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For Immediate Release

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**Pittsburgh Public Schools to Hold Parent Curriculum Nights
Throughout the Month of October**

PITTSBURGH September 29, 2006 – In an effort to familiarize parents with the exciting new Macmillan and Kaplan curriculum recently implemented in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, every school will hold a Parent Curriculum Night during the month of October, beginning October 9, 2006.

These new curricula align with the learning expectations of the District and provide systemic consistency throughout District schools. As outlined in the District’s Excellence for All reform plan, these new programs are being introduced to provide students with a rigorous curriculum aligned to state standards, assessments, and instruction.

Curriculum Nights will provide parents an opportunity to learn:

- What to expect to see when their children bring work home from school;
- Ways parents can help their children at home;
- Purpose of Macmillan Home-School Connection materials;
- Supports available at the school level to assist students who are struggling;
- Assessments that are used and how grades will be determined.

Curriculum coaches will be on hand to facilitate the trainings in the curricula detailed below.

Macmillan

Elementary students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools have been introduced to Macmillan/McGraw-Hill’s *Treasures*, a comprehensive reading program available for grades pre-K through 6. *Treasures* is based on the most recent reading research and built on the five elements of reading as prescribed by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. The *Treasures* program sets high expectations for all students, with materials to challenge gifted students as well as intervention materials for struggling readers.

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Kaplan

Kaplan K12 is a customized designed Core Curriculum Solution that fosters incorporation across content areas to create a seamless transition for students between grades 6 - 12. Over the next 3 ½ years, Kaplan K12 will develop customized documents and assessments in the following subjects: English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Kaplan's Achievement Planner system will also administer, score, and report benchmark assessments. In addition, Kaplan provides supplemental lesson plans for teachers; SAT online curriculum to enhance the college awareness and readiness woven throughout various courses; and professional development, coaching, and implementation support to administrators and staff.

For a listing of dates and times for Parent Curriculum Nights throughout the Pittsburgh Public Schools please visit <http://pps.k12.pa.us> or call the Parent Hotline at (412) 622-7920.

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