### Special Education Summit

**Saturday, April 27, 2019**

**8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**8:15–8:45**  
Registration and Continental Breakfast

**8:45–9:05**  
Opening Remarks
- Mr. Kevin E. Lowndes  
  Associate Superintendent, MCPS Office of Special Education
- Mrs. Rebecca K. Smondrowski  
  Member, Montgomery County Board of Education
- Dr. Jack R. Smith  
  Superintendent of Schools, MCPS
- Ms. Vittoria Aiello  
  Cochair, Special Education Advisory Committee

**9:05–10:05**  
Keynote Speakers
- Dr. Lisa Dieker  
  Pegasus Professor and Lockheed Martin Eminent Scholar Chair, University of Central Florida
- Mr. Joshua Dieker  
  Aviation Support and Gymnastics Coach

**10:05**  
Transition

**10:05–10:20**  
Resource Fair Opens

**10:20–11:20**  
Breakout Session 1

**11:20–11:30**  
Transition

**11:30–12:30**  
Breakout Session 2

**1:00**  
Resource Fair Closes

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**SPONSORED BY:**
- Office of Special Education
- Parent Summit Committee
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement

Quince Orchard High School  
15800 Quince Orchard Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Breaking Session Descriptions

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

Communication Development in Young Children: Building Vocabulary and Communication Skills through Everyday Activities

ROOM 316—SESSION 2
Level: Early Childhood
Mrs. Heidi N. Martino, speech pathologist, MCPS
Ms. Latha Pothuri, speech pathologist, Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program

This presentation will provide information about typical language development and strategies parents/guardians can use to support language acquisition in their daily environment.

Community Resources to Support Families and Children with Disabilities

ROOM 301—SESSION 1
Level: All
Ms. Lauretta Beard, program specialist, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The My Turn program within the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services assists families with accessing community-based services, including recreational and summer programs. Come hear how you can connect with a wide range of services to support your child with a disability.

Creating a Smooth Transition from Elementary to Middle School

ROOM 318—SESSION 2
Level: Elementary and Middle School
Mrs. Erin S. Decastro, teacher, GT/LD, Roberto W. Clemente Middle School, MCPS
Mrs. Marny L. McGee, middle school team leader, teacher, social science, Hallie Wells Middle School, MCPS

Learn how to help and support your child who is transitioning from elementary to middle school. Information will be shared about self-advocacy, increased responsibility, adjusting to multiple teachers, and managing daily routines.

Effective Ways to Provide Lifelong Financial Support for Your Family Member with a Disability

ROOM 328/331—SESSIONS 1 & 2
Sesión 2 incluirá la traducción simultánea en español
Level: All
Mr. Matthew B. Bogin, special needs attorney, Law Office of Matthew Bogin
Mr. Mark Friese, CRPC, CSNA, senior vice president, wealth management advisor, Merrill Lynch
Mr. Chase Phillips, senior vice president, senior financial advisor, Merrill Lynch

Providing for the financial future of loved ones with special needs can be challenging for family members. This session will provide useful and practical information to help parents/guardians plan for long-term financial and legal security and an empowered life for their child.

Fun and Engaging Activities to Support Early Literacy Skills

ROOM 303—SESSION 1
Level: Early Childhood
Ms. Lizabeth L. Massey, teacher, Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program

Parents/guardians will learn strategies for engaging young learners in fun reading and literacy activities that incorporate important skills and prepare children for kindergarten and beyond.

Living a Happy Life with a Special-needs Child—How Do I Thrive Instead of Survive?

ROOM 305—SESSION 2
Level: All
Mrs. Robin Williams Evans, parent and author, Living a Happy Life with a Special-Needs Child
Dr. Wayne Evans, parent

In this engaging session, participants will learn how to rewrite their story and move from “Why is my suffering invisible to people?” to “How do I surround myself with people who love like I love?”

Finding Great Summer Recreation Opportunities

ROOM 301—SESSION 2
Level: All
Mr. Charles Butler, recreation specialist, Countywide Programs, Montgomery County Department of Recreation
Ms. Sharon Norcio, recreation supervisor, Countywide Programs, Montgomery County Department of Recreation

Participants will receive an overview of Montgomery County Therapeutic Recreation camps and summer inclusive options, along with suggestions for selecting the right camp for their child. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive information to further discuss their child’s specific needs with a therapeutic recreation specialist.

Look Who’s Talking! Supporting Your Child’s Language Development at Home

ROOM 318—SESSION 1
Level: Elementary School
Ms. Kristin Musy, special education teacher, Woodlin Elementary School, MCPS
Ms. Kimberly L. Wilson, speech pathologist, Woodlin Elementary School, MCPS

This session will focus on what parents/guardians can do at home to support communication for students with developmental delays. The presentation will include general tips as well as specific activities that promote language development. The use of sign language, visual supports, and technology to aid language learning will be discussed. Common misconceptions about bilingualism and language development in children will be addressed.
**SESSION 1 10:20 a.m.—11:20 a.m.**

**Make It! Take It! Strategies to Reduce Challenging Behaviors in Young Children**

_Hazlo y llévátelo contigo! Estrategias para reducir conductas desafiantes en niños pequeños_

**ROOM 306—SESSION 1**

**Level: Early Childhood**

Ms. Zorayda L. Amoroso, parent educator, Preschool Education Program, MCPS

Mrs. Tonya L. Williams Walker, instructional specialist, Preschool Education Program, MCPS

In this interactive and hands-on workshop, parents/guardians will discuss challenging behaviors experienced at home and in the community, explore prevention strategies to decrease or eliminate challenging behaviors, identify new skills to replace challenging behaviors, and create materials to support the use of replacement behaviors.

This will be a bilingual presentation.

En este taller interactivo y práctico, los padres/tutores van a discutir comportamientos desafiantes experimentados en el hogar y en la comunidad, explorar estrategias de prevención para disminuir o eliminar conductas desafiantes, identificar nuevas habilidades para reemplazar comportamientos desafiantes, y crear materiales para apoyar el uso de comportamientos de reemplazo.

Será una presentación bilingüe.

**Making Math Fun at Home**

_Haciendo las matemáticas divertidas en casa_

**ROOM 311—SESSION 2**

**Sesión incluirá la traducción simultánea en español**

**Level: Elementary School**

Ms. Donna Cohen, special education elementary program specialist, Mill Creek Towne Elementary School, MCPS

Mrs. Kelly J. Jiron, instructional specialist, Department of Special Education Services, MCPS

Are you wondering how to help your child struggling with mathematics in elementary school? This presentation will highlight strategies parents/guardians can use at home to support problem-solving and fluency skills through everyday activities.

¿Se está preguntando cómo ayudar a su hijo que lucha con las matemáticas en la escuela primaria? Esta presentación destacará las estrategias que los padres/tutores pueden usar en el hogar para apoyar las habilidades de resolución de problemas y fluidez a través de las actividades diarias.

**Making a Successful Transition: Options for Students Receiving a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion**

**ROOM 332—SESSION 1**

**Level: Middle and High School**

Mrs. Margaret A. Parrott, instructional specialist, Transition Services Unit, MCPS

During this presentation, parents/guardians will learn about the available options after high school graduation for students receiving a Maryland Certificate of Program Completion. The presenter will discuss adult-service options, such as the Maryland State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), college programs, and various other postsecondary options.

**Padre, Prepare para la Escuela Intermedia**

**ROOM 313—SESSION 1**

**Level: Elementary and Middle School**

Mrs. Kateri M. Cordova-Orellana, parent community coordinator, Student, Family, and School Services, MCPS

Compartiremos sugerencias para estar listos con los cambios que trae la Escuela Intermedia. Sepa ayudar a su hijo y como abogar efectivamente.

