



RAYMOND J. FISHER MIDDLE SCHOOL
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*Fisher Middle School
PEP CLUB
Purposefully Engaged Parents*



Principal's Challenge
2015-2016

FISHER PEP CLUB GUIDELINES:
How to Become a Purposefully Engaged Parent

Complete the enclosed Fisher **PEP CLUB** on line membership form <https://fisherhsc.wufoo.com/forms/201516-pep-club-membership-form/>. Form are also located fisherhsc.com.

- This information will be used to monitor participation rates, send periodic updates on **PEP CLUB** related events and activities provide motivational support, and enter you into the exciting **Principal's Challenge** raffle to be held at our Open House on May 5, 2016.

Review the list of Principal's Challenge activities and earnestly tackle as many as possible between now and May 5, 2016. You will receive one raffle ticket for each PEP CLUB task or activity you complete.

- Your **Principal's Challenge** checklist will be collected at Open House in exchange for the raffle tickets you have earned.
- Donated raffle prizes, commensurate with your extraordinary efforts, will be drawn during my introductory comments at Open House on May 5, 2016.

Character Counts!

- The **Principal's Challenge** will be conducted purely on an honor system. If you believe you have done your best to meet the intent of a checklist item, then by all means, give yourself credit.

Going The Extra Mile.....

- On occasion, new and/or unanticipated opportunities may arise that fall in the category of purposeful activities for parents. Should this occur, I will send this information to the e-mail contact provided by each **PEP CLUB** member. Of course, additional bonus raffle tickets will be made available for this purpose.

PRINCIPAL'S CHALLENGE CHECKLIST:
Complete a challenge task and give yourself credit for each.

Initial each challenge task once completed:

- ρ **Attend your child's Back to School Night.**
Getting to know your child's teachers is an important step in fostering a collaborative partnership.
- ρ **Read your weekly Fisher Flyer as often as possible.**
The Fisher Flyer is sent electronically every Wednesday and contains important information, deadlines, event dates and other helpful tips to keep you connected and informed.
- ρ **Attend at least one school or community sponsored parent education event. Examples:**
 - Monthly Principal's Chat at Fisher Middle School
 - Fisher School Advisory Council meeting(s)
 - Parenting Continuum Speaker Series
 - Project Cornerstone – Take It Personally Workshop
 - Other: _____
- ρ **Join the Fisher Home and School Club.**
Our Fisher Home and School Club provides critical support and funding for the programs and activities that make Fisher a special place for kids. Your donation(s) make a world of difference in keeping Fisher fiscally solvent and educationally top notch.
- ρ **Review our Fisher School Planner/Student Behavior Plan with your son or daughter. Show your support for the rules and help your child understand the reasons for them.**
- ρ **Spend a lunch period volunteering for Parents on Campus.**
There is no better way to connect with youth than to have a bird's eye view of teenagers in action. They have amazing exuberance and are a delight to spend time with. Sign up on our Fisher Home and School Club website and come join the fun.

PRINCIPAL'S CHALLENGE CHECKLIST: (Continued)

Complete a **challenge task** and give yourself credit for each.

- ρ **Log on to the Project Cornerstone website, read through the list of developmental assets for middle grade students, and take a few minutes to explore the myriad of resources available to support you.**

Developmental assets are the positive values, relationships, skills, and experiences that help children and teens thrive. Young people with high asset levels are most likely to make healthy choices, while those with lower asset levels are more likely to get involved with negative or risky behaviors. Search Institute created the developmental assets framework. For more information, visit www.search-institute.org.

- ρ **Be involved in your child's school life by volunteering as often as possible. Find an area of interest on the Fisher Home and School Club website and sign-up for any activity that works with your schedule using the iVolunteer link.**

- ρ **Reach out to other middle school parents whom you trust and respect and ask them to share one parenting tip that they believe has helped them maintain a positive parental relationship with their teenage child.**

Why reinvent the wheel? The more we help one another, the more our kids will benefit from the collective wisdom that resides within our amazing community. Parents sometimes shy away from offering unsolicited advice, but when requested, they are often more than willing to share. Reach out.

- ρ **Become familiar with your child's academic curriculum and its required skills and aptitudes. Help them set goals that are challenging, but attainable.**

PRINCIPAL'S CHALLENGE CHECKLIST: (Continued)

Complete a **challenge task** and give yourself credit for each.

- ρ **Model inclusivity by reaching out to someone outside your immediate friendship circle who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.**

The middle school years can be challenging in this arena. By modeling this behavior ourselves, we can teach our young people the value of empathy and kindness.

- ρ **Get educated. Choose a book that helps you to better understand the unique needs and characteristics of middle school youth and look for helpful hints. Here are some suggested titles to get you started:**

- *Parenting Teens With Love and Logic*, by Jim Fay.
- *Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide To The Adolescent Brain*, by Dr. David Walsh.
- *No: Why Kids of All Ages Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It*, by Dr. David Walsh.
- *Parents' Guide to the Middle School Years*, by Joe Bruzzese.
- *Where's My Stuff? The Ultimate Teen Organizing Guide*, by Samantha Moss.
- *The Primal Teen*, by Barbara Strauch.
- *The World Needs Your Kid: Raising Children Who Care and Contribute*, by Craig Kielburger.
- Other: _____

- ρ **Attend Fisher's Open House Family Fun Fest**

Celebrating your child's accomplishments is an important affirmation of his or her efforts.

Congratulations and thank you for supporting our Fisher PEP CLUB by participating in the Principal's Challenge!

Please bring your completed checklist to Open House on May 5, 2016 and look for the **Principal's Challenge** table to redeem your raffle tickets.

REFLECTIONS:

THE PRINCIPAL'S CHALLENGE

There is no question that the success of our school and the climate we promote for our students is predicated on forging strong collaborative partnerships with our parent community. What can make this particularly challenging in the middle school years, is that middle grade students often begin searching to form a conscious sense of their individual uniqueness.

This can sometimes present as outright willfulness or even recalcitrance towards parents or other adults. Though this may be challenging to negotiate, they still absolutely want to know and feel that we love and accept them. They need frequent affirmation, and they rely on us to help them through this challenging time in their lives. Therein lies the purpose of my new ***Principal's Challenge***.

Just as we want our students to be highly engaged, we also want **Purposefully Engaged Parents**, a resident **PEP CLUB**, on the sidelines rooting for our kids' success. It can sometimes be difficult to transition from neighborhood elementary schools to a larger middle school environment, and navigating the process of reconnecting to a new school team can be unsettling.

To assist you in this endeavor, I have created a road map of actions and activities that will challenge you to get connected, be informed, stay involved, meet new families, and hopefully have some fun along the way.

To join our *Fisher PEP CLUB*, simply complete the enclosed membership form, read through the **PEP CLUB** game plan, and jump in with both feet. The dividends are sure to be transformational for you, your child, and our larger school community. **Go Team!**

Lisa Fraser
Principal
