

NSA Naples SLP Quarterly

Naval Support Activity Naples School Liaison Program

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Special dates of interest

Nov. 1 • 2:30 p.m.

Zombie Run/Harvest Fest, Carney Park

Nov. 14 • 2 p.m.

**Homeschooling Happenings Bowling,
Strikers Entertainment Center**

Nov. 19 • 6 p.m.

Paying for College Night, NMHS

Feb. 9 • 8 a.m.

Rome Colleges Tour Trip

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Youth Sponsorship Program at NSA Naples

Moving from one base to another and from school to school is a common occurrence and a large part of a military youth's life. Leaving behind friends, neighbors and supportive adults may make kids more vulnerable to negative outside influences, isolation, loneliness and depression. Helping youth successfully make the transition from one school to another is the role of the Youth Sponsorship Program.

? Do you enjoy getting connected with new students who are moving to your area and who attend your Youth Center?

? Do you enjoy helping others to feel more comfortable in their new environment by building relationships and having fun?

✓ If so, then you would make a great Youth Sponsor!

Here are a few other things that youth sponsors do:

- You will be a familiar face to a new youth and help to introduce them to some new friends.
- You will be paired up with another youth your age who is moving into the same area where you live and will be attending the Youth Center you attend.
- You can help to answer the new youth's questions about your town, school, sports, youth center, activities and anything else that's on their mind.
- Take the new student around the center and introduce them to teachers, show them their locker location, where everything is located.
- Having the new youth sit with you at lunch can really help to make a new student feel welcome.

NSA Naples Youth and Teen Center have the Anchored4Life Program. Come learn more about it!

If you are interested in becoming a youth sponsor to an incoming military student, ask your parent to contact Melissa Johnson, School Liaison, at NaplesSLP@us.navy.mil or 081-811-6549.

There's an App for that:

Sesame Street for Deployment Support

Designed with military children in mind, the Sesame Street for Deployment Support app packs a host of interactive games and videos next to those familiar Sesame Street characters we all know and love. If you can wrestle your phone away from your kid, take a look at the sections for parents. The practical advice presented through this app can help you walk your kids through the hurdles of military life. The app is available on iTunes and Google Play.



Exceptional Family Member Program: What is it?

The Navy's Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) serves military families with special medical and/or educational needs. The EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program that includes identification of the family member's special medical and/or educational

requirements. EFMP enrollment provides family support throughout the sponsor's career and ensures consideration of the family's needs during the assignment process by ensuring availability of necessary resources at the prospective duty station.

Home School: Three Basic Options

Homeschooling is the practice of opting to teach one's own children at home via parents, tutors or virtual programs instead (or in lieu) of sending them to school. Here are some questions and answers to help you learn more about homeschooling.

Q: Do I have to register somewhere?

A: Children of U.S. military and DoW civilian personnel overseas are not subject to U.S. state mandatory attendance statutes while in another country. Children of U.S. military and DoW civilian personnel overseas are not subject to the school laws in Italy. DoDEA does not require families to register with DoDEA, but registering as a homeschooler is an option.

Q: Can I receive any financial assistance?

A: No financial support is available through the Non-DoW Schools Program (NDSP) to attend schools other than the DoDEA schools on NSA Naples Support Site.

Q: How much does homeschooling cost?

A: Homeschooling costs \$100 to more than \$500 per month per student. The cheapest approach (\$100-300) is to find services for free or exchange your services with someone else. The moderate approach (\$300-500) includes a few paid extras like co-ops, tutors, online courses or extracurricular classes like art or music. The most expensive approach (\$500 or more) includes paying for tutors, online classes, video courses, correspondence schools or all-inclusive curriculum packages.



My Life and Education with DoDEA

by Cora Barnes, Military Student

Leaving the familiarity of a place is one of the hardest aspects of being a military-affiliated child. School is a place where I always feel grounded. It's a familiar place where I feel confident. In addition to providing me with this, DoDEA schools have made learning one of the best experiences I've ever had.

