



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juvenile Court Judges Anthony Capizzi and Helen Wallace and Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. Meet With Truancy Officers to Discuss Chronic Absenteeism

DAYTON, OH – Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. invited all Montgomery County school district Truancy Officers to a meeting to discuss and plan an upcoming initiative to combat chronic absenteeism in our schools.

Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Prosecutor Heck understand that chronic absenteeism is a problem that negatively affects our community. Statistics have shown that students who miss two to four days of school in the month of September are likely to have chronic absenteeism throughout the school year. By the sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is a good indicator that a student will likely not graduate from high school and not have the skills needed to be successful in life. Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Prosecutor Heck want all children to grow up into adults who positively contribute to our county.

Judge Helen Wallace will preside over the new program called the T.E.A.M. Initiative (Together Everyone Achieves More), working with the community to ensure that all children receive an education. The goal is to reduce the rate of chronic absenteeism by giving support to parents and assistance in combatting the many societal issues that result in absenteeism. The T.E.A.M. Initiative will be a partnership between students, parents, truancy officers, school personnel, Juvenile Court, community stakeholders and the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office. Parents need support and help in order to fulfill their duty to see that their children attend school. The T.E.A.M. Initiative aims to give parents and children that support. Education is essential to our future as a community.

The full details of the T.E.A.M. Initiative will be announced at a kick-off at a later date, where all Montgomery County school superintendents will be invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the initiative.

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