



**Saturday, May 17, 2014**

**8:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

# Special Education Summit

**8:15 – 9:00**

**Registration**

**9:00 – 9:20**

**Opening Remarks**

Dr. Joshua P. Starr  
*Superintendent  
Montgomery County Public Schools*

MCPS Administrator(s)  
Special Education Advisory  
Committee (SEAC)  
*Co-chair*

Patricia O'Neil  
*Member, Board of Education*

Ariana Kelly  
*Montgomery County Delegate*

**9:20 – 10:20**

**Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Barbara Miller  
*Owner/Curriculum Director of Educational  
Explorations, Adjunct Professor,  
Portland State University*

KEYNOTE: *Nurturing the Inner Genius of Every Child*

**10:20 – 10:30**

**Transition**

**10:30 – 11:30**

**Breakout Session 1**

*(50 minutes for speakers)*

**11:30 – 12:30**

**Lunch and Resource Fair**

**12:30 – 1:30**

**Breakout Session 2**

*(50 minutes for speakers)*

**1:30 – 1:35**

**Transition**

**1:35 – 2:30**

**Breakout Session 3**

*(50 minutes for speakers)*

**Rockville High School  
2100 Baltimore Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20851**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**Office of Special Education  
and Student Services Parent  
Outreach Committee**



**Special Education Advisory  
Committee (SEAC)**



**Office of Community  
Engagement and Partnerships**



## BREAKOUT SESSION Descriptions

Please note that the sessions are in alphabetical order by title.

### Autism: Effective Strategies for Problem Behaviors

ROOM 2065 – SESSION 3

Dr. Tamara Marder  
*Professor*

Dawn Fraser  
*Doctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University  
School of Education*

Finding strategies to deal effectively with problem behaviors of young children can be very challenging for families. This session will assist parents in addressing problem behaviors that occur at home. The session will offer insights into how parents can 1) apply the principles of behavior in order to understand why challenging behaviors occur; 2) pinpoint behaviors that interfere with home-based activities; and 3) apply practical strategies for addressing challenging behaviors at home.

### Autism Waiver

ROOM 2061 – SESSION 3

Julie Hall  
*Director, Department of Business, Fiscal,  
and Information Systems*

David Cross  
*Coordinator, Autism Waiver*

Parents will learn about the Autism Waiver program and the Medical Assistance application and eligibility process as it applies to this program. The Autism Waiver program provides extensive targeted services to students and families. The Autism Waiver program in Maryland started in July 2001, for an initial 3-year trial period. The waiver program has been renewed periodically for 5-year cycles in 2004, 2009, and 2014. Currently, approximately 230 children and 20 families participate in the program in Montgomery County and there are 1,000 participants statewide.

### Continuum of Prekindergarten Services

ROOM 2067 – SESSION 3

Felicia Piacente  
*Director, Division of Prekindergarten, Special Programs,  
and Related Services*

Amy Cropp  
*Supervisor, Child Find/Early Childhood Disabilities Unit*

Participants will learn about specialized instruction for young children, provided in a continuum of environments, ranging from regular early childhood settings to special classes. Early intervention through the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program and the Child Find process in Montgomery County Public Schools will be discussed.

### Curriculum 2.0

ROOM 2063 – SESSIONS 1 & 2

Niki Hazel  
*Director, Office of Curriculum and Instruction*

Sandra Duval  
*Integrated Curriculum Specialist, Office of Curriculum and  
Instructional Programs*

Parents will receive an overview of Curriculum 2.0, which broadens instruction beyond reading and mathematics to engage the whole child. The four features of Curriculum 2.0 will be explored: new internationally driven standards in mathematics, reading, and writing; a renewed focus on teaching the whole child; integrated thinking, reasoning, and creativity; and communication of student progress through an improved “standards-based” report card.

### Elementary School Continuum of Services

ROOM 2065 – SESSIONS 1 & 2

Cynthia Webb  
*Cluster Supervisor, Department of  
Special Education Services*

Parents of students who participate in the general education curriculum and are expected to earn a high school diploma will receive information about the array of elementary special education services available to support their students.