**Partnering with the Montgomery County Department of Police to Keep Your Child with a Disability Safe**

**ROOM 311—SESSION 1**

**Level: All**

Officer Laurie Reyes, coordinator, Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) Autism/Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Outreach Unit

The MCPD Autism/IDD Outreach Unit was created in 2005 to provide a response to the overwhelming calls for service involving those who have autism/IDD who were missing and at risk. The unit has since grown to provide resources beyond just wandering and elopement prevention. The unit provides a “layered approach” to safety and awareness through education, outreach, empowerment, follow up and response involving all types of calls for service for individuals who have autism/IDD. The presentation will review how the MCPD Autism/IDD Outreach Unit is working to create a culture of safety and awareness for those who have autism/IDD.

**Plugged in Parents/Guardians—Keeping Kids Safe, Happy, and Healthy in the Digital Age**

**ROOM 303—SESSION 2**

**Level: Elementary, Middle, and High School**

Ms. Barbara Huth, education program manager, Common Sense Education

Kids today have never known a world without the Internet. Even the most in-tune parents/guardians could use some extra tips for keeping up with the accelerating pace of technological and societal change. Together, we’ll address the biggest concerns parents/guardians have: managing screen time, getting a cell phone, cyberbullying, social media, and more. Resources will be shared from Common Sense—www.commonsense.org/.

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BREAKOUT SESSION Descriptions

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

Proven Strategies for How Parents/Guardians of Elementary School Students Can Manage Challenging Behaviors at Home

ROOM 321—SESSION 1 & 2
Level: Elementary School
Ms. Brandi N. Miller, teacher, Autism Services. CardenKsprings Elementary School, MCPS
Ms. Heather J. Strauss, behavior support teacher, Social Emotional Support Services, MCPS

During this presentation, families of children with disabilities, kindergarten through Grade 5, will learn proven strategies to use in the home environment to avoid power struggles and proactively address and de-escalate challenging behaviors.

Proven Strategies for How Parents/Guardians of Middle and High School Students Can Manage Challenging Behaviors at Home

ROOM 330—SESSION 2
Level: Middle and High School
Mrs. Barbara Carlstrom, special education resource teacher, Herbert Hoover Middle School, MCPS
Mrs. Kristin E. Rattan, program specialist, Autism Spectrum Disorders Services, MCPS

This presentation will help parents/guardians identify how adult and child behaviors impact each other. Participants will gain a common language to discuss their child’s behavior, and identify both proactive and responsive strategies to manage challenging behaviors at home.

Reading Strategies for Parents/Guardians to Support Their Children on Alternate Learning Outcomes (ALOs)

ROOM 304—SESSION 2
Level: Elementary, Middle, and High School
Mrs. Genevive M. Goodman, instructional specialist, Department of Special Education Services, MCPS
Mrs. Donna D. Yoda, teacher, special education, Benjamin Banneker Middle School, MCPS

This presentation will provide parents/guardians of children working on ALOs aligned to the general education curriculum with resources to support their child’s reading needs in decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Evidence-based reading strategies also will be discussed.

Recognizing and Serving Twice Exceptional Students

ROOM 304—SESSION 1
Level: Elementary, Middle, and High School
Mrs. Sarah P. Jackson, instructional specialist, Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, MCPS

Students who are gifted and talented but who also have an educational disability (twice exceptional) present a unique learner profile. They are students who need to be simultaneously challenged and supported. Join us as we discuss the twice exceptional student profile and supports and services available in MCPS to meet the needs of these dynamic learners.

Repairing the Harm: Meeting the Needs of All Children Through Restorative Justice

ROOM 329—SESSION 1
Level: Elementary, Middle, and High School
Ms. Ruschelle Reuben, director, Restorative Justice, School Counseling, and Student Leadership, MCPS

Restorative Justice is a social justice approach to building community, self-care, and conflict resolution. This presentation will cover the history and background of restorative justice and its current relevance to our world. The session will detail the benefits for parents/guardians and students as well as outline the various resources that are available to parents/guardians in support of their children.

BRING YOUR TEEN! Self-advocacy for Teens and Young Adults

ROOM 312/317—SESSION 2
Level: High School
Mr. Joshua Dieker, aviation support and gymnastics coach
Dr. Lisa Dieker, Pegasus professor and Lockheed Martin eminent scholar chair, University of Central Florida
Ms. Kimberly D. Haden, staff development teacher, Fox Chapel Elementary School, MCPS

Learn to be your own advocate! Students ages 14-21 and parents/guardians are invited to attend this session in which they will not only practice mindfulness activities, but will hear from Dr. Lisa Dieker and her son, Josh Dieker, who will speak to self-advocacy. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

Strategies to Support the Mathematical Proficiency and Success of Middle and High School Students

ROOM 316—SESSION 1
Level: Middle and High School
Mrs. Kelly J. Jiron, instructional specialist, Department of Special Education Services, MCPS
Mr. Aaron L. Schwartz, content specialist, Math Implementation and Development Team, MCPS

This interactive session will allow parents/guardians the opportunity to experience what their child is learning in their secondary mathematics class, through the use of technology and mathematical problems from the secondary curriculum. We also will discuss how you can support your child with problem-solving skills at home through activities aligned to grade-level mathematics.

Supporting the Reading and Writing Skills of Elementary School Students at Home

ROOM 305—SESSION 1
Level: Elementary School
Mrs. Jacqueline M. Loso Hongladarom, instructional specialist, Department of Special Education Services, MCPS

This session will cover a variety of strategies parents/guardians can use at home to support the five
components of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. Strategies to support children’s writing skills also will be addressed.

**Technology Tools to Support the Reading and Writing Skills of Elementary Students**

**ROOM 326—SESSION 2**

**Level: Elementary School**

Ms. Anita R. Askew, teacher, special education, Little Bennett Elementary School, MCPS

Mrs. Eithne Ellis, occupational therapist, High Incidence Accessible Technology (HIAT), MCPS

Participants will learn to identify common barriers for learners in elementary school and think about which technology and no-tech tools best match their child’s needs in reading and understanding text. Presenters will share tools that help students become more effective writers. Parents/guardians will learn how to access these tools for use at home.

**Technology Tools to Support the Reading and Writing Skills of Middle and High School Students**

**ROOM 326—SESSION 1**

**Level: Middle and High School**

Ms. Anita R. Askew, teacher, special education, Little Bennett Elementary School, MCPS

Mrs. Eithne Ellis, occupational therapist, High Incidence Accessible Technology (HIAT), MCPS

Participants will learn to identify common barriers for learners in middle and high school and think about which technology and no-tech tools best match their child’s needs in understanding difficult text. Presenters will share tools that help students become more organized and effective writers. Parents/guardians will learn how to access these tools for use at home.

**The Road Doesn’t End Here:**

**Exploring Life After High School Graduation for Students with Disabilities Receiving a Diploma**

**ROOM 330—SESSION 1**

**Level: Middle and High School**

Mrs. Patricia K. Cochrane, teacher, special education transition, Transition Services Unit, MCPS

The transition from high school to postsecondary opportunities can be a challenging time for students and their parents/guardians. This session will answer the following questions: What can parents/guardians do to support transition while their child is in high school? What opportunities are available after high school? How does the process change from entitlement services to eligibility-based services? This presentation will answer these questions and more.

**Toilet Training and Learning for Children with Disabilities**

**ROOM 319—SESSION 1**

**Level: Early Childhood, Elementary School**

Ms. Emily T. Stanley, instructional specialist, Autism Spectrum Disorders Services, MCPS

Mrs. Stacy A. Ellis, instructional specialist, Child Find/Early Childhood Disabilities Unit, MCPS

Participants will learn strategies to promote toileting success with their child. Presenters will provide tips and examples that are appropriate for young students but can be modified across the school-age span.

