



Let's Talk About It

August: Student Leadership & Empowerment

From our DCCPTA Student Representative, Julius Graham:

This month's topic is Student Leadership & Empowerment. Students are extremely influential part of important decisions. You can actively participate and in some cases vote on important matters. At this year's Florida PTA Leadership Convention, there were many programs for students where we learned how to be active in our respective PTA's. Here are a few things covered in the Students for Students class, hosted by Faith DeVault, FLPTA Student Engagement chair who started out a student member herself

- Speak up and speak out.
- Be present for meetings, physically and mentally.
- Have the drive to help out and participate.
- If you have ideas, don't hold them in, your opinions are valid regardless of age

Resources

www.dccpta.org

<http://floridapta.org/>

Students have history on their side! Students have long been a driving force behind incredible movements for social change! One of the most powerful historical examples of this is during the Civil Rights Era. Students were involved in the marches for desegregation and were the turning tide for national support for the Constitutional amendments that would come from the Civil Rights Era. Students have put themselves on the line for change and paid the price with jail time, attacks from police dogs, violent sprays from high pressured fire hoses and cruel treatment from communities against school integration. More recently students have been significant contributors to

environmental justice efforts, protection of Native land, school and gun safety as well as continued efforts against discriminatory practices in their schools and communities.

Students are often the bellwether that shows us our true reflection as a society and what areas we need to work on. As the adults in their lives, whether a family member or educator, we can leave space for their perspective and just as we teach them to listen and be respectful of those in authority over them, may we also be open to doing the same in return. There is value and wisdom in all stages of life. Let's encourage them to think for themselves and to use their voices-we are all better for their perspective.



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