### “What Makes Me Tick”— Strengths-Based Assessments and Futures Planning

ROOM 2053 – SESSION 1

Dr. Barbara Miller  
*Adjunct Professor, Portland State University*

In this session each participant will identify specific strengths of his or her child. The group will further explore ways for families to modify the environment to enhance success at home, and to use what they know about their children’s gifts and interests to help them thrive in a strengths-based classroom.

### Gifted and Talented/Learning Disabilities

ROOM 2053 – SESSION 2

Jen Strouble  
*Special Education Resource Teacher, Lakewood Elementary*  
Marisa Stemple  
*Instructional Specialist, Division of Accelerated  
and Enriched Instruction*

Parents will receive information about discrete Gifted and Talented/Learning Disabilities (GT/LD) programs and services as well as best practices for instruction and

supports that can be implemented in the local school setting.

### High School Continuum of Services

ROOM 2037 – SESSIONS 2 & 3

Katherine Rudd  
*Cluster Supervisor, Department of  
Special Education Services*

Participants will learn about the array of high school special education services, provided in a continuum of environments ranging from general education settings to special classes. They will receive information to support their students.

### How Peer Support Can Help Parents Raising Children with Special Educational Needs

ROOM 2045 – SESSIONS 2 & 3

Celia Serkin  
*Executive Director, Montgomery County Federation of  
Families for Children’s Mental Health*

This session will explore how parents and other primary caregivers raising children with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges can help other family members who have similar circumstances become effective advocates for their own children and gain the skills, knowledge, and network of support they need to help them succeed. Our organization specializes in providing peer support and family navigation services. Small-group activities and discussion will be interwoven throughout the presentation.

### I Spent Three Years Looking for My Watch Today

ROOM 2059 – SESSION 2

Rob Guttenberg  
*Performing Songwriter*

Rob is a youth counselor and performing songwriter who experienced a cerebral hemorrhage in 1983, at the age of 29. Since that time, he has presented songwriting concerts/sessions with students in the local community and college campuses throughout the United States. Rob will perform music and focus his participants’ attention on important concerns of persons with “invisible disabilities”, including short- and long-term memory deficits, attention deficit and visual-spatial and other cognitive impairments. Participants will discuss issues of “social equality” and “disability” along with the significance of adopting “person first” language when speaking to and about persons with disabilities.

## **Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying**

**ROOM 2045 – SESSION 1**

Steven Chaikin, Esq.  
*Assistant State's Attorney at Montgomery County*

This mixed-media presentation will use video to discuss statistics and the laws surrounding Internet safety. The presentation will include current cases in the court system, current school situations, and real-life issues and solutions. The Misuse of Electronic E-mail, Harassment, Disturbing School Activities, and the new Grace's Law will be explored. Parents will learn about the appropriate steps to take if they feel their child has been bullied.

## **Interventions**

**ROOM 2039 – SESSIONS 1 & 2**

Paulina Masick, Supervisor  
*School-Based Special Education Services*

Parents will receive an overview of academic interventions that provide students with disabilities access to the general education environment to the fullest extent possible. Evidence-based interventions and systemwide professional development initiatives will be discussed.

## **Making the Transition**

**ROOM 2035 – SESSION 1**

Kathy Kolan  
*Supervisor, MCPS Transition Services Unit*

Parents of middle and high school students will learn about the transition process and services available to prepare students for postsecondary opportunities.

## **Mental Wellness**

**ROOM 2031 – SESSIONS 1, 2 & 3**

Dr. Sheila Cahill, School Director  
*The Foundation School of Montgomery County*

During this session parents will receive information about strategies that can be used at home to maintain balance and mental wellness in the family. The uniqueness of every family's makeup will be discussed as families come in all shapes and sizes. It is not the "makeup" of a family that promotes or negatively impacts balance and mental wellness, it is the structures, routines, consistency at home, parental support and expectations regarding academic performance and behavior at school, and the peer group(s) that the child associates with in school and in the community. Parents will receive information about family resources they can access in Montgomery County.

