

August 18, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In our ongoing effort to strengthen home/school communication, we are happy to announce the Genesis Parent Module that first debuted last year as a pilot program at Spotswood High School, will now be made available to all families. Mr. Dan Silvia managed the pilot program and received an enormous amount of positive feedback about the system. Mr. Silvia reported positive feedback from parents who accessed the program during the 2008-2009-test period. The system will enable you to access your student(s) grades, attendance, and other important information online. Posting grades and other pertinent information online helps parents keep in touch with how their kids are doing. According to the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (NCPIE), "When parents/families are involved in their children's education, children do better in school," NCPIE officials said. "Schools improve as well." Parent involvement impacts student achievement! When parents are involved, students have:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation
- Better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Improved behavior

In order to create an account you will need to provide us with your name, address, **valid email address**, and your child's name attending the high school. You should email this information to [pahelp@spotswood.k12.nj.us](mailto:pahelp@spotswood.k12.nj.us). You will then receive your user name and password via email. Access is set up for individual families and you will only have access to your child(s) records. Please keep your login confidential. Spotswood High School will be offering a formal training session on August 24<sup>th</sup> for grades 10-12. The session will be located in the cafetorium and will run from 6-7 pm. Faculty members who have been implementing the Genesis system for the past year will facilitate these informative sessions. We encourage all parents to attend and familiarize themselves with this new and innovative way to bridge the gap between home and school. We will also have a computer lab available on the first date of Back to School Night, which is scheduled for Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9pm for parents who might have some additional questions. Please continue to have a wonderful summer vacation and we hope to see you at the training sessions.

Sincerely,

Scott Horowitz  
Assistant Principal