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HILTON

Higher Education Begins Early, Part One



KEITH O. HILTON

According to Edgar Epps in the forward of Dr. Reginald Clark's book, **Family Life and School Achievement: Why Poor Black Children Succeed or Fail**, "The family is the basic institution through which children learn who they are, where they fit into society, and what kinds of futures they are likely to experience.

"One's ethnic group membership determines much of the content and flavor of interaction within the family. If one is (African American), Puerto Rican, or Chicano, he or she will be exposed to parental values and priorities that differ in important ways from those experienced by white

(European American) children.

"A family's ability to provide a home environment that prepares its children for future success, including success in school, develops out of past experiences with cultural tasks and social rewards."

If as parents and/or relatives of younger people, we also remember that we are still learning as well, then young people will also learn. It is never too late to be an active leader of the family as many mothers and fathers are discovering.

Whereas Clark, whom I know and respect tremendously, directly focuses on children, much of what he

writes about may serve as guides for adults as well.

Clark suggests a wide variety of specific parental practices that may serve well in equipping school children with the comprehensive writing, reading, verbal, and social skills and personal qualities needed for learning classroom lessons and coping with adults and peers.

For instance, he states that parents clearly need to define and fully accept their responsibilities for "parenting." This means being a provider, teacher, nurturer, coach, and source of hope for the child.

Family members should, he writes, help (children) establish relationships with other achievement oriented persons. Contrary to what we read and hear daily about a lack of U.S. African role models, I continue to say that there is an overabundance of positive Afro-centric local achievement oriented persons.

Students, Clark continues, should be taught (by example) to love and respect parents and, as a result, other authority figures. They should also learn how to interact with other adults outside the family clan.

Clark concludes his book and study by saying that "the (ethnic) family's future

Two Attendance Schedules Followed In School District

Schools in the Clark County School District follow two attendance schedules, nine-month and year-round.

The school district operates a total of 147 schools that includes both elementary, secondary and special schools. All of these schools currently follow a nine-month schedule except 23 year-round elementary schools.

Students at these 23 elementary schools are on a 60-15 schedule (60 days of school, 15 days off). Students are enrolled in "tracks" with an alternating track out on break at all times.

will be determined, in large measure, by its ability to take an active approach to family and community problems." This conclusion also reinforces my belief that in fact much of the positives needed for our future are very much active and in place. An important issue now is to promote this fact through the media.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (714)899-0650.

Registration For Students New to Las Vegas Underway in Area Schools

Families new to Las Vegas who have children that will be attending school beginning August 27 should contact the school they are zoned for as soon as possible. Most schools have set aside dates early in August to register students in order to avoid long lines and to ensure adequate teacher staffing.

New students who do not know what school they will be attending should call the school district's Demographics and Zoning Office at 799-7573.

Items to bring when registering students new to Clark County are a birth certificate, immunization record and two proofs of address, such as a rent receipt and utility bill.

Some schools have situations that require

special registration procedures. For example, Rex Bell Elementary School is undergoing new computerization, therefore they are requiring every student, *new and returning*, to register in person beginning August 6.

To eliminate potential problems on the first day of school, parents are encouraged to call the school their child will be attending to ensure all records are accurate.



Clark County School District Now Ranks 15th Largest in Nation

According to an annual report released by Educational Research Service, the Clark County School District is now the 15th largest school district in the nation, moving up two places from last year's ranking.

The report also shows that of the 15 largest districts, Clark County is the fastest-growing with 5.98 percent growth recorded between the fall of 1988 and 1989. The data reported by the survey shows a beginning student enrollment for Clark County in 1989 of 106,843. While the official student enrollment filed with the Nevada Department of Education was 111,482, the report released by the Educational Research Service counts half-day kindergarten students as one-half pupils. Mark Lange, director of research and development, noted that if the rate of growth for Baltimore City schools, the district ranked 14th, continues, Clark County School District can be expected to overtake them during 1990. Baltimore City Schools, while ranked 14th, only had approximately 400 more students than Clark County. More than 120,000 students are expected to enroll in the Clark County School District this year.

The Educational Research Service report was published in the Summer 1990 issue of ERS Spectrum, a journal of school research and information.

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