## **Middle School Continuum of Services**

**ROOM 2056 – SESSIONS 1 & 3**

Kia Middleton-Murphy  
*Cluster Supervisor Department of Special Education Services*  
Tia McKinnon  
*Instructional Specialist, Department of Special Education Services*

Participants will learn about the array of middle school special education services provided in a continuum of environments, ranging from general education settings to special classes and they will learn how to use this information to support their students.

## **Parents Supporting Lifelong Learning: Everyday Tips to Support Your Child in the Learning All Around Them**

**ROOM 2061 – SESSIONS 1 & 2**

Candace Strickland  
*Itinerant Resource Teacher, Department of Special Education Services*

This presentation is about everyday strategies for working with your child, in a low- to no-cost way, accessing reading, writing, and math in the natural learning environment. Topics will include are preparedness for school, reading and writing strategies, math strategies, recreation and leisure, technology, and executive function. This will be an interactive session with time for discussion.

## **Public Speaking, Advocacy, and Leadership**

**ROOM 2039 – SESSION 3**

Nicolette Stearns  
*Co-founder, Artstream*

This session will demonstrate that public speaking and advocacy training are important pieces to a smooth and successful transition from high school to adulthood. These skills can also assist the student in a more impactful IEP meeting as the advocacy skill is taught through practice and role play. Communication, advocacy, and leadership will be the focus of this session. Our ArtStream actors will demonstrate the skills in a teacher-led format.

## **Resolving IEP Disagreements: Steps to Collaboration**

**ROOM 2047 – SESSION 1**

Sabrina Austin, Esq.  
*Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE)*  
Ashley VanCleeef, Esq.  
*Supervisor, MCPS Equity, Assurance and Compliance Unit*

Have you reached the point where you disagree with school staff about what

should be on the Individualized Education Program (IEP)? Are you concerned that advocating for your child will affect your relationship with school staff? Do you have a disagreement with the IEP and want to know what that Parental Rights document really means?

This presentation will explain informal and formal ways for parents to resolve disagreements. The session will offer insight into how formal disputes are handled from within MCPS and discuss how to build relationships with school staff. Both the parent and school-system perspectives will be discussed.

## **Shift from Fundamental Life Skills to Curriculum 2.0**

**ROOM 2067 – SESSIONS 1 & 2**

Dr. Gwendolyn Mason  
*Director, Department of Special Education Services*

Parents of children with significant cognitive disabilities will learn about the shift from the Fundamental Life Skills Curriculum to Curriculum 2.0, in alignment with the national trend in states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards. Information about evidence-based resources developed at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, will be shared.

## **Simplifying and Structuring for ADHD**

**ROOM 2037 – SESSION 1**

Benita Cohen  
*Got ADDitude Coaching*

During this presentation, participants will gain a fuller picture of what ADHD/EDF looks like for students and teachers. We will discuss how to facilitate partnerships between schools and families; understanding effective structure and how to implement it, and simple strategies that work at home and school. Participants will take part in some exercises that simulate the overwhelming nature of ADHD and work in small groups to design strategy. They will walk away with a tool kit of strategies.

## **Social Emotional Learning: Every Day, Everywhere!**

**ROOM 2051 – SESSIONS 1 & 2**

Amanda Hearn  
*MCPS School Psychologist*  
Allison Kane  
*MCPS School Psychologist*  
Allison Baggot  
*MCPS School Psychologist*

Social emotional learning is an integral part of child and adolescent development. By the end of this presentation, participants



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### Social Emotional Learning (continued)

will have gained an understanding of the key concepts that underlie its development and how it relates to Curriculum 2.0. In addition, research-based strategies to begin actively developing opportunities for children and students to expand and apply their social emotional skills in the classroom, in their communities, and at home will be discussed.

