FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date of Release]

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**U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Celebrates
the Month of the Military Child**

**[ALTERNATE: U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Grantees Celebrate Month of the Military Child)**

**[Date of Release], [City], [State] –**The U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is preparing to celebrate the [Month of the Military Child](https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/Military-Child-Month.cfm) in April. This month, sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, underscores the important role military children play in the armed forces community.

“[If available, insert a one or two sentence quote from a Grantee School leader briefly describing the impact of the Month of the Military Child will make an impact across the nation],” said [Name], [Title].

Throughout the month of April, [Insert name of DoDEA Grantee School Name] will participate in special events celebrating military-connected children, including *Purple Up! For Military Kids* where students, teachers, and administrators will wear purple to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices on [Insert date of event]. The color purple demonstrates how all branches of the military are supported, from Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard blues, Army green, and Marine red combining in a single color, purple.

“[Suggested quote or similar: “We invite all members of the (Name of DoDEA Grantee School Name or just DoDEA) family and the surrounding (Name of location) community to join us in celebrating these remarkable young people, who along with their military parents and guardians, make a selfless sacrifice every day,” said (School leader) “We are in awe of their accomplishments and strength.”]

[Insert DoDEA Grantee School Name] will also mark the Month of the Military Child with other events in April such as:

* [Insert school events and dates]
* [Suggested events are at <https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/Military-Child-Month.cfm>; see “Ways to Celebrate”]

Students, parents, and members of the community are encouraged to share their *Purple Up! For Military Kids* and other Month of the Military Child photos and videos on social media, using the hashtag #MonthoftheMilitaryChild. Connect with [Insert DoDEA Grantee School Name] at:

* [Insert school’s Twitter link]
* [Insert school’s Facebook link]
* [Insert school’s Instagram link]

DoDEA will also be sharing photos, videos, and stories of celebrations worldwide at:

* DoDEA HQ: <https://www.facebook.com/DoDEA.edu>
* DoDEA Americas: <https://www.facebook.com/DoDEAAmericas>
* DoDEA Europe: [https:/www.facebook.com/DoDEAEurope](http://www.facebook.com/DoDEAEurope)
* DoDEA Pacific: <https://www.facebook.com/DoDEA.Pacific>
* DoDEA Grantees: <https://twitter.com/dodeagrants>

The Month of the Military Child was originally commemorated in 1986 by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Since then, the commemoration has supported strategic imperatives, such as:

* Establishing an educational system that progressively builds the college and career readiness of all DoDEA students; and
* Establishing the organizational capacity to operate more effectively and efficiently as a model, unified school system.

Learn more about the Month of the Military Child [here](https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/Military-Child-Month.cfm).

**About DoDEA Grantee**

[Insert brief boilerplate DoDEA Grantee School Information here]

**About DoDEA**

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. DoDEA's mission is to plan, direct, coordinate, and manage the education programs for eligible dependents of U.S. military personnel and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense (DoD). The DoD provides resources to non-DoDEA schools to help them deal with the challenges faced by military dependents.

**About the DoDEA Educational Partnership Program**

DoDEA supports research-based programs that aim to increase student achievement in military-connected local education agencies (LEAs) and ease the challenges and transitions that students face due to their parents' military service. Since 2009, DoDEA has awarded 439 grants, totaling over $493 million. These grants serve more than 2.1 million students, including over 647,000 military-connected students in more than 2,900 schools.

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