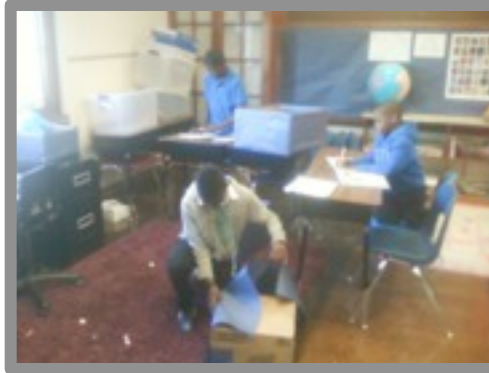
RESULT: SLPS Schools with APCEE Centers have high attendance rates.

Intervention/Wraparound Services (continued)



- **Coordinators are trained to meet parents where they are and follow a non-exclusionary policy of parent involvement.**
- **APCEE provides parent instruction and written materials pertaining to teacher engagement when visiting classrooms and advises parents how to emulate at home.**
- **Direct contact with parents at home is key to gauging sometimes epidemic proportions of maladaptive behaviors which originate in the home or community and spill over to the school.**
- **Counseling referrals are arranged through APCEE for children and parents.**
- **Coordinators visit families and facilitate parental presence at school via canvassing and other outreach activities. APCEE Center events promote parent participation and attendance at special school assemblies.**

Intervention/Wraparound Services (continued)



- **APCEE Coordinators assist children with severe behavioral problems due to an inability to read and provide tutoring within the Center.**
- **APCEE provides counseling referrals for troubled students.**
- **Parents are advised of strategies to promote reading and literacy in the home, homework support techniques are reviewed and instructional pamphlets provided.**
- **Other students enjoy APCEE Center participation in writing contests, during lunch recess to avoid playground fights or for quiet camaraderie, and to work on special projects. APCEE funds math curriculum activities at host schools and participates in innovative math instructional programs.**

- Coordinators assist parents in finding employment.**
- Computers are made available at APCEE Centers for parent use.**
- Current jobs are posted on Center bulletin boards, and parents are notified when jobs become available.**
- Parents are assisted in resume preparation and directed toward onsite GED classes at some schools.**
- Coordinators acquired and disseminated jobs information to parents via two initiatives undertaken by APCEE in 2012:**

1) Work Readiness professional development seminar in training and certification provided by a Houghton-Mifflin subsidiary, a program currently utilized by the New York State Department of Labor.

2) Internship Opportunity for Lab Technician training at Danforth Plant/Science Center, via Forest Park Community College administered grant.

Curriculum & Assessments

General

- **APCEE Coordinators provide one-on-one and small group tutoring for students routed to Centers. Teachers normally provide worksheets or books for individual students.**
- **Tutoring in APCEE Centers may also be arranged upon parent request.**
- **Center Coordinators give a diagnostic or standard assessment provided by the host school, in order to measure student progress as impacted.**
- **During 2011-2012, Centers utilized the following diagnostics and assessments: AIMSweb (Mann, provided by Principal); Study Island (Hamilton, Walbridge, all-student access); IXL.com (Walbridge, APCEE subscription); Acuity A, B, & C (Walbridge)**
- **Students with remedial level scores on Terra Nova, Acuity Tier II, and other benchmarks, were routed to APCEE Centers by the Principal, Teacher Learning Facilitator or Reading Specialist, when Coordinator access to scores was prohibited. (Ashland, Columbia, Langston, Sigel)**

General/Curriculum & Assessments (continued)

- in many instances, school personnel are unable to provide learning materials, because student removal from the classroom is due to behavioral issues, creating a tense and hurried routing situation.**
- In these instances, Coordinators generate grade level web-based spelling and vocabulary lists, timetables, math word problems or assigned essays.**
- Coordinators share student learning experiences, tutoring tips, resources and assessment info during professional development sessions.***

APCEE Staff with academic backgrounds include the following persons:

