

Working Together...Making a Difference

HTSD Special Education Dept. Parent Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1 December, 2014

Dear Parents,
I hope this December finds you well! This newsletter is being sent in an effort to keep you informed about topics in special education. There is a very brief survey about parental engagement. I hope that you will take a few minutes to fill this out so that we can best meet your needs. There is also a brochure enclosed containing the contact information for all child study team members. Another way to stay informed is to follow the special education department on social media for the most current information! Happy reading and have a wonderful winter season!

Sincerely,
Marylynn Stecher
Supervisor of Special Education



@HTSDspecial

SPECIAL EDUCATION PAG

The PAG is the Parent Advisory Group. According to the New Jersey Administrative Code, "Each district board of education shall ensure that a special education parent advisory group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities." 6A:14-1.2(h) The purpose of the PAG is to facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. A flyer is sent home at the beginning of each year to all families of students in the special education department inviting parents to participate. Meetings are held five times each school year. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Marylynn Stecher- stecherm@hamiltonschools.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/15 Shaner/Hess P/T Conferences
- 12/16 Shaner/Hess P/T Conferences
- 12/17 Shaner/Hess P/T Conferences
- 12/23 Early Dismissal
- 12/24 Start of Winter Break
- 1/5 Return to School
- 1/19 Martin Luther King Day-
No School
- 2/10 Davies P/T Conferences
- 2/11 Davies P/T Conferences

RESOURCES

Videos and other resources to explain the **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**

- 1) <http://www.cgcs.org/domain/33>
- 2) <http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=4158&RDtoken=21079&userID>
- 3) <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>

FACES 4 Autism

<http://faces4autism.org/>

National Center for Learning Disabilities

<http://www.nclld.org/>

All Children Can Learn

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter can be found on the district website on the special education page- <http://www.hamiltonschools.org/cst.html>.

If you access this newsletter through the website, you can click on the links to access them more readily.



SURVEY

Please assist us in meeting your needs by completing a **very brief** survey. Click on the following link. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QQXPNY>

SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI)

Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) and Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) are school-based federal Medicaid reimbursement programs. The purpose of SEMI and MAC is for the school district to recover a portion of costs for certain Medicaid covered services or activities provided to Medicaid-eligible students. As part of SEMI, the school psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, occupational therapist, and physical therapist log counseling services, therapies, and IEP meetings for students who are eligible for Medicaid. This is not optional for the school district. It is mandated by the state. The state is reimbursed by Medicaid. The state keeps a portion of the reimbursement and disburses the rest to the school district.

The school district is required to obtain a one-time parental consent. The parents can choose to allow or disallow the state to bill Medicaid for services received in school. Please know there is no cost to the parent AND the district does get funds if eligible families participate.

KEEPING PARENTS INFORMED

Progress Monitoring is part of each student's special education program. Along with your child's report card, each marking period you will receive a copy of your child's Progress Report. This Progress Report reports on the goals and objectives in the IEP.

Parent Teacher Conferences are an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to see how he/she is doing in school. These days are also a good time to touch base with your child's case manager. We have many opportunities for parents to come to our schools throughout the school year to participate in meetings and events. However, it is at parent teacher conferences and annual reviews (IEP meetings) that you get to talk to the staff specifically about your child. Therefore, you have at least three opportunities during each school year to sit down with staff members and discuss your child's progress. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities!

An **Annual Review** (also referred to as an IEP Meeting) will be held minimally once each school year. This meeting will include the parent, case manager, teacher(s), and related service providers.

Check out the website
Apps for Children w/ Special Needs
<http://a4cwsn.com/>

iPads in
Special
Education

