

Pennsylvania Department of Education's  
State Parent Advisory Council's  
24th Annual Title I Parent Conference

*Empowering Families  
to be Future Ready*



July 8-10, 2019  
Seven Springs Resort, Champion, PA

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## **Keynote Speaker**

### **Tamir Harper**

Executive Director, UrbED Inc.

### ***A Journey to Unapologetic Activism***

Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 8:45 in the Grand Ballroom

### **A Journey to Unapologetic Activism**

Growing up in Philadelphia, Tamir will openly share his personal experience in broken schools. He will talk about what education looks like in the 21st century and what it should be going forward. He'll describe what innovative schools are doing. An unapologetic activist, he'll impress upon the listener the dire need to repair, reform, and reconstruct education in the United States for the greater success of all students regardless of race, color, country of origin, or any other factor.

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### **Tamir Harper Bio**

Tamir D. Harper is a rising college freshman and a Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholar at American University studying Secondary Education and PR and Strategic Communications.

When Tamir was 17 years old, he co-founded UrbEd Inc., a nonprofit that advocates for a quality and efficient urban education, by working to disband the school-to-prison pipeline, increase teacher diversity, improve building conditions, and advocate for local control of schools.

Tamir has a mission to create sustainable change for generations. With that mission, he has had the honor of serving in many capacities. He currently serves as the Executive Director of UrbEd Inc. and the Programs Director of the Black Youth Network. He formerly served as the National Policy Director for Student Voice and as the longest serving Commissioner on the City of Philadelphia Youth Commission. He has had the opportunity to serve as a three year member of the School District of Philadelphia Superintendent's Advisory Council and as a member of the School District of Philadelphia k-12 Counseling Advisory Group and as the Chairman & Commissioner of the Philadelphia Youth Commission. Serving in those capacities has educated, empowered, and inspired him about youth and advocacy work. In 2016, Tamir traveled to Washington, D.C. to serve on a panel for the United States Office of Education concerning teacher diversity moderated by former Secretary of Education John King and started working with Black Male Educators for Social Justice to improve teacher diversity.

Holding true to his passion, Tamir believes that students should receive diversity in their schools, funding in their schools, and a quality education that allows every student to succeed. Tamir will continue advocating for all youth in similar situations and strives to play a role in creating sustainable change for generations.

Tamir looks forward to returning to Philadelphia and entering the classroom after graduating from American University.

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# Hotel Information

## Check-In

Seven Springs Mountain Resort will not guarantee entrance to guest rooms until 4:00 p.m.

## Check-Out

Ideally, all conference guests should be out of their hotel room by 11:00 a.m. If you are the only person staying in your room, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE check out before or immediately after breakfast. Besides complying with the hotel rules, you will be doing yourself a huge favor because you won't have to stand in really long check-out lines. When you are finished with your lunch, you can stroll to your car.

Keep in mind that SPAC will not pay any late check-out fees. The staff at the front desk will be happy to store your luggage until you are ready to depart the hotel if you are waiting for a ride or you can't get your luggage to your car.

## Hotel Accommodations

If you have any questions about your room, please ask the staff at the front desk.

## Parking

Parking at Seven Springs is free, but you have to display your parking pass on your dashboard.

## Conference Registration Materials

You should pick up your conference registration materials at the following locations:

Monday	1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Hotel Lobby
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Stag Pass
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Stag Pass

## Name Tags

Please be sure to wear your name tag at all workshops.

# Meal Information

## Meals

When you registered to attend the conference, you or your district pre-paid for your meals. Adults will receive a meal bracelet at check in, which is **ONLY** valid for the conference meals indicated in this program. **Children will not receive, nor will they be required to wear, a meal bracelet.** You will not be able to eat without your meal bracelet. No additional meal bracelets are available for purchase, and we cannot issue refunds for any unused meals. If you decide to eat at a different restaurant at the resort or somewhere off-site, you will be responsible for the cost of that meal.

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## Kids' Adventure Camp

### Remember:

- ✓ Daily drop off for the Kids' Camp is at the ski lodge at 8:00 a.m. Parent **MUST** accompany their child to the lodge on Tuesday & Wednesday morning. Late children will be left behind.
- ✓ Remember to apply sunscreen to your child(ren) before you drop them off at Kids' Adventure Camp.
- ✓ No backpacks at Kids' Adventure Camp.
- ✓ Sneakers and socks are mandatory.
- ✓ Swim suits under clothes on both days.
- ✓ Bring a beach towel (or some other towel)
- ✓ No Technology Allowed

## Kids' Adventure Camp Schedule

You must confirm registration for Kids' Camp on Monday during conference & hotel check-in

### Tuesday, July 9

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Kids' Adventure Camp fun. Plan to pick up your child(ren) at 4:30 p.m.

