

Talk for Parents:

Boys and Girls Learn Differently

Date: 13 March 2010 (Saturday)
Time: 2 pm – 4 pm
Venue: St. Andrew's Secondary School,
Lecture Theatre

Synopsis:

It comes as no surprise to anyone who has raised or educated children that boys and girls are different. Absolutely equal, but different. Scientific advances in the past couple of decades allow us to look inside the brains of males and females to see where actual biological differences occur and the effect on how each gender takes in information. This parent/community session will help to answer many questions about how boys and girls learn differently from birth through adolescence and offer ideas for how we can provide the best learning environment for our boys and girls.

About the Speakers

Dakota Hoyt - Master Trainer

Colorado Springs, Colorado



Dakota Hoyt has been in education for 30 years as a teacher, math/science specialist, assistant principal, director of professional development, and currently, as an educational consultant.

Over her career she has experienced that there is no quick fix to complex educational problems. Her approach is to have educational staff focus on what instruction is best for all students to be successful (results). She does this by having the staff identify where they are currently being successful (data), identify the students that are falling through the cracks (data), and analyze possible underlying issues. With this critical information she helps the staff discover "new" strategies and tools (research) to redesign their best educational practices for all students.

Dakota has been involved with school improvement with the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) for several years. She has been associated with the Gurian Institute since 2004 and is a Gurian Master Certified Trainer. Her Gurian work spans Early Head Start through college students and parent groups.



Lynn Ritvo - Certified Trainer

Lynn serves as director of The Atlanta Project.

The Gurian Institute was awarded a contract in 2007 to help Atlanta Public Schools facilitate the conversion of a traditional co-ed middle school (Benjamin S. Carson) into two single-gender academies: *The Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy* and *The BEST (Business, Engineering, Science and Technology) Academy for Boys*

The two academies opened for the 2007-2008 school year, beginning with 6th grade and adding one grade each year until both schools serve students in 6th through 12th grades. The district selected the pilot area based on the challenging demographics of the community and the need to improve student performance.