

Conference Program

Who is gifted?

Lana Shakman

Rm #181

What is the difference between gifted and high achieving students? Parents will make a survival bag and the contents will explain the characteristics of gifted students. I will also provide parents with a list of websites and other resources to help them better understand their gifted child.

The Art of Smart

Cathy Kane

Rm #179

We have all heard the terms; AP, IB, AVID, Cambridge, Comprehensive High School, Dual Enrollment, Collegiate High School, but what do they really mean for the gifted learner? In this session we will delve into the varied options high school gifted learners have and how they fit into the high school gifted program. Information will also be available on the above grade level testing program offered by the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP).

Sensitivity Awareness

Donna Djerf

Rm#171

The purpose of the Sensitivity Awareness Workshop is to educate individuals about physical, cognitive or learning disabilities through a hands-on, interactive program. Individuals gain knowledge about what it may feel like to have a disability.

Teaming Together Makes a Difference in Career Decisions

Christine Raptis-Wright, Dr. Regina Miller

Rm# 144

Teachers, Counselors, Career Specialist, Parents, Students and Community Members play a major role in raising career aspirations for students. It's important for team members to be aware of the many opportunities available to prepare students for careers and post secondary education. Join us and explore the options!!

Getting Connected

Shellie Means Taylor, Barbara Williams

Rm # 146

Transition Planning includes making connections with agencies that may be able to assist your child. An overview of making agency connections will be presented by ESE Transition Specialists. Representatives from Agency for Persons with Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation will also be present at this session. Understanding how the system works and how to secure services are the keys to a smooth transition.

Social Skills Games Terri Myles Rm# 142

Social Skills and interpersonal relationships can be quite a challenge for our children with autism or other learning difficulties. This session will provide a variety of activities and games to teach social skills development and have fun at the same time without the need to purchase extras.

Positive Behavioral Support Jason Kurtz Rm#140

Lee County is committed to training all schools on providing positive behavioral supports for our children. See what the research says and how this is supported by data collected in our schools.

Student Assignment Sherry Roessner Rm# 136

Selecting a school to maximize our children's educational outcome is a process. This presentation will provide participants with all of the ins and outs needed to successfully navigate the system.

Parent Panel Presentation

Maria Eash, Sharon Gunsett, Lauri White Rm#130

Working together with our children's schools, teachers, administrators and related service professionals can be quite a challenge. Come hear firsthand from three parents who have perfected the art of collaboration. Working together doesn't mean always being in agreement; strategies to resolve conflict will be addressed.

Self Determination Patti McGee Rm# 150

Self determination, self advocacy and empowerment are all terms that can be intertwined and are necessary skills to enable a person to gain more control over his or her life. An essential component to gaining independence is to have input into our lives. This workshop will demonstrate the importance of teaching our children how to become self determined.

Reading Rocks! Peg Binoniemi Rm# 178

Speaking, listening, reading and writing are all activities that can be made fun, meaningful and produce powerful outcomes. This workshop will provide you with a variety of activities that can be done at home or at school to enhance and solidify a love of literacy. A handout has been prepared listing multiple, free computer sites that will support your child's growth in reading.

Pre-K to Kindergarten

Jill McQueary, Barb Burmester Rm# 187

Entering kindergarten from pre-school can be a big adjustment for our little ones and their families. This session will walk you through all of the fundamental steps to making a smooth transition into elementary school

Collaborative IEP Jennifer Hamilton Smith Rm#173

Writing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for a child is a process. Consensus building and effective communication are just a couple of strategies to building a productive IEP team. Participants will explore their own communication styles and develop a positive plan to enhance their knowledge about the collaborative IEP process.

A Very Special Opportunity

Sibling Workshop Diana Bledsoe Rm#189

Having a brother or sister with special needs can present unique challenges for children. This workshop will be presented by a school psychologist in a small group setting to provide support and understanding for the siblings. Every family member needs validation as an individual as well as being part of a family system. This workshop is one of a kind. Pre-registration is required.