Life After High School

It can be an exciting but an overwhelming time as your child enters high school. As a parent or guardian, it’s stressful to think of what their life will look like after they leave the county school system and how they will transition from the public school classroom to college, career, or job training. What their day to day life will look like without the structure they have had for most of the past two decades has many possibilities and there is help available for you and your child to work through this process.

As the Transition Special Educator, Cindy Taylor is able to assist your child to