In elementary school, my favorite teachers were the ones who told true stories that transformed even the most mundane lessons into something special. My first time attending a DoDEA school was fourth grade in Vicenza, Italy. My teacher was half German, and she had been teaching for almost 50 years. Every morning, she would greet us in German. *Guten Morgen!* Later in the year, she taught us how to count to 10 in German. I had never even been to Germany, but now I understood their culture just a little bit better.

In sixth grade, learning about ancient Roman gladiators, structures and history suddenly got a lot more exciting than reading, taking notes and looking at photographs in the textbook. That's usually what happens when you live just a road trip away from Italy's capital.

Another favorite aspect of these schools is that transferring from one DoDEA school to another is very easy, even if you're on the other side of the country. Last month, my family moved from northern Italy to southern Italy. So far, we have used the same learning platforms and textbooks. Most of DoDEA schools use the same curriculum in core classes, so I didn't have to adjust my learning gears that much at all. In addition, my teachers here have weekly meetings with my previous teachers, so they knew what kind of class structure I was used to and were able to help me adapt to the new one quickly.

DoDEA has provided me with a more broadened learning experience, as well as the continuity that many of us find comforting in a lifestyle filled with transitions.





COMMANDER, NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND

An Important Message on Window Safety and Fall Prevention

Window safety is a critical concern for our families, one that can sometimes be overlooked. Every year, far too many children are injured or tragically die from preventable window falls. The numbers are staggering. On average 3,300 children are injured and eight die each year in the U.S. from window falls. Children aged five and under are most vulnerable, with falls most common during spring and summer when windows are frequently open. I'm asking for your help in addressing this issue. Our collective attention and focus are needed to prevent future tragedies.

Recently, our community has been deeply affected by several heartbreaking events: two injuries and three deaths of military children resulting from falls from second-story windows. These incidents serve as a stark reminder of the potential dangers our children face, even in familiar environments. We can take for granted the threats present in our homes, such as stairs, under-sink chemicals, bathtubs, and windows. In light of these recent events, we are initiating an intensified awareness and prevention campaign to better protect our children.

The natural curiosity of children and their eagerness to explore can sometimes place them in unexpected danger when left unattended, even briefly. It's often in unassuming ordinary moments that accidents can occur, highlighting the importance of heightened awareness and proactive safety measures.

Here are a few things to keep in mind about windows in your home:

- **Safety starts at home.** Teach children about window safety, ensure window fall prevention devices are installed correctly and always engaged, and familiarize yourself with available resources. It truly takes an all-hands effort to prevent accidents. Window safety locks are inexpensive and easy to install in your own home, are often required of landlords, and can be requested during lease negotiations.
- **Windows are not playgrounds.** Teach children that windows are not safe to play near or lean against. Explain the potential danger in a way they understand. "Windows are for looking, not touching."
- **Check twice and watch always.** Make a habit of quickly checking windows during your daily routine — when you open or close the curtains, before you turn the lights off, etc. Most importantly, keep furniture and toys away from windows, especially on upper floors, to prevent children from climbing.
- **Protect what matters.** Window safety devices only work when they're properly installed and engaged. Just as seatbelts have been shown to help save lives in car accidents, properly functioning and engaged window safety devices can also help save lives. If you find that any device is missing or broken in your military housing, contact Navy Housing immediately. It's a simple step that can prevent a tragedy. If you do not live in Navy Housing, reach out to your landlord directly or purchase and install window safety devices in your own home. It's a simple step that can prevent a tragedy.
- **Screens are for bugs.** Remember that typical window screens are designed to keep insects out, not to prevent falls. Teach children not to push on or lean against screens.
- **Designate safe play areas.** Build play areas away from windows. Never leave open windows unsupervised, especially when young children are present.

It is truly the honor of my life to be part of our Navy team and a community where Sailors help Sailors. Every child's wellbeing matters, and every step we take to protect our Navy family matters. Every one of our children is a precious gift. Let's redouble our efforts to protect them!

Thank you for all you do to keep our Navy families safe, supported, and strong.



C. S. GRAY
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Navy Installations Command