



Partners for Success Family Support and Resource Center

**Family Support and
Resource Center**

Volume 8, Issue 7

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WHAT IS THE FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE CENTER?

The Family Support and Resource Center, is a partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems. Each school system, including the Maryland School for the Deaf and the Maryland School for the Blind, has a center staffed by a parent/educator team. Our team, which consists of Patricia Timm, Education Coordinator and Cheri Dowling, Parent Coordinator, assists families, students and educators by providing support, information and resources on disabilities and community services. The Family Support and Resource Center specializes in servicing ALL families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children throughout Maryland. The Center also collaborates with other state agencies and offices so families have access to support and information regarding their Deaf or Hard of Hearing child's education.

Located at the Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia Campus, 8169 Old Montgomery Road, Columbia MD 21044, the Center provides a lending library of books, DVD's and games, information and referrals as requested, workshops on various topics such as Understanding Special Education, the Individual Education Plan (IEP), Transition, School Records, Procedural Safeguards and others by request.

The goals of the Family Support and Resource Center are:

1. to assist families in resolving concerns,
2. to help families make informed decisions regarding their child's education, and
3. to help increase parent involvement and partnership between families and professionals.

For more information contact Cheri or Pat at (410) 480-4597 (v/tty) or at Partners@msd.edu

Ten Ways to Help Your Child Tackle Homework

1. Have your child use an assignment notebook so they know what homework is required each day.
2. Introduce a planning calendar and show your child how to use it, this is especially useful for long-term assignments.
3. Each day your child should preview the assignments they have to do and get the tough tasks out of the way first. Have your child write down the order in which assignments will be done.
4. Teach your child to review their work frequently.
5. Purchase an organizer for your child, show them how to use it so they have a system for organizing their school papers.
6. Always use a book bag to transport books and papers, this way everything is always together.
7. Establish a regular time for doing homework.
8. Establish a regular place for doing homework.
9. Keep old quizzes and tests to help prepare for future tests.
10. Eliminate distractions such as phone calls, email and television during homework time.



For more homework tips visit
<http://school.familyeducation.com>

Five Public Hearings Set on the Maryland High School Assessment

Five regional public hearings have been set by the State Board of Education for the public to provide comment on the Maryland High School Assessment (HSAs).

All five are set for September. The hearings will begin at 7:00 p.m. The maximum speaking time afforded to any individual or organization will be 3 minutes. Approximately 40 speaker opportunities will be available during the testimony segment of the agenda at each hearing. Typed or clearly printed copies of the speaker's testimony will be appreciated.

Any person wishing to provide comment must sign up on site beginning at 6:15 p.m. Persons wishing to submit written testimony may do so the evening of the hearing; by mail to the Maryland State Board of Education, 200 W Baltimore Street, Baltimore MD 21201; by fax to 310-333-2275 or by emailing to stateboard-hsa@msde.state.md.us; by September 20, 2007.

The dates and locations are as follows:

September 4 - Eastern Shore High School, 723 Mecklenberg Avenue, Easton

September 10 - Charles Hubert Flowers High School, 10001 Ardwick Ardmore Road, Springdale

September 18 - North Point High School, 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf

September 18 - Fort Hill High School, 500 Greenway Avenue, Cumberland

September 19 - Poly/Western High School, 1400 W. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore

Although State Board members and education officials will not respond to any comments during these hearings they will listen and take all comments into consideration as they deliberate on establishing education policy relative to the Maryland High School Assessments.

School Bus Safety

Did you know that about 22 million children ride to and from school each day in 350,000 buses. Traveling on a school bus is the safest kind of transportation. But it takes everybody's help to keep it that way and make it even safer.

Safety Tips for Parents:

- Review all bus safety rules with your child. This will reinforce their importance. Your support of bus safety rules will increase your child's respect for bus drivers and their very important job.
- Visit the bus stop with your child. This will help you explain the safest route to take to the bus stop, where to wait, exactly how far from the roadway your child should stand, and to notice any unsafe situations. A young child should be accompanied by a parent or designee to and from the bus stop daily.
- Remind your child of the "Danger Zone" often. Children ages 5 and 6 are the most frequent victims of "Danger Zone" related accidents.
- Backpacks are important for keeping all school supplies in tact and freeing hands for holding handrails when entering or exiting the bus. 87% of school bus related deaths of children in grades 3-8 result from children picking up loose papers while boarding or exiting a school bus.
- Be on time to prevent your child from rushing. This is a leading cause of carelessness.
- When driving on school grounds, always be alert; watch for children in every direction. Always use designated areas if you drive children to and from school. Stop if red warning lights on a school bus are flashing (even on school grounds).