### Technology for Students with Disabilities

ROOM 1001 (COMPUTER LAB) –  
SESSIONS 1, 2 & 3

Marilyn Jacobs, Team Leader  
*InterACT*

In this demonstration session, parents will learn about technology used to support students with disabilities in accessing the curriculum.

### The IEP Process from Top to Bottom

ROOM 2047 – SESSIONS 2 & 3

Sabrina Austin, Esq.  
*Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE)*

Ashley VanCleaf, Esq.  
*Supervisor, MCPS Equity, Assurance and Compliance Unit*

This presentation will share the IEP process, from suspecting a possible disability, evaluations for special education services, IEP development, and reevaluation, and all that can occur within these steps. Participants will learn about the IEP process from both the parents' and school-system's perspective as well as strategies for navigating the process from top to bottom.

### The Special Education Process and the IEP (In Spanish)

ROOM 2053 – SESSION 1

Kateri Cordova-Orellana  
*Parent Community Coordinator, Office of the Chief Engagement and Partnership Officer*

Participants will learn about the the IEP process from—suspecting a possible disability, evaluations for special education services, IEP development, and reevaluation—and all that can occur within these processes. Participants will learn about the IEP process from both the parents' and school-system's perspective as well as strategies for navigating the process from top to bottom.

### When ADHD is not ADHD

ROOM 2035 – SESSIONS 1 & 2

David Holfelder  
*MCPS School Psychologist*

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) remains the most widely diagnosed mental health condition, with controversy surrounding issues like over-identification, medication, and differential diagnosis. Discussion will center on the frequent diagnosis of ADHD at all age levels without looking deeper into the importance of ADHD look-alikes and co-occurring mental health disorders. Inattentive symptoms are often observed in students with anxiety. This presentation will give an overview of the many possible co-morbid conditions that cause similar symptoms.

# Visit the Resource Fair in the Main Hall

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Come see the wide range of services and opportunities available for students receiving special education services.**

Talk with professionals and view displays from MCPS, the community, and more!

## OSESS Parent Outreach COMMITTEE

Ms. Denise Bracalilly-Stultz,  
*supervisor, Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships*

Ms. Mary Rose Catena, *instructional specialist, Department of Special Education Services*

Dr. Elizabeth Cooper-Martin,  
*evaluation specialist, Office of Shared Accountability*

Mrs. Barbara Friedlander, *assistant to the associate superintendent, Office of Special Education and Student Services*

Marcelle Fozard, *Parent, Office of Special Education and Student Services Parent Outreach Committee*

Mr. Jorge Garcia Gonzalez, *Parent, Office of Special Education and Student Services Parent Outreach Committee*

Mr. Amuthan Kannan, *co-chair, Special Education Advisory Committee*

Dr. Gwendolyn J. Mason, *director, Department of Special Education Services*

Mrs. Teri L. Musy, *coordinator, Division of Pupil Personnel Services*

Mrs. Margaret A. Parrot, *instructional specialist, Transition Services Unit*

Mr. Daniel F. Rindfuss, *project specialist, Division of Business, Fiscal and Information Systems*

Mrs. Candace Strickland, *itinerant resource teacher, Department of Special Education Services*

Ms. Michele M. Thompson, *compliance specialist, Equity Assurance and Compliance Unit*

Ms. Julie Reiley, *co-chair, Special Education Advisory Committee*

Ms. Chrisandra A. Richardson, *associate superintendent, Office of Special Education and Student Services*

Mrs. Kristin M. Secan, *instructional specialist, Autism Spectrum Disorders Services*

Ms. Helen K. Steele, *instructional specialist, Department of Special Education Services*

Mrs. Laura Swerdlin, *co-chair, Special Education Advisory Committee*

Mrs. Ann Turner, *co-chair, Special Education Advisory Committee*

Ms. Ashley VanCleaf, *supervisor, Equity Assurance and Compliance Unit*

Dr. Heather M. Wilson, *chair, Office of Special Education and Student Services Parent Outreach Committee*

Mrs. Danielle D. Wilson-Saddler, *instructional specialist, Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships*