

parent

  
KAUFFMAN  
SCHOLARS, INC.

Parents  
Uniting  
Long-term for  
Scholar  
Excellence

# P.U.L.S.E.

What's  
Coming Up

## Class 1

### Parents Summer Activity

**MSU Closing Ceremony**  
Sunday, June 29, 2008

**K-State Closing Ceremony**  
Sunday, August 3, 2008

## Class 2

### Parents Summer Activity

Monday, July 21, 2008  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Pierson Auditorium  
Campus of UMKC  
5000 Holmes Street  
Kansas City, MO 64110

## Class 3

### Parents Summer Activity

Thursday, July 17, 2008  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Kauffman Foundation  
4801 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, MO 64110

## Class 4

### Parents Summer Activity

Thursday, July 31st, 2008  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Paseo Academy of  
Performing Arts  
4747 Flora Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64110

## This Summer Take a Day Trip!

Gas prices are climbing higher every day, and taking a long family road trip might be out-of-the question this summer. One option to give you and your family a sense of adventure – and cut down costs – is to take a few day trips closer to home.

Here in Kansas City, there are many educational activities parents and teens can explore together. For example, the **American Jazz Museum**, where you can learn about 20<sup>th</sup> century music legends like Ella Fitzgerald and Charlie Parker, and experiment with creating harmony and rhythm in a mock studio. Also in the 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine area, visit the **Negro Leagues Museum** to learn about history-making athletes like Jackie Robinson and Buck O'Neil, who changed baseball forever.

Is your son or daughter crazy about airplanes? Then make it a point to take a day trip to the **Airline History Museum**, located in Hangar 9 in the Historic Downtown Airport in Kansas City, Missouri. A collection of airplanes, photos, audio/video productions, artifacts, logbooks, uniforms and other items depicting the history of propeller-driven airplane travel are on display. If you call ahead, guided tours are available.

As we gear up for national elections, learn more about the history of the presidency by visiting the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum** in Independence, Missouri.

Truman was a native of Independence, and the museum exhibits highlight the major issues and decisions of his presidency. This summer, a traveling exhibition about President Lincoln and the Civil War will also be on display.

Of course, a great summer road trip is to visit a nearby college campus with your family. In the metropolitan Kansas City area, and just an hour or two away, there are more than a dozen college campuses you can visit -- Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri; Baker University in Baldwin

City, Kansas; Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas; Park University in Parkville, Missouri; Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri; William Jewell in Liberty, Missouri; University of Kansas in Lawrence; Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph; University of Missouri-Kansas City; University of Missouri-Columbia; Avila University in Kansas City; Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas; and Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas, among others. Be sure to call ahead and ask for the admissions department, to find out if a tour guide can be arranged.

### Resources for more information:

[www.americanjazzmuseum.org](http://www.americanjazzmuseum.org)

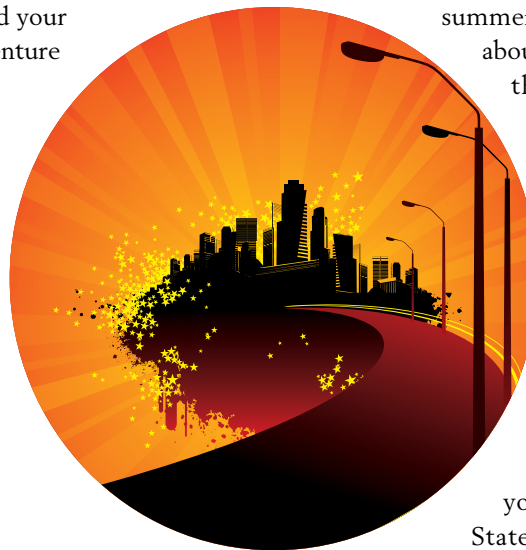
[www.nlbm.org](http://www.nlbm.org)

[www.airlinehistorymuseum.org](http://www.airlinehistorymuseum.org)

[www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org)

Google the name of the college or university for more information.

Remember, parents are partners with KSI in helping your Scholars to succeed!





## A Message From Our President & CEO

# Students Miss Out When Teachers Stay Out

Greetings Parents,

The day to day importance of the teacher-student classroom relationship is becoming ever clearer as new research shows a link between teacher absences and lower student achievement. School administrators, especially in large urban districts, are finding that teacher absences prior to state tests have a negative effect on student math scores.

Education Week reports information from researchers at Harvard University and Duke University shows that students generally do not learn as much when their regular teachers are absent. Districts were already aware of the effect of teacher absences on the budget, and the difficulty of finding qualified substitutes, but the effect on student achievement is just coming to the forefront. Researchers compared the impact of each 10 days of a teacher's absence to the difference for a student of being taught by a first-year teacher as opposed to a second-year teacher. As you might expect, the effectiveness of teachers grows significantly during their first three years of classroom experience.

The schools that have the steepest hills to climb in raising test scores are also the most likely to have the highest percentage of teacher absences. Schools with consistently high rates of teacher sick and personal days were found to be more likely to serve low-income students. The differences in the frequency of teacher absences also reflected the individual culture of their school, and the emphasis placed on high attendance. In schools where the expectations of teacher attendance are high, teachers may avoid taking days off unless it is absolutely necessary. Studies also show that in schools with higher rates of student absences, teacher absences also tended to be higher.

Current research shows the impact of teacher absences is particularly strong in the elementary grades. The gap in the quality of math instruction when a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher was replaced by a substitute teacher was especially large; this may have been the result of math curriculum that was difficult to teach without the preparation of district professional development.

With school districts and principals under pressure to raise test scores, and new research linking teacher absences to lower student achievement, the topic of teacher attendance is likely to become a hot one!

Best regards,

R. Stephen Green, Ed.D  
President & CEO

## Director of Parent Engagement



## Thought for the Month

Pam Harris

### Understanding Your Teen: Building a Better Relationship

It's not easy being the parent of a teenager! While you may have a warm and caring relationship with your teen, the fact that adolescents are discovering their independence and building their self-confidence creates conflicts between parents and teens.

Do you often find yourself quarreling with your teen about everyday activities? She's always in her room; he's always on the phone. He wears his headphones all the time and you have to tap on his head to get his attention. She spends hours on her hair but doesn't have time to empty the dishwasher.

Parents with children in their teens can expect to have more disagreements with them. In recent years, psychologists have revised their ideas of healthy parent-teen relationships. An increased number of disagreements are typical. However, while it might not seem that way, teens do care about their parents' opinions of them, and hold those opinions in high regard. They need the support and nurturing of parents as much now as ever. Research clearly indicates that parental involvement is a key factor in the success of children.

Once parents understand that your teen is trying to find his or her way to becoming their own person and establishing greater independence, the number of arguments between parents and teens often declines. It is common to fear a loss of parental control and worry that increased independence will put your child in danger. That is why keeping the line of communication open is vital in maintaining a strong support system for your child.

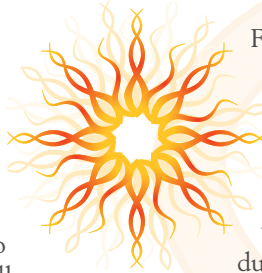
Take a look at adjusting your parenting style to address your teen's intellectual and emotional growth. Instead of "laying down the law" consider including your teen in discussion of rules and why

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Summer is here and your teen's long-awaited summer break has arrived. If asked about what he wants to do during the summer, more than likely your teen will answer how he plans to lounge about playing video games, watching television, and hanging out with friends.

Then, a couple of weeks into summer break, your teen will become bored with these activities. Looking for new, more interesting and

your teen responsibility, accountability, guidance and - most of all - days filled with activities he enjoys.



Fortunately there are an abundance of possibilities to plan an educational as well as safe summer for your teenager. The following are a few of the many opportunities available to keep your teen busy and out of trouble during his summer break.

## VOLUNTEERING

Does your teen like animals? He or she

giving to others, your teen will also gather volunteer hours for their high school graduation or college applications. Many colleges require essays on such activities, and volunteering, especially in their future field of study, will greatly improve their chances for acceptance.

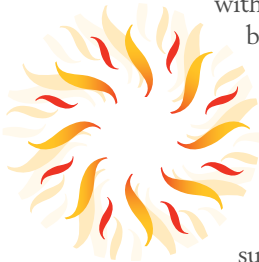
## GETTING A SUMMER JOB

Some teens prefer money to volunteer hours; consider checking to see if small jobs are available for your teen where you work. Doing so will help you to bond with your teen and give the two of you something to talk about.

# What is your Teen doing this Summer?

adventurous ideas, your teen might also get involved in negative activities.

Even if your teen is trustworthy and mature and you find yourself comfortable with him being home by himself, it would be a more positive experience for your teen if these long summer days are filled with beneficial activities for both his mind and body.



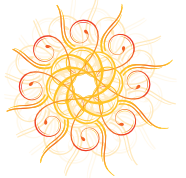
Before suggesting any specific summer plans to your teen, consider his personality and interests. The right summer activity will give

might enjoy volunteering at your local animal shelter or rescue group. The web site [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) lets you search for local animal shelters, sign up to be a volunteer, learn about pets, and gather other information related to pet care.

Your local hospice or hospital will also appreciate your teen's help. Many patients are without friends or family and would benefit greatly from your teenager's visit. Other volunteer opportunities exist at your local church, soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

The benefits of volunteering are twofold; besides teaching your teen the joy of

If your teenager prefers to have his own individual job, help him with applying to local grocery stores, restaurants or local car washes.



## SUMMER CAMPS

Kids love camps. I was amazed to see how many local camps are available in every state. Besides both day and overnight camps, there also are camps for different interests ranging from adventure, travel, and various sports to science.

A great web site I found is [www.summercamps.com](http://www.summercamps.com). There you can search for camps either by interest or by state.

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## Parents Join Scholars for Education Awareness Fair



More than 300 Class 2 parents and Scholars provided volunteer staffing for the first Kauffman Scholars Education Awareness Fair, held at Frank A. Theis Park on Saturday, April 19, 2008. The community service event was held in recognition of National Youth Service Day.

"Feed your brain, it gets hungry!" was the theme of the day. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri enjoyed hours of learning and fun, all in a carnival-style atmosphere. The fair offered free books; science, math, and reading activities; middle school, high school and college information; a magician; and poetry, music and dance performances by Kauffman Scholars. Local bands were

invited, including a popular jazz funk band featuring a fourth grade drummer from KCK. Gift drawings took place throughout the day, including a drawing for a free computer at the close of the fair.



Representatives from the Kansas City, Kansas and the Kansas City, Missouri Public Libraries were on hand to distribute library cards, and the Board of Public Utilities in KCK donated bottled water for the event.

## What is your Teen Doing this Summer? *Continued from page 3*

You are bound to find the right camp for your teen there.

### YMCA

The YMCA in your community may have a facility with a gymnasium, pool, and fitness center with a variety of programs for everyone to enjoy. Some of them offer job training, camps, a satellite program in a local school, or it may be all of those things.

### SYLVAN LEARNING CAMP

How are your teen's grades? Enriching your teen's learning during school breaks is easy with Sylvan academic camps. Sylvan's Academic Camps are age and grade appropriate and are focused on targeted skill areas.

Whatever your plans for the summer, I hope that it will be a safe and enjoyable one for both you and your teen!

Christina Botto has been involved with helping parents and teenagers resolve complicated issues for more than 14 years, observing and developing parenting strategies. Her dedication to helping parents inspired her to write her book, [Help me with my Teenager! A Step-by-step Guide for Parents That Works.](#)

## Thought for the Month

**Pam Harris, Director of Parent Engagement**

*Continued from page 2*

they're important, to help him or her build better decision-making skills. Keep in mind that compromise can sometimes be the right solution. And, remember other parents are going through the same thing! Understanding the universal traits of teenage development can make it easier for parents to help their teens become responsible, successful adults.

For more information, visit the Human Development and Family Life Web site at [www.hec.ohio-state.edu/famlife/](http://www.hec.ohio-state.edu/famlife/)

*Here are the main three:*

1. Hormones is the number one reason you will see an increase in power struggles with your teenager. It is as simple, or as complicated, as that. Generally this starts as much as two years earlier in girls than in boys. Puberty is starting its tap dance on

your child, and it will not end for quite a long time.

2. This means that he may not even realize why he is arguing about an issue this week that didn't bother him last week. Mainly because along with his changing voice comes some moodiness. Consequently, there will be times that you will need to kiss the issue up to heaven and not bother doing battle.
3. Critical thinking skills begin to develop during puberty, and no one is quite sure when these skills stop developing. Children entering the teen life stage are now able to think in gray areas. No longer is everything black and white. Combine this with the fact that they still want to hang on to childhood fantasies and you will begin to understand just how many shades

of gray there are in the color spectrum. Power struggles are going to start because you may never be on the same shade of gray as your teenager.

4. Teens begin to see parents as fallible human beings. (\*OUCH\*) Not only can they see why things are right and wrong, they've learned to project it onto their parents. They will also let parents know what they feel in matters of opinion. Since you are the stable figure in your teen's life, you are his first target and the one that will be aimed at the most as he practices and develops his own ideas. Power struggles will arise as your teenager pokes and prods at your beliefs in politics, religion, etc.

**So, what do you do?**

*(Continued in next issue)*

Kauffman Scholars, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin and without regard to other protected status as provided in its Non-Discrimination Policy.



**KAUFFMAN**  
SCHOLARS, INC.

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