Noon to 1:00 p.m. Lunch at childcare

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Movies for the children. Plan to pick up your child(ren) between 9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

### Wednesday, July 10

8:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Kids' Camp Fun. Plan to pick up your child(ren) between 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

*Note: All children must be pre-registered via the conference registration form. No on-site registrations will be accepted. Your kids will wear an identification tag at Kids' Adventure Camp. You must present appropriate identification to have your children released to your care.*

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# Daily Planner

The following outline will help you plan your schedule for the conference. You can complete the blanks with the name/meeting rooms of the breakout sessions you choose to attend.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Monday, July 8, 2019</b>		
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	Hotel Lobby
	Complete on-site Kids' Camp Registration	Stag Pass
	Visit the Resource Tables	Grand Ballroom Foyer
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Barbeque	Grand Ballroom
<b>Tuesday, July 9, 2019</b>		
6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet (w/children)*	Slopeside Dining Room
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	Stag Pass
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Kids' Adventure Camp	Childcare Location
8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker <i>Tamir Harper, Executive Director, UrbEd Inc.</i> <i>A Journey to Unapologetic Activism</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	_____	_____
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	_____	_____
12:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch*	Grand Ballroom
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	_____	_____
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	_____	_____
4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Pick up child(ren) from Kids' Adventure Camp	Childcare Location
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Banquet Dinner (w/children)*	Grand Ballroom
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Movies for the children	Grand Ballroom
9:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	Pick-up children from movies	Movie Location
<b>Wednesday, July 10, 2019</b>		
6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet (w/children)*	Slopeside Dining Room
	Hotel Checkout	Hotel Lobby
7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Conference Registration	Stag Pass
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Kids' Camp Adventure	Childcare Location
8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	_____	_____
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	_____	_____
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Hotel Checkout (if you have not already done so)	
11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Kids' Adventure Camp Pick-Up	Childcare Location
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch, Raffle, and Farewell*	Grand Ballroom

\* You will need to wear your meal bracelet to receive your food. Children will not need a bracelet.

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# Session Descriptions

## **Calm, Cool and Collected: Mindfulness for Families**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Wintergreen Room

*Jen Blasko, Title I Reading Specialist, Reynolds Elementary School*

In a technology – focused, fast-paced society, it can be a challenge to establish positive and meaningful relationships at home and school. Learning methods to be mindful can help students get along better with peers and adults. These practical strategies will help families improve communication with others, reduce outbursts, develop bedtime rituals, and create better morning routines. Mindfulness techniques focus on being more attentive and improving awareness. The presenters, who are educators, PTA members, scout leaders, and parents, will provide families with the latest techniques to practice mindfulness at home and school. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Knowledge Is Power: A Parent's Guide to the IEP**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Seasons 1 & 2

*Jennifer M. Geibel, Educational Consultant, PaTTAN*

Walking into an IEP meeting can make parents feel as though they are entering an uncertain and unfamiliar world. The large group of participants at these meetings can be intimidating to those individuals unfamiliar with special education. Additionally, the document itself can be difficult to understand and hard to navigate. This session will familiarize parents with the members of the IEP team and their roles. Participants will also review the sections of the IEP and be provided with guidance as to how they can contribute to the IEP process. Knowledge is power – be empowered to participate fully in your child's IEP meeting. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Cultural Competence in Our Schools-Honoring All Families**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Seasons 4 & 5

*Nicole Poncheri, Principal, Cole Manor Elementary School*

Honoring and celebrating all families is a school's most important role. Parents can play an integral role in this process through sharing and collaborating with their schools. This workshop will share how one school is doing this and how the process began. Strategies will be shared to empower families on how to take part in this important role at their own school and how it can lead to a more positive experience for students, families and teachers. Learn how you can play a role in celebrating and honoring all cultures! *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Do the Write Thing! How to Prepare Your Child for Post-Secondary Success**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Snowflake Room

*Maria Searcy, Parent Involvement in Education Consultant (PIE), PA Title I State Parent Advisory Council*

*Brett Monae Searcy, Student, Geneva College and Chandler Maria Searcy, Student Robert Morris College*

Planning for college can be an exciting time for students and their parents. However, many families are overwhelmed with choosing the right school, paying tuition and securing financial aid. As parents, we expect our children will get all the help they need from their high-school guidance counselors. In many cases, they don't—leaving senior students bombarded with post-secondary planning, and parents with stress and unnecessary debt!

Join a mother, and her two daughters as they share their step-by-step plan for early college planning. In this session, the Searcy family will share helpful strategies to show how writing for scholarships, community involvement and volunteering lead to financial freedom and post-secondary success! *Appropriate for High School.*

**DON'T FORGET**



Bring your completed & signed  
Agenda/Workshop Schedule to  
Wednesday's luncheon to be  
eligible for all the Raffles!

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## **What If?: Trauma and Transformation**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Sunburst Room

*Taneeka T. Harper, Middle School Teacher, Norristown Area School District*

As we continue to learn about the effects of trauma on the academic success of students it is also important to know the signs and symbols of a trauma-exposed life. While no two children are guaranteed to respond identically to the same event, each child will most likely exhibit some form of traumatic related behavior. The purpose of this session is to make parents aware of different adverse childhood experiences and to give them questions to add to their parental arsenal. *Appropriate for ages Pre-K through Middle School.*

## **See Something, Say Something: Identifying the Troubled Child**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Hemlock Room

*Tiffany S. Clarke, LCSW, STEP Clinical Coordinator, School District of Philadelphia*

Families, peers and teachers are dealing with losses stemming from bullying behaviors, peer pressures and low self-esteem. During these experiences, it is important for us on the front line to know what the warning signs are and how to be that "one" who was able to intervene at a paramount time. In this presentation, the attendees will learn about the rise of suicide rates among children, triggering events and warning signs to support with effective intervention. Participants will leave with resource information to support with immediate crisis needs as well as simple strategies to support a child and family when faced with suicidal behaviors. Additionally, participants will be able to take away strategies to rebuild courage and confidence for students and families at a very pivotal time. *Appropriate for grades 6 thru 12.*

## **Cultivating Readers-Making Reading Active and Fun**

Tuesday @ 10:15

Evergreen Room

*Jennifer Wachs MEd, NBTC. Teacher, and Carol Rothey, MEd, Librarian/Teacher, South Allegheny Elementary (SASD)*

"Children's' reading skills grow, just like their physical abilities with these literacy skills and strategies. Your child's motivation to learn is nourished by the everyday experiences he/she has with you!" Various techniques will be presented to cultivate reading. These include increasing vocabulary, building background and increasing reading stamina. Reading can be fun even for the most reluctant readers. *Appropriate for grades 3 thru 6.*

## **Exploring STEM at Home**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Wintergreen Room

*Dr. Melissa Tamburrino, Gifted Coordinator 6-8 and Carmen Loughner, Elementary Gifted Coordinator K-5, Franklin Regional School District*

Many research studies have shown that when families are involved in their child's learning process they will thrive at school. Parents have the ability to build the foundation needed for academic growth. However, parents are not always aware of the specific curriculum that is being taught in their child's classroom. This session will explore the STEM curriculum and show parents how simply they can encourage their child to be inquisitive and ask questions just by completing projects around the house. Participants in this session will also learn how to incorporate science, technology, engineering, math and reading at home by completing hands-on activities. Through this seminar, free STEM resources will be given and the participants will work to explore STEM activities using budget friendly resources. Participants in this session will leave knowing how to incorporate STEM at home using free and inexpensive resources. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Families and Career Readiness: Preparing Our Kids for the Future**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Seasons 1 & 2

*Jennifer M. Geibel, Educational Consultant, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)*

Ghandi once stated: "The future depends on what you do today." With the establishment of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Career Readiness Benchmark, schools in Pennsylvania are spending more time meaningfully considering how activities across the grade span help students prepare for the future. As parents, we find ourselves asking questions such as "What is my vision of my child's future?" or "How do I talk about the future with my child?" The purpose of this session is to discuss how parents and families can begin conversations about the future early and how we can support our children through the inevitable changes that they will experience throughout their lives. Resources such as Family-Friendly Transition One-Pagers and The Planning for the Future Checklist will be presented and explored. It's not too early to start to talk about children's hopes and dreams. Let's start talking now! *Appropriate for Elementary thru High School.*

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## **A Family Affair: Incorporating Reading and Math Strategies at Home**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Seasons 4 & 5

*Dr. Elizabeth DeThomas, and Kirk Shimshock, Assistant Director of Federal & State Programs, Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5*

The education of a child does not begin and end when walking through the doors of a school. It is a constant submersion of material that the entire family can work on together as a team. There is an unfortunate myth for parents today that just because they do not have a background in education that they cannot help their child succeed in the areas of reading and mathematics. There are countless learning opportunities that can take place every day outside of the school setting. This session will expose participants to free strategies and resources to help infuse reading and mathematics "talk" into your daily lives. *Appropriate for grades 3 thru 6.*

## **Keeping it Simple-Understanding My Child's Test Results**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Snowflake Room

*Brooke Stebler, K-5 Title I Reading Specialist, Baldwin-Whitehall School District/Paynter Elementary*

We want you to be equipped with the knowledge of how to read and interpret your child's test scores. After this session, you will feel more confident going into meetings with the principal and your child's teacher discussing your child's progress in school. You will learn what the PSSA test scores and percentile ranks mean, and how your child is developing academically at school. You will also learn some easy to do at home strategies to work with your child based on their scores and development. Our goal for the session is for you to feel empowering by knowing what each of your child's scores mean and grow as an advocate for your child. *Appropriate for Elementary ages.*

## **Courageous Parenthood**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Sunburst Room

*Sarah Humes, Author and Speaker, In-Courage Living*

This session is designed as a 3 step model for a more peaceful and more empowered home. Parents will learn strategies for healthy self-care and boundary setting, both in and outside of the home that will allow them to parent their children in a more positive manner. The goal is for parents to leave with practical tips and helpful encouragement that will have them feeling excited about parenting again! *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Tragedy to Triumph: A Dad's Perspective on Loss, its Effect on Academic Achievement of Siblings and the importance of Parental Involvement in the Process**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Hemlock Room

*Paul Jones, Parent Involvement in Education Consultant (PIE), PA Title I State Parent Advisory Council*

In this interactive session attendees will hear firsthand perspective of a father that lost a child, its effect academically on siblings and the opportunity to offer support to parents and students of similar experience. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Motivate to Participate – Handling Challenging Behaviors**

Tuesday @ 11:30

Evergreen Room

*Kerri McCowien, Autistic Support/Learning Support/Life Skills Teacher, Hermitage School District*

Have you ever reached your tolerance limit with your kids due to their out of control behaviors or struggled to motivate them to participate in learning opportunities? In this session, we will discuss a variety of ways to help motivate your children to be active participants. We will also look into ways to handle behaviors of concern through the implementation of behavior plans with motivating factors built-in! Towards the end of our session, time will be offered to answer any questions and personal stories/experiences can be shared so that practical, easy to implement plans can be suggested. Motivation for the parents will also be offered!! *Appropriate for all ages.*

# **PARENT RESOURCE TABLES**

**Find the resources you want and need all in one place!  
Monday in the Grand Ballroom Foyer!**

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## **PSSA Vocabulary Bingo: A Hands-On, Parent-Involvement Activity**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Wintergreen Room

*Dr. Sharon Weber, Principal, Punxsutawney Area School District*

In this informative and engaging session, parents/educators will learn and participate in a fun and interactive make-it and take-it style project. Participants will see how our school created our very own version of PSSA Bingo using vocabulary words from the third grade standards in both reading and math. Parents/educators will be shown the step by step process to creating a successful PSSA Bingo for their own grade level, as this can be adapted to meet the needs of only tested subject or grade level. Participants will have the opportunity to create and then play both ELA and Math PSSA Bingo using actual vocabulary from the Core Standards. Prizes will be awarded for winners! *Appropriate for grades 3 thru 6.*

## **Roadmap to Post Secondary Success**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Seasons 1 & 2

*Sharmyn Straughters, Recruiter, Community College of Allegheny County and Sean Riffle*

The session will provide a roadmap from 9th-12th grade on when, where and how to engage students at each grade level to achieve post-secondary success. The roadmap is designed to help students discover their destination and understand the key steps needed for them to reach their destination. The workshop will inform participants on post-secondary options in education, training and work force development and teach participants to prepare, plan and guide their students to successfully reach their post-secondary destinations. *Appropriate for grades 3 thru 12.*

## **Transitioning to Middle School with Effective Math Strategies**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Seasons 4 & 5

*Sheryl D. Faison, Teacher, Richmond Public Schools and Kathy Perry, Actuarial Analyst, The Vanguard Group*

Transitioning to middle school isn't always easy for students as well as their parents. Just understanding that the student is going from a concrete way of doing math to a more abstract way of doing math will clear up some frustration. The highly energetic presenters will provide simple strategies that will allow the parents to devise a plan to assist their child with being confident and prepared when they begin middle school math. Come on in and let's work together to give our students the confidence they need to succeed. *Appropriate for elementary thru middle school ages.*

## **My Home Economy: Teaching your Children Financial Literacy**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Snowflake Room

*Kylie Smith, Project Manager and Paul H. J. Berry, Communication Lead, The Vanguard Group*

"My Home Economy (MyHE) is designed to help children learn about financial behavior from an early age and start a dialogue about financial literacy at home. Brought to you by My Classroom Economy, a program for educators to teach financial responsibility through experiential learning, MyHE gives you the tools to create a simulated economy in your home. Your child will choose a job, collect a salary, and budget their salary toward expenses, such as rent. As children perform their tasks, they are rewarded for helping you efficiently manage your home. At the same time, they learn valuable skills – such as responsibility, the value of saving, and delayed gratification – that they will carry with them throughout their lives. Created for families who want to install the virtues of financial literacy in their homes.

MyHE is a way to teach young people not only the concepts of financial discipline and responsibility but also – very importantly – the rewards that go with it. The program includes curriculum guides and a selection of materials to enhance the experience – for FREE. If you are interested in teaching your children critical financial literacy concepts through integrating a program with your natural dynamics, this workshop is for you!" *Appropriate for all ages.*

**After the conference, if you want additional handouts  
from any of the workshops, go to [www.spac.k12.pa.us](http://www.spac.k12.pa.us)  
click on Parent Conference, and then click on the workshop title.**

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## **Building Kids Up-One Block at a Time- Improving the Social-Emotional Health of Our Children**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Sunburst Room

*Holly Garner, Principal, Governor Mifflin School District*

All students need a champion' someone who supports them, cares about them, and "builds them up". At this energetic workshop, you will learn tools that will give you the power to "build your kids up". The presenter will provide strategies to build up the following skills with children: relationship building, self-esteem, growth vs. fixed mind-set, communication, character traits, coping strategies, problem solving, and identifying feelings. Participants will discover ways to enhance self-worth in children while further developing their children's conflict resolution skills. During this interactive, engaging workshop, participants will learn how to build kids up by making connections to a box of Legos. Guiding questions will be: How do you build what's in the box? How do you know what's inside? What helps you build that image? How can you compare yourself to a box of Legos? Do you have a lot of little pieces to you? What are YOUR instructions? What pieces make YOU? You will leave this workshop feeling prepared and empowered to improve the social-emotional health of your children. *Appropriate for grades Pre-K thru 6.*

## **OVR and Schools**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Hemlock Room

*Heidi A. Speidel, Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor, Nicole Lodge, Rehabilitation Counselor and Julie Juhas, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, OVR*

Transitioning students into the post-graduation world is important to begin planning early. The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors. All services are provided on an individualized basis. We will discuss OVR services, the eligibility process, and the role OVR has within the educational setting. *Appropriate for High School.*

## **Expanding Career Readiness: Pennsylvania Career Ready Skills**

Tuesday @ 2:00

Evergreen Room

*Laura Fridirici, Career Readiness Advisor, Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction, PDE*

The Pennsylvania Career Ready Skills (PA CRS) are those employable skills that employers seek in prospective employees. Until recently, there was no continuum of skills and means to systematically model and integrate them into teaching and daily school activities. This session will share the continuum of career ready skills and their relationship to employment readiness. It will also provide activities to support integrating the skills into the classroom and the school environment. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Upcycled Home Learning**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Wintergreen Room

*Sarah Enyeart, Teacher and Cody Young, Teacher, Southern Huntingdon County School District*

Join two energetic kindergarten teachers as we use everyday household items to create learning manipulatives for children. Participants will have the opportunity to create several learning activities, and brainstorm ways to upcycle trash into meaningful educational objects. Come play! *Appropriate for Pre-K.*

## **Bullying – Long Term Effects and Strategies to Prevent**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Seasons 1 & 2

*Cathy Roccia-Meier, Family Education Coordinator, and June Waters-Bey, Master Trainer, Institute at Disabilities, Temple University*

Using research findings, empirical evidence and personal stories, this session will evaluate how bullying occurs, the lasting consequences bullying and the potential severity of these effects. Strategies for bullying prevention will be discussed and additional resources shared. *Appropriate for all ages.*

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## **WEDNESDAY'S BIG RAFFLES!!**



**2 HP ChromeBooks with cases**  
**Echo Smart Speaker with Alexa**  
**Crayola Ultimate Light Board Drawing Tablet**  
**Crayola Drawing & Coloring Kit**

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## **Administrators, Teachers, and Parents: Engagement and Collaboration that Makes a Difference**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Seasons 4 & 5

*Jennifer Solak, Remedial Supervisor, Pittsburgh Mount Oliver Intermediate Unit 2*

No one person is responsible for student success. Administrators, teachers and parents are all vital to the success of students. This session focuses on ways that administrators, teachers and parents can come together to support student success. Participants will gain valuable fun strategies to address math skills and reading fluency, will learn about workshops for parents developed by teachers and influenced by parents to address specific student skill needs, and will discover engaging online resources. This session will be hands on, interactive and fun! *Appropriate for grades 1 thru 8.*

## **Early Reading Literacy Workshop (Read by 4th)**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Snowflake Room

*Joy McIntosh, Family Engagement Liaison, School District of Philadelphia*

In this highly interactive workshop, attendees will learn the important skills their child needs to be a super reader-hearing the sounds, knowing the letters, and reading smoothly. Attendees will have time to explore games and activities they can use to encourage literacy skills at home. Attendees will understand the key skills in early reading needs and have the ability to speak with their child's teacher about reading skills. *Appropriate for elementary school ages.*