- APCEE Missouri Executive Director Bertha Gilkey-Bonds low-income housing model is taught in universities in the U.S. She has consulted globally with governments on low-income housing in Sweden, Hungary, Australia, West Africa and New York State.**
- Ruth-Miriam Garnett holds a BA from Harvard and graduate credit from Columbia University in Social and Cultural Anthropology. She is author of four books, a past recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and is multilingual (French, German). She has taught Creative Writing & Composition at The City College of New York, New York University, Washington University and Webster University.**
- Tyresha Shields is currently an Education student at Harris-Stowe State College. Ms. Shields has been invited to pursue graduate study in Education at Harvard University, based on a paper she published last year on Multiple Intelligence Learning.**
- Veronica Young is certified in Education as an Elementary and Middle School Teacher of Science and**

Curriculum & Assessments (continued)



**Graduation 1907
Simmons School**

Assessment Model

- Due to both the educational and operational success of tutoring protocols and assessment instruments at Mann Elementary School, we hope to establish these for all APCEE Parent Resource Centers in 2012-2013.**
 - At Mann, AIMSweb was utilized for pre and post-testing.**
 - Subsequently, 18-20 students were regularly scheduled for tutoring in reading, Monday through Thursday each week.**
 - K-2nd students at Mann were provided small group tutoring in the Center.**
- RESULT: Reading wpm scores increased 47% in 3-6 grade students tutored.**

Curriculum & Assessments (continued)

ESOL

- **Hispanic, Somalian and Vietnamese students were serviced at two APCEE Centers (Mann and Sigel), through a weekly meeting (for each group) with parents, a translator and the APCEE Coordinator onsite.**
- **Meetings focused on the most urgent cases of student dysfunction.**
- **Student academic and behavioral issues were reviewed and problem-solving methods explained to parents.**
- **Parents were provided tools for at-home learning, and parent involvement opportunities at school discussed and encouraged.**

COMMUNITY ACADEMIC TRUST

- **Identified and recruited participants via outreach.**
- **Familiarized parents and community partners with Missouri grade-level content standards.**
- **Provided parents training in classroom evaluation criteria and grade-level expectations**

Curriculum & Assessments (continued)

2012-2013 OPERATIONAL & INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS (PARTIAL LIST):

- **Due to demonstrated effectiveness, incorporate APCEE tutoring activity in school-wide reading program.**
- **Include Center Coordinator in Care Team and School Intervention Team Meetings. in order to avoid student suspension.**
- **Provide parents and families opportunity for compilation of individual family histories as literacy tool, via census research and interviews. ***

***See Appendix, related to ESOL strategies.**

This section to be continued.

Health & Wellness

In April 2012, pediatrician Dr. Joyce Johnson partnered with APCEE, making her renowned weight loss program available to obese SLPS children. Operating twice weekly at Walbridge Elementary, the program continued during APCEE's summer Kamp Bee Kool activity.

Home / Lifestyle / Health, Medicine & Fitness / Fitness

Teen curtails his craving for milk, gets in top shape

BY HARRY JACKSON JR. • harry.jackson@post-dispatch.com
pm | (2) comments



Marvin Jones before and after: at age 12 and a seventh-grader, when he was approaching 300 pounds; and today at age 17 — 6 feet 5, 250 pounds and athletic.

A Post-Dispatch article on this program appeared March 28, 2012. We have included the full article in the Appendix to this presentation. The full text of the article is also available at stltoday.com.



Students at Walbridge gymnasium raise and lower a parachute to test endurance in timed exercise

Dr. Johnson's Weight loss Program/Health & Wellness Initiative

Good Food Combinations



–Dr. Johnson's program, while operating at Walbridge was monitored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in order to promote it as a national model for weight loss among African American youth in inner city communities.

–As result of this activity, with 10 of 24 participants achieving significant weight loss, Dr. Johnson was invited by the Robert Wood Johnson foundation to submit a grant request for expansion nationwide. APCEE will

Dr. Johnson's Weight loss Program/Health & Wellness Initiative

- After testing for allergies, endurance and metabolism, Dr. Johnson introduces children to best practices for achieving and maintaining optimal weight.**
- Students locate their personal characteristics on diet and weight loss charts, becoming familiar with the vocabulary of the regimen established.**
- On grocery shopping trips with Dr. Johnson, children read label ingredients, thus experiencing wise decision-making regarding food choice, whether purchasing for meals or snacks.**

Dr. Johnson's Weight loss Program/Health & Wellness Initiative

In Dr. Johnson's own words:

- Teachers in all seven schools reported that students made changes.**
- One child who wanted to swim 25 hours was able to do so after being in the program for several. This child lost seven pounds the first week.**
- Some children could not fit into last year's clothes. They can now.**
- A mother supporting her children began to physically and mentally engage in the program. Whenever this mother started to eat bad food, her children agreed to say to her: "Mother, you're better than that."**
- Two children who were behavior problems worked diligently during the program, and their behavior at school changed noticeably.**
- Children could state the benefits of calcium, that three colors in fruit and vegetable servings was preferable.**
- Children who did not like milk, liked yogurt smoothies a great deal, and learned how to make them in a blender and cutting and adding favorite fruit.**



**INCREASED MATH, READING, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & NUTRITION DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE
LEADERSHIP TRAINING & COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY
DECREASE IN ASTHMA, ALLERGIES & OBESITY**

Gardening/Outdoor Classroom Initiative



APCEE's gardening initiative is spearheaded by leaders, Lee Bell and Donald Thompson, and partner and Robotics leader, Marcos Chu. APCEE's role in gardening District schools with APCEE Centers is as follows:

- **Assisting with preparation of the gardening plots**
- **Providing plants, dirt and compost**
- **Weeding, trimming, cutting grass and other labor**
- **Recruiting community persons for involvement**

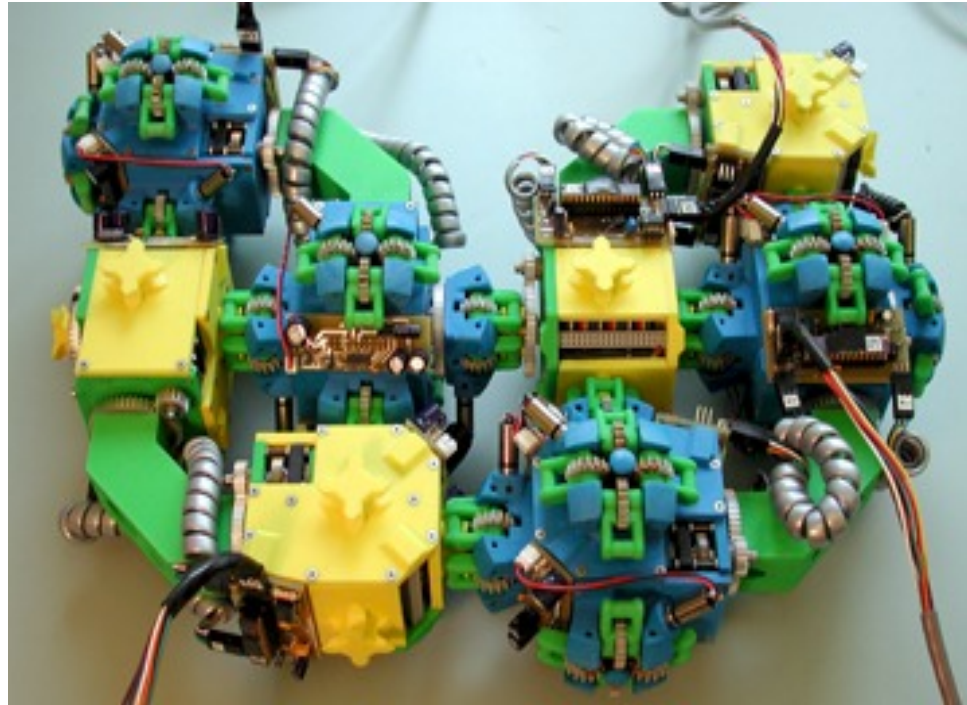


(Lee Bell makes preparations, top left photo; Marcos Chu with students, top right photo; Donald Thompson, left, and Parent Volunteer Calvin Jones, bottom right)