What is the Danger Zone?



The area around a school bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you.

To avoid the danger zone:

- Take 10 giant steps away from the bus when getting off
- Always cross in front of the bus
- Look at the bus driver and wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road
- If you drop anything outside the bus, leave it. Get permission from the driver before picking it up.

Homework Help Websites

Back to school means back to homework. As parents, sometimes we can't always help our children with homework. Here are some websites that can help.

www.infoplease.com/homework/

This site provides encyclopedia, dictionary, almanacs, and homework help on English, math, history, geography, science and social studies.

School.discovery.com/students/

Offers homework help, articles, interactive activities, virtual tours, science fair ideas, and projects for kids.

www.homeworkspot.com/

Grades K-12 homework resources organized by subject and grade-level

www.nationalgeographic.com/homework/

Offers pictures, articles, maps and multimedia presentations on an array of subjects.

encarta.msn.com/encnet/departments/homework/

Provides help with homework, tips and articles for research

www.about.com/education/

An extensive homework and learning resource for students, parents and teachers.

Upcoming Workshops

Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, Preschool Services Branch of The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

And

Maryland School for the Deaf

Maryland Invests in Family Support Bridging the Gap Between Parents and Professionals

Part A - October 5, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Anne Arundel Community College, 101 College Parkway, Arnold MD 21012

Supporting Families with Children with Multiple Disabilities

Supporting Cultural Diversity Needs of Families

Interactive Panel Discussion

&

Part B - November 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Holidome & Conference Center, 5400 Holiday Drive,
Frederick MD 21703

Professionals Supporting Parents

Parent Advocacy

Interactive Panel Discussion

Lunch will be provided each day

Space is limited... Registration must be received by

September 21, 2007

To register contact Dorothy at (410) 767-0261 or
dmcMicha@msde.state.md.us



Please Help Us by Completing Our Survey

As a new school year is beginning, we are planning workshops and activities that families would be interested in attending. Please help us by taking just a minute to fill out this survey. Please return this survey to the Family Support & Resource Center - Attn: Cheri Dowling & Pat Timm, PO Box 894, Columbia, MD 21044 or fax to (410) 480-4598, if you would like to respond via email please send your comments to partners@msd.edu. Thank you for your time.

1. What workshop topics would you like to see covered next year?

- Behavior Issues Reading Skills
- Teens & Drinking Parent's Guide to Homework
- Teens & Drugs Internet Safety
- Teens & Dating Bullying

Other: _____

2. What is the best day and time for you to attend a workshop?

Day: _____ Time: _____

3. What issues would you like to see addressed in upcoming newsletters?

4. The Parent to Parent network is a group of parents who are willing to help other families by providing support and encouragement with regard to their deaf or hard of hearing child.

Would you be interested in joining our Parent to Parent Network?

Yes No

Other comments:

Optional:

Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____



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8169 Old Montgomery Road
PO Box 894
Columbia MD 21044

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Fax: 410-480-4598
E-mail: partners@msd.edu

A statewide support service for families with
children who are
Deaf or Hard of Hearing
and the professionals who support them



Annual ADA Update

September 28, 2007

BWI Airport Marriott - Baltimore, MD

Stay current with government and regional practices and policies, hone your skills, and expand your network. Attend the annual ADA Update and hear from Federal agencies in the morning, then participate in the afternoon break-out sessions of your choice.

For more information contact Marissa Johnson at 1-800-949-4232 (v/tty) or
mjohanson@transcen.org

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, September 6, 2007

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc. (DILA)
806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury MD 21804

Guest Speaker:

Maryann Swann

Director of the Family Education and Early Childhood Department
Maryland School for the Deaf

Free childcare provided during meeting

If you are interested in attending this workshop please contact
DILA at

dila@dila.org or (410) 742-5052 (v/tty)

BACK TO SCHOOL!

‘Twas the night before school started,
When all through the town
The parents were cheering
It was a riotous sound
By eight the kids were washed and tucked into bed
Where memories of homework filled them with
dread
New pencils, new folders, new notebooks, too
New teachers, new friends, their anxiety grew
The parents just giggled when they learned of this
fright
And shouted upstairs, “GO TO BED - IT’S A
SCHOOL NIGHT!”

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