**Understanding Dyslexia and Ways to Support Children Who Struggle with Reading and Spelling**

**ROOM 306—SESSION 2**

**Level: Elementary, Middle, and High School**

Ms. Laurie Moloney, certified academic language therapist, president, DC Capital Area Branch, International Dyslexia Association

Reading is the basis of much of a student’s education. Yet, for children with dyslexia, learning to read, spell, and write can be a difficult and painful process. Evidence-based instructional practices can change outcomes for these students and others who read below the level of proficiency. This presentation focuses on the essential elements and principles of effective reading instruction and what parents/guardians can do to better support their child with dyslexia.

**Understanding Executive Functions and Interventions: How Parents/Guardians Can Support Their Elementary School-age Children**

**ROOM 320—SESSION 1**

**Level: Elementary School**

Ms. Kimberly M. Batten, psychologist, Psychological Services, MCPS

Ms. Melinda Bellafiore, psychologist, Psychological Services, MCPS

Executive functioning issues are weaknesses in a set of important mental skills that are key to learning. Students with executive functioning issues often struggle with working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control. This session will provide parents/guardians with a greater understanding of executive functions and how to intervene at the elementary school level, through academic and work-habit strategies.

**Understanding Executive Functions and Interventions: How Parents/Guardians Can Support Their Middle and High School-age Children**

**ROOM 320—SESSION 2**

**Level: Middle and High School**

Ms. Kimberly M. Batten, psychologist, Psychological Services, MCPS

Ms. Melinda Bellafiore, psychologist, Psychological Services, MCPS

Executive functioning issues are weaknesses in a set of important mental skills that are key to learning. Students with executive functioning issues often struggle with working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control. This session will provide parents/guardians with a greater understanding of executive functions and how to intervene at the middle and high school level, through academic and work-habit strategies.
Visit the Resource Fair in the Cafeteria
10:05 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

Talk with professionals and view displays from community organizations available to support students receiving special education services.

EXHIBITOR LIST

- Cornerstone Montgomery
- Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)
- Early Childhood Services, Infants and Toddlers
- Facing Autism with Children Everywhere
- Family Services, Inc., a program of Sheppard Pratt Health System
- GTLD Network
- Lollipop Kids Foundation
- M-NCPPC: Montgomery Parks
- Maryland ABLE
- Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities
- Montgomery College
- Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) Special Education Committee
- Montgomery County Health and Human Services
- Montgomery County Public Libraries
- Montgomery County Recreation
- Optimal Health Care Inc.
- Partnership for Extraordinary Minds (xMinds)
- Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR)
- RespectAbility
- Sheppard Pratt Health System
- SHARE Food Network
- Special Olympics Maryland Montgomery County
- SPIRIT Club
- Sunflower Bakery
- The Parents’ Place of Maryland
- WMATA Metro

Office of Special Education
SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Cochair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Ms. Denise Bracalilly-Stultz
Director, Student, Family, and School Services

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Instructional Specialist, Division of Prekindergarten, Special Programs, and Related Services

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Parent, Office of Special Education Parent Summit Committee

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Learning and Achievement Specialist, School Support and Improvement

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Instructional Specialist, Resolution and Compliance Unit

Mr. Amuthan Kannan
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Project Specialist, Division of Business, Fiscal, and Information Systems

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Supervisor, Autism Spectrum Disorders Services

Mrs. Sarah Siddons
Communications Project Manager, Public Information and Web Services

Mrs. Sophia Sohoratally
Instructional Specialist, Department of Special Education Services

Mrs. Jennifer R. Strouble
Instructional Specialist, Department of Special Education Services

Ms. Danielle D. Wilson-Saddler
Instructional Specialist, Student, Family, and School Services

Mrs. Natalie L. Wolanin
Logistics Support Specialist, Program Evaluation Unit
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