Gardening/Outdoor Classroom Initiative

- **In APCEE's gardening activity, students experience the wonders of gardening, and their natural curiosity is captivated by applied principles of math, reading, science and agriculture.**
- **Students are taught the nutritional value of foods they plant, as well as the botanical classification of the varieties of fruits and vegetables.**
- **Since gardens satisfy the senses and illumine the imagination, even challenges become "teachable" moments relevant to real-life problem-solving.**
- **Adults are provided an opportunity for inclusion in a rich, healthy and satisfying educational experience.**
- **Students learn the connection between the seeds they plant, the produce their parents buy at the grocery store and the vegetables on their plate.**
- **Students learn to measure the garden site, calculate watering capabilities and requirements and the amount of sunlight anticipated, opening the door to agricultural careers, whether standing atop soil or sitting behind a desk at the US Department of Agriculture.**

Robotics



Robotics Initiative

- **Systems Engineer and Founder, Broad Engagement Robotics Spiral Demo Team (BERSDT), Marcos Chu, APCEE's Robotics Team Leader.**
- **Mr. Chu is former chair, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), St. Louis.**
- **BERDST is committed to introducing public school students in marginalized and food desert communities to the skills involved in building and operating robots - the jobs of the future - in agriculture, engineering and other fields.**
- **BERDST is a national initiative, comprised of volunteer professionals who build robots using the same materials used in student robotics competition. Mutual partners of APCEE and BERDST are Yours Market and SCOPE (Science and Citizens Organized for Purpose and Exploration). SLPS students will design and build robots to water community gardens they have planted.**
- **Due to our valuable partnerships, the APCEE Robotics Initiative is the only**



Robotics Initiative

In Mr. Chu's own words:

"Engineering is a process of problem solving, combining science and visual art, thus looking at problems using a holistic method. APCEE provides a framework via which students develop a learning community to solve real life problems at the appropriate grade level. The pedagogy is comprised of financial, visual and aesthetic components . It is therefore, a multiple intelligence approach to learning, as promulgated by Harvard Professor Howard Gardner."

Carnegie Mellon study:

Robotics enables students to “do” mathematics rather than study it. When robots are programmed to move specific distances students are required to apply geometry, measurement, conversion of units, ratios and proportions. Robotics is a motivational tool that brings math to life in the classroom.

Robotics Initiative

- **Robotics, as an organizer of content, offers educators a unit of study that implicitly demonstrates the application of math, science, and technology, as well as introduces children to technological literacy as they develop the following work related competencies:**
- **project and time management**
- **resource allocation**
- **information accessing**
- **systems understanding**
- **team work, and problem solving**
- **Robotics allows teachers to introduce academic concepts in contexts that make sense to children.**
- **Children begin to understand the digital world that they grow up in.**



(photos: Marcos Chu presenting to students in Boeing Corporation auditorium; Hamilton School Robotics Team)

Robotics Initiative



1) A DAY AT BOEING LEARNING , WATCHING FLYING ROBOTS, & MEETING SMART PEOPLE, INCLUDING MARC GOLDSMITH, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS!

2, 3 & 4) HAMILTON STUDENTS WITH APCEE COORDINATOR TY SHIELDS AT FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION, EDWARD JONES DOME

3) WALBRIDGE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT HOLDING LEGO MINDSTORM KIT, DONATED BY BERDST MEMB ER.

4 & 5) HAMILTON STUDENTS AT SCIENCE CENTER (THEY DEMANDED EQUAL TIME)

6) APCEE COORDINATOR DOROTHY BROWN AND FRIEND AT YOURS MARKET OUTDOOR FESTIVAL/ROBOTICS FUNDRAISER.

APCEE SLPS STUDENTS REALLY REALLY GET IT!

APCEE'S TERRA NOVA



Pyramid by Ryan Hampton and Jatavvion Dabanie, Walbridge Elementary

Terra Nova Initiatives

APCEE is determined to provide comprehensive and aggressive service delivery, given the enormity and critical nature of our task to improve children's educational futures. During 2011-2012, APCEE broke ground in several areas:

–Bringing parents closer to children via bonding strategies threaded throughout all initiatives.

–Strengthening PTO's via holding elections.

–Establishing Student Councils at each school to provide robotics leadership & sustainability.

–Anti-Bullying Initiative, included visiting panel and Black Rep actors' role playing skit.

–Kamp Bee Kool during the summer continued school year initiatives, with family field trips every Friday promoting parent/children bonding.

Lastly, addenda regarding our academic scope of services, collaborations with faculty, examples of student work and media coverage of partners can be found in the Appendix.