## **Creating a Vision for a Good Life**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Sunburst Room

*Lisa A. Tesler, Director, PA Family Network and Chriss Gaus, Family Advisor, Vision for Equality*

Creating a vision for a good life is important for all children and families, during all ages and stages. This workshop will use interactive activities to show parents and families how to use the LifeCourse Framework and Tools. These tools were developed by families and for families. Our goal is to help you develop a vision for a good life, think about what opportunities and experiences you want to have in your life, identify strategies and resources to support your vision, and to communicate your vision and high expectations to others. When a child is very young, and wherever they are on the journey toward adulthood, having a dream and creating life experiences and opportunities can shape their future. Join us to begin Charting the LifeCourse! The PA Family Network advisors are part of the state and national Community of Practice: Supporting Families throughout the Lifespan. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Helping Your Child Succeed in School**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Hemlock Room

*LaKeya Guy, Teacher/Author, and Lana Womack, Counselor/Teacher, Norristown Area School District*

This workshop will give you the necessary tools to become strong advocates for your child's middle school education. You will learn how to help your child succeed in reading as well as empower them to excel in all areas of life. Parents and advocates will learn techniques on organizational and study skills, how to instill a love for reading at home and how their child learns best. Multi-level perspectives will be offered from a counselor, teacher/author and college students. *Appropriate for middle school ages.*

## **Impactful Family Engagement in Multiple Settings**

Tuesday @ 3:15

Evergreen Room

*Caroline Allen, Coordinator, PA Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network (PSAYDN)*

Family engagement does not stop at the school door. Families' lives revolve around multiple settings: Before-school care, after-school care, summer learning programs, sports, dance, arts, faith-based programs, etc. This session will help parent leaders understand how these different settings impact families' lives and how to assess and work within these programs utilizing based family engagement practices. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Public Policy Advocacy in Harrisburg and Your School District**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Wintergreen Room

*Ron Cowell, President, The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC)*

Advocacy makes a difference for children! Policymakers in Harrisburg and our school districts make important decisions that affect education opportunities for current and future generations of children, and each of us can influence these decisions. Learn more about the potential of thoughtful and effective public policies, and how each of us can use our voice to make a difference. *Appropriate for all ages.*

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## **Developing a Grade Specific School-Family Compact: A Family Friendly Approach**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Seasons 1 & 2

*Bonita Allen, Parent Involvement in Education Consultant (PIE) and Jeannie Pavlack-Sage, Title I State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC)*

This session will provide participants with tools to move the current compact off the document shelf and into the hands of families where it can actually be used to support students and help improve student performance. Learn how to engage families, staff and students to construct and implement grade specific School-Family Compacts. A grade specific compact increases both parent and family engagement, and student achievement by connecting data in a way that brings home and school together. Join us to learn more about this practical approach to partnering with families, teachers, and students to design a usable and effective compact that is inclusive and functional. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Battling Math Anxiety**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Seasons 4 & 5

*Dr. Wayde Killmeyer, Executive Director, Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV*

Research has shown that all students start school with the same enthusiasm for all subjects, including mathematics. Early in the elementary grades though, usually in fourth or fifth grade that enthusiasm wanes for many students. They spend the rest of their educational careers hating math, or believing that one is either good at it or not. In actuality, every student can learn mathematics up through the high school years, just as they can learn to read and write. Knowledge of mathematics is essential in every career path and is information that will always pay to have. What causes fear of mathematics, how do we dispel that fear, and how can we help our students to have better expectations of their math classes and of themselves? These and other topics will be explored in this workshop. *Appropriate for grades 3 thru 6.*

## **Active Learning at Home. How to Engage Kids in a Fun Way**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Snowflake Room

*Katie Mild, Health and Physical Education and Kristen Sibeto, Teacher, Reynolds Elementary School, Reynolds School District*

Active Learning at Home. Why and How. When your child comes home from school is getting them to do their homework a struggle? Let us teach you some easy to do ways to make homework and extra practice FUN and EASY. We will explain how the brain works and why the connection to physical activity is important. We will share tried and tested strategies that we have used in the classroom that can be easily transferred to the home environment. *Appropriate for grades Pre-K thru Elementary.*

## **Title I Parent Involvement Requirements**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Sunburst Room

*Erin Derr, Regional Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Federal Programs*

This session will cover basic requirements for the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Program at your school district. There will be versions of the LEA and school parent and Family Engagement policies. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## **Introduction to Internet Safety and Online Privacy**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Hemlock Room

*Jason Williams, Director of Technology, Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV*

The internet is a great educational tool. Students are using multiple online sites and tools to enhance their learning. They also use the internet for social experiences such as gaming. Explore resources that will help you discuss internet safety with your family. Learn how to protect your child's privacy while they are learning or just having fun using the internet. *Appropriate for grades 6 thru 12.*

## **Homelessness Comes to School**

Wednesday @ 8:45

Evergreen Room

*Wendy Kinnear, Regional Coordinator – Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness/Foster Care, Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV*

"We don't have homeless students here, do we?" This session will explore the federal McKinney-Vento definitions of homelessness and provide an overview of the educational rights of students and families in these situations. In addition, the unique circumstances encountered in both rural and urban settings will be discussed and available resources and ideas for community supports outlined. Participants will gain a better understanding of how to advocate for students who don't have a home of their own. *Appropriate for all ages.*

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## Update on Education Policy Issues

Wednesday @ 9:45

Wintergreen Room

*Ron Cowell, President, The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC)*

Governor Tom Wolf, during his two campaigns and in his budget messages, has emphasized the importance of education issues. Pennsylvania voters have said they agree. Legislators continue to consider many issues including education funding, student testing and school accountability, property tax cuts, charter school reforms, school safety and much more. Get the latest update on Harrisburg policy activities, and learn how our children and schools may be affected. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## A Classical Approach to Helping Your Student Love Learning

Wednesday @ 9:45

Seasons 1 & 2

*Sarah Defibaugh, Rhetoric I Teacher, Grove City Christian Academy*

As parents and educators, our goal is to ignite a desire for lifelong learning in our children. Cultivating the independent and creative thinkers needed for future leadership roles requires our students to make the leap from simply learning facts to being able to apply knowledge. The presenter, an educator in a classical school with a background in learning and development, will revive ideas from ancients such as Socrates, Quintilian, and Aristotle and explore how they can be used in practical ways to push our students towards a love of learning! *Appropriate for all ages.*

## Texting, How Well Do You Know Your Pre-Teens/Teen?

Wednesday @ 9:45

Seasons 4 & 5

*Dorian Harris, Family Engagement Liaison, School District of Philadelphia and Shirley Reynolds, Community Organizer, Power*

This session will focus on the acronyms – and texting messages that is being used by our kids. Parents who have children in grades 5-12 will explore the language via texting. There are over 1,000 acronyms and every day it gets larger. *Appropriate for all ages.*

## Children and Their Mental Health

Wednesday @ 9:45

Snowflake Room

*Lea Rink, Judy Baker, Chris Cherry and Jeannie Pavlack-Sage - Parents*

Do you know what to do if you suspect that your child or adolescent has a learning disability? If your child is having difficulties in school, this session will outline the process of approaching the school for assistance. Learn the “ins and outs” from expert parents who have already been through the system. This session will provide valuable information and powerful examples to assist you in getting the help that you feel your child needs and that the school is required to provide. *Appropriate for High School age.*

## Digital Families Community Events-Families Develop Online & Cyber Safety Plans

Wednesday @ 9:45

Sunburst Room

*Jenn King, PA Special Education PTA Leader (Statewide) & Pittsburgh Public School Parent Leader and Sue Schmidt, PA Special Education PTA Leader (Statewide), PA Special Education PTA (statewide)*

Parenting in digital age is complex. “PTA CONNECTED” strives to help children act safely, responsibly and thoughtfully online. National PTA has been a partner to parents on digital parenting topics for over 5 years, exploring in depth the issues that are on the minds of today’s families, and connecting parents with tools, research and supports to make the best decisions for decisions for their children. With PTA Connected, you are: CONNECTED to programs that help Parent leaders facilitate event nights designed to increase the knowledge of digital well-being in your community. CONNECTED to best practices, expert resources and tools that provide parents with the information they are looking forward and how to have conversations with their children about living a healthy and safe life online. CONNECTED with each other as we navigate and adapt together to build and grow as a digital community. This workshop will help Families understand what Family Digital Wellness looks like and helps them build customized “Family Digital Safety Plans” which then build together with each family member participating in the process. *Appropriate for all ages*

## Empowering Youth to Make Healthy Choices

Wednesday @ 9:45

Hemlock Room

*Katie Gassner, Nationally Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Northwest PA Tobacco Control Program (NW PATCP)*

It’s difficult to stay on top of the latest trends and research as it relates to anything; tobacco prevention is no exception. Preventing tobacco initiation starts with awareness. If you are unsure of the answers to any of the following questions (you are not alone) this session is for you. 1. What is vaping and how does it harm the developing brain? 2. Is there just flavoring in some e-liquids? 3. What’s the safest way to stop using nicotine? 4. Why are youth Juuling in epidemic proportions? 5. Are there ways to protect my child? Youth need information early and often to promote good decision making. Adults need this information even earlier to prepare for these conversations. Together we will dispel common myths about vaping and other trending tobacco products. Marketing tactics and strategies that target youth will be shared, so parents know what they are up against. Parents will leave with resources, concise messaging and confidence to have conversations with youth on this topic. To protect our future leaders, we must be the action we want to see. *Appropriate for all ages.*

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# Wednesday's Raffles!

**2 HP ChromeBooks with cases, 2 Echo Smart Speakers with Alexa, a Crayola Ultimate Light Board Drawing Tablet, and a Crayola Drawing and Coloring Kit**

SPAC will raffle off 2 Chrome Books with cases, 2 Echo smart speakers with Alexa, a Crayola Ultimate Light Board Drawing Tablet, and a Crayola Drawing and Coloring kit on Wednesday. In order to qualify for the drawing, you must attend Tamir Harper's Keynote Session in the Grand Ballroom on Tuesday and one session during each time block. You should have a total of 7 spots stamped to be eligible. A SPAC member will stamp your agenda after each event. Your agenda becomes your raffle ticket. SPAC members will be collecting your calendars at the Grand Ballroom, where you will enjoy your final conference meal. **Must be present to win!**

After the conference is over, we will send your completed calendar to the Title I Coordinator in your district with your certificate. We hope that between you and your Title I coordinator, you will develop a plan to share what you have learned with other parents in your district.

To receive a certificate, you must have a stamp in each time slot on your agenda. **Only participants receiving a certificate will be able to return again.**

## Gifts to be awarded at Wednesday's Luncheon!



### HP ChromeBook with Case

Intel Celeron N2840 Processor (2 cores, 2.16 GHz up to 2.58 GHz, 1MB Cache)

16 GB eMMc SSD | 4 GB DDR3L

1600 MHz SDRAM | TPM 1.2 Embedded Security Chip

11.6" diagonal HD SVA WLED anti-glare (1366 x 768) | Integrated Intel HD Graphics

Intel Dual Band Wireless-AC 7260 802.11a/b/g/n/ac (2x2) WiFi and Bluetooth 4.0 Combo

### Echo 2nd Gen Smart Speaker w/Alexa



Echo connects to Alexa to play music, read the news, set alarms and timers, answer questions, control compatible smart home devices, and does so much more. Just ask for a song, artist, or genre from Amazon Music, Apple Music, Spotify, Pandora, SiriusXM, etc.

Powerful speakers with Dolby technology play 360° audio with clear vocals and dynamic bass response. With seven microphones, beamforming technology, and noise cancellation, Echo hears you from any direction—even while music is playing.



### Crayola Ultimate Light Board Drawing Tablet

Super sized tracing board: 1 LED light board with removable Back panel, and 6 gel FX markers. Please note: requires 3 AA batteries (not included).

Trace & display: remove the black panel and use the light board as a tracing pad, then light up your designs and showcase them in the dark

Marker storage: built-in storage makes this kids drawing board organized and portable

Washable markers!

### Crayola Coloring Kit



This Crayola Coloring Kit features 64 ct Crayons, 10 ct Ultra Clean Washable Markers, 10 ct Stamper Markers, 10 ct Bold Ultra Clean Washable Markers, 16ct Metallic Crayons, 8ct Neon Crayons, and a Crayola Sketch Pad.

Over 100 art tools for kids to create with every day. Safe and nontoxic

This art set for kids gives them a unique variety of tools to express themselves creatively.

*Please note: some features may vary from those listed*

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# Pennsylvania State Parent Advisory Council

**Chichester School District**

Sandra Cislo

**Lancaster School District**

Robin Goodson

**Middletown Area School District**

Pam Metesezac

**Moniteau School District**

Sarah Huth

**Northside Catholic School**

Maurice Igims

**North East School District**

Leea Rink

**Philadelphia City School District**

Sheila E. Armstrong  
Elizabeth Hernandez  
Jamie Serrano

**Pittsburgh Public School District**

Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner

**Ringgold School District**

Jeannie Pavlack-Sage

**Parents in Education (PIE) Consultants****Norristown Area School District**

Karen Addison-Williams

**Pittsburgh Public School District**

Bonita Allen  
Maria Searcy

**Woodland Hills School District**

Paul B. Jones



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## Acknowledgements /Information

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- Susan McCrone, Chief, Division of Federal Programs, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Erin Derr, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Association of Federal Programs Coordinators (PAFPC)
- Conference Coordinators from Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV: Dr. Wayde Killmeyer, Lorinda Hess, Jason Williams, Carrie Fusco, Devon Agostino, Brian Grossman, Julie McElroy, Greg Merkle, Gail Myers, Lois Roach, and Melanie Turner.
- Keep in touch with your school's Title I Coordinator for next year's conference dates!
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Federal Programs funds the Title I State Parent Advisory Council through a contract with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV.



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