



**Office of the Director, DoDDS-Europe  
Diana J. Ohman, Director**

**Parent Newsletter Article for November 2007**

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**American Education Week (AEW), November 11-17, 2007**

The National Education Association's (NEA's) 86th annual AEW spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. This year's theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," highlights the importance of bringing together educators, school staff, parents, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. Millions of educators, parents, students, and community leaders will join the NEA and other national organizations in raising awareness about the critical need to provide every child with a quality public education.

National Education Support Professionals (ESP) Day is observed on Wednesday during American Education Week. ESP Day was first celebrated in 1987 after NEA's Representative Assembly called for the creation of a way to honor contributions of school support staff. National ESP Day is a time to strengthen support and respect for these colleagues. Today's support professionals provide invaluable services that enable students to learn in positive, supportive environments. ESPs are equal and essential partners in the education process.

**Parent Teacher Conferences**

Numerous studies have concluded that a crucial key to helping children succeed in school is parent involvement. This is one educational idea that takes no money, no equipment, and no special training. One of the most important ways that parents can get directly involved is to attend and fully participate in parent conferences. There are some key elements in successful conferencing -- communicating effectively, being a good listener, and hearing both teacher and parental concerns. The National School Public Relations Association offers the following tips for parents.

**Before the conference**

- Decide on specific questions to ask the teacher. For example, is our child doing as well as expected in reading? Why are certain procedures followed in the classroom?
- Prepare to answer questions that might be asked by the teacher about your child's hobbies and interests. Special health problems? Provisions for study at home?
- Express interest in the conference with your child. Note an especially good experience or problem area your child has had in school to relate to the teacher. Ask your child if he or she has questions or complaints.

**After the conference**

- Note the important points of the conference.
- Share the results of the conference with your child.
- Together with your child, design a definite action plan that will promote improved academic growth.
- Feel free to arrange additional conferences.

Parent-teacher conferences allow discussions about helping students do their best in school. Make this a priority that you and your child can share. Your kids will thank you!

DIANA J. OHMAN  
Director, DoDDS-Europe

# COUNSELORS' CORNER

Autumn 2007

Dear Friends,

Please allow me to warmly welcome you and your children back to school. This is my **36<sup>th</sup>** year at RBES, and as always it is a great privilege to work with you and your kids!

This year we are very fortunate to have **Ms. Aprile White** with us. She is a school counselor who comes from the Heidelberg District. Many of you already know what a wonderful person she is as she has very quickly endeared herself to students, faculty, and parents. She will be working primarily with middle school students. If you haven't met her yet, please feel free to stop by the school and say hello.

One of the reasons we have counselors in school is that children need to know there is someone available when they are in trouble or require help. Ms. White and I want them and you to know that we are two of the people they can come and see if they need to talk things over with an adult. Of course, there are other people in the school who can help too – teachers, principal, school nurse, media specialist, and office staff. We are all here for your children.

Obviously, **the most significant person in a child's life is Mom or Dad**. Sometimes, however, parents don't know that their children are having difficulty because of a breakdown in communication. Here are some things *you* can do to encourage your child to ask for help when he or she needs it:

1. Keep in mind that many children don't ask for help because they are embarrassed.
2. Talk to your child about the importance of letting you know when he or she is having difficulty with something. Let your child know you want to help overcome the problem.
3. Make it clear that it's normal and okay to ask for help. Let your child know about times when you needed help and how you solved problems by getting help from others.

If you feel Ms. White or I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us through the school office or in person. Like all members of the RB family, we are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and the children of our community.

Sincerely,  
Mike Chew  
Counselor

*"In some special way each child completes the universe."*

# Robinson Barracks

## Two Hour Delay

### Schedule

A	A		B	B
Elem/6	7/8		Elem/6	7/8
10:00 – 10:10 Home Room	10:00 – 10:10 Home Room		10:00 – 10:10 Home Room	10:00 – 10:10 Home Room
10:10-11:00 1 <sup>st</sup> Period (50 min)	10:10-11:00 1 <sup>st</sup> Period (50 min)		10:10-11:00 5 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)	10:10-11:00 5 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)
10:50-11:25 Elementary Lunch (35 min)	11:05-11:35 2 <sup>nd</sup> sp Period (30 min)		10:50-11:25 Elementary Lunch (35 min)	11:05-11:35 6 <sup>th</sup> sp Period (30 min)
11:05 – 11:45 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch (40 min)	11:40-12:15 Lunch (35 min)		11:05 – 11:45 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch (40 min)	11:40-12:15 Lunch (35 min)
11:50-12:40 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period (50 min)	12:20-12:40 2 <sup>nd</sup> sp Period (20 min)		11:50-12:40 6 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)	12:20-12:40 6 <sup>th</sup> sp Period (20 min)
12:45-13:35 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period (50 min)	12:45-13:35 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period (50 min)		12:45-13:35 7 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)	12:45-13:35 7 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)
13:40-14:30 4 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)	13:40-14:30 4 <sup>th</sup> Period (50 min)		13:40-14:30 8 <sup>th</sup> Period advisory (50 min)	13:40-14:30 8 <sup>th</sup> Period advisory (50 min)

#### Elementary Specials:

A-day afternoon specials will be from 13:10 – 13:25

B-day afternoon specials will be from 13:40-14:02

4/5 A day art will be from 10:20 – 10:45

4/5 A day music will be from 11:30 – 11:55

Staying Organized- The AVID way  
By Stephanie Murphy

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a class that stresses organization as one of the main concepts. The students are taught essential skills to stay organized. One way the students stay organized is with the organization of their binder. Below are a few tips for your student to have a completely organized binder.

**The first tip for having an organized binder is to have only ONE binder. Do not have them have an A and B day binder. This can become confusing and it is easy to lose papers this way.**

Once they have the one binder, there are certain things that should and shouldn't go in the binder.

What should go in a binder?

- All notes, papers, and packets given by teachers (all should be hole-punched)
- Dividers for each class
- A pouch containing pens and pencils (don't get too fancy- the kids really don't need to be carrying around mini staplers and such)
- Extra paper (enough for an entire week)
- Agenda book (filled out with the homework and what they did in class)

What shouldn't go in a binder?

- Folders or dividers with pockets (it is much easier to lose or misplace papers if they are jammed into a pocket)
- Loose papers (never slip papers into the binder, always hole-punch them and put them into the correct section)
- Materials that don't come from teachers or school

To set up a binder there are six easy steps that need to be taken in order to maintain the proper organization throughout the year.

**Step one: Take your ONE large (2-3") binder and place the dividers inside (put the dividers in order of the classes they have with the names of the classes on the divider)**

**Step two: Take all papers from every class and place them into the proper section (making sure all papers are hole punched)**

**Step three: If any papers have had the holes ripped out either get the hole reinforcements or tape both sides of the hole and then hole punch that)**

**Step four: Get an in-binder pencil pouch and put in at least two pencils and two pens (either black or blue). If you are using mechanical pencils, make sure there is enough lead to keep them covered)**

**Step five: Take your extra paper and either place it all at the front or the back of the binder (don't place small amounts in each section, it is easy to forget which section has paper and which doesn't)**

**Step six: Keep the agenda book filled out. If there wasn't any homework make sure they put no homework and then have them write what they did in class. My AVID students have in each box a HW and a CW (Homework and Class work). Also, they can go through and color in the classes they don't have on certain days, which makes it easier to see if you have written down all the homework for each class on the correct days.**

By following these steps and maintaining the binder throughout the year, there is no reason for a lost paper or lack of organization. One last tip to keep you going: NEVER PUT PAPERS IN THE BACKPACK!