

Working Together...Making a Difference

HTSD Special Education Dept. Parent Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 March, 2015

Dear Parents,
Happy Spring! It has been a long, cold winter and I am sure we are looking forward to warmer weather just as much as the children. There is much going on this spring. We are in the midst of the first round of PARCC testing. We are in the middle of Developmental Disabilities Month with Autism Awareness Month coming up in April. In May, we will celebrate Special Education Week. Spring is also Annual Review/IEP season in Hamilton Township. We look forward to seeing you to discuss how your children have progressed this year and to plan for 2015-2016.

*Respectfully,
Marylynn Stecher
Supervisor of Special Education*



IMPORTANT DATES

- 3/20 Report Cards Shaner/Hess
- 3/23 Shaner/Hess P/T Conferences
- 3/24 Shaner/Hess P/T Conferences
Parent Workshop (see right)
- 3/28 [EdCamp South Jersey](#)
- 4/2 Start of Spring Break
- 4/8 Return to School
- 4/15 Special Education Parent Advisory
Group Meeting
- 4/17 Report Cards Davies
- 5/25 Memorial Day- No School
- 6/10 Special Education Parent Advisory
Group Meeting



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PARENT WORKSHOP

In recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month we are sponsoring a parent workshop on Community Supports. Please join us in the Shaner library on Tuesday, March 24! For more information please contact Ann Bucknam at 476-6152 or bucknama@hamiltonschools.org

Hamilton Township School District



Parent Workshop

Community Supports

March 24, 2015

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Shaner School Library

Presenters:

Kathryn Saxton-Granato

Atlantic County Coordinator for CIACC
(Children's Interagency Coordinating Council)

and

Isabelle Mosca and Chris Devenney

FACES 4 Autism

Topics Include: Community Services, Applying for
Services, Behavioral Supports, Family Supports



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Consider joining us for Ed Camp South Jersey on Saturday, March 28. For more information go to <http://www.edcampsouthjersey.com/>

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 easily.



ANNUAL REVIEWS

The spring brings warmer weather (hopefully) and annual review season. This is the time of year that you should expect to be contacted by your child's case manager to attend an annual review meeting at which your child's IEP for the 2015-2016 school year will be developed. The case manager, teacher(s), and therapist(s) will meet with you to discuss and determine the progress your child has made this year, your child's strengths and needs, your child's goals and objectives for next year, and the appropriate placement in the least restrictive environment to meet these goals and objectives.

Here are a few tips to prepare for the meeting:

- You will receive a meeting invitation. Please check that the date and time work for you. If not, contact the case manager to reschedule. You can request a phone conference if you are unable to get to the school.
- Come prepared to talk about your child's interests, strengths, weaknesses, and any concerns, questions, or suggestions you have.
- Be an active listener. The staff have much information to share.

KEEPING PARENTS INFORMED...

Progress Monitoring

Parent Teacher Conferences

Annual Review/IEP Meeting

Twitter- @HTSDspecialed

Facebook- HTSD Special Education Department

Twice Yearly Special Education Newsletters

Genesis Parent Portal

District/Special Education Website

...and INVOLVED

Special Education Parent Advisory Group

Parent Workshop- Community Supports

EdCamp South Jersey

PARCC

As you are aware, the Hess and Davies School are in the midst of the first round of PARCC testing. There has been much controversy surrounding this new statewide, standardized assessment.

Here are a few facts:

- PARCC has replaced the NJASK test for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math
- PARCC tests students in grades 3-8 in ELA and Math
- The PARCC test is technologically based. Students will take the assessment on some type of computer.
- For students in New Jersey, passing PARCC is NOT required to advance from one grade to the next.

Here are some good resources:

- From the NJDOE: Students with IEPs and New Jersey State Assessments: Information for Parents and Families <http://bit.ly/1LPIseU>
- From the NJPTA, Principals and Supervisors <http://bestfootforwardnj.org/>
- <http://parconline.org/for-parents>