



Project D.A.D

The research is a clear: a responsible father can make a significant difference in the long-term development of a child. “Even from birth, children who have an involved father are more likely to be emotionally secure, be confident to explore their surroundings, and, as they grow older, have better social connections.” (Psychology Today, June 23, 2011) Children with involved, caring fathers are less likely to engage in risky behavior as teenagers and fare better in school, graduating at higher rates and with higher grades. Supporting and encouraging fathers to become more present and actively involved offers tremendous potential to empower individual lives, enhance families, and contribute to community well-being.

While there tend to be greater benefits when fathers are pro-actively involved in the lives of their children and families, mentoring or having the presence of a positive father figure has proven to be a powerful tool for helping youth reach their full potential. Mentors and positive father figures can provide support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples. Even, in families with an active and engaged father, young people have benefited greatly from the presence of additional positive male role models. Quality mentoring relationships help to improve young people’s attitudes toward parents, encourage students to focus on their education, and help children face daily challenges.

Through Project DAD, we hope to leverage the interest, experience and capacity of fathers and father figures in the Washington Latin community. Through this initiative, we hope to sponsor:

- Monthly social gatherings
- A fall basketball league
- A spring softball league
- Job shadowing days
- E-mail/text mentoring

For more information and/or to get involved, please feel free to reach out to Assistant Principal, Bob Eleby-El at belebyel@latinpcs.org or at (202) 909-2199.