

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2006

Arlington Traditional School Receives National Certification As a “Parent Involvement School of Excellence”

Arlington Traditional School (ATS) has earned the National Parent Teacher Association’s “Parent Involvement School of Excellence.” The National PTA certification recognizes schools that uphold the highest standards in parent involvement and seek input from parents, teachers, students, administrators and the community.

The program recognizes schools with parent involvement programs based on national standards created around the six types of parent involvement and endorsed by nearly 100 health and education organizations. Certified schools develop and maintain outstanding parent involvement by reaching out and including more parents and families, improving school support for families and communities, meeting new state standards, and recognizing best practices and excellence in parent involvement programs.

ATS has a strong commitment to helping children succeed through the ABCs of success—Academics, Behavior and Character which frame this school’s philosophy. ATS parents, through their involvement in all of the school’s activities, endorse this philosophy.

“This award brings recognition and pride to ATS and its community,” said principal Holly Hawthorne. “We have a strong global commitment to the ABCs of Success. In 2004 we received a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award and we continue to support our sister school, Arlington Academy of Hope, in Uganda. Winning the Parent Involvement School of Excellence award further demonstrates our commitment to the ABCs of Success.”

“It is clear that Arlington Traditional School has established and continues to strengthen effective relationships through their outreach to parents and community members,” said Superintendent Dr. Robert G. Smith. “I am particularly pleased that Arlington Traditional School has been honored for demonstrating a strong dedication to student achievement and a welcoming attitude toward families.”

ATS formed a team of the principal, teachers, parents, and representatives from the community to complete the certification assessment process, which can take up to one year. The effort was a reflection of how parents, staff, and community members regularly work together at ATS for the common goal of helping children succeed.

"Receiving this National PTA certification is a real testament to the parents of Arlington Traditional

School. It is only fitting that they be recognized for the commitment they make daily to their children's education and to the continuing excellence and high standards of ATS," said ATS PTA president Kathi Driggs.

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Education Association, and National School Public Relations Association joined National PTA in the development and implementation of the certification program. McKinley Elementary School was the first Arlington school to earn the certification in 2005.

For more information about National PTA's Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence certification, visit <http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/index.asp> or call (800) 307-4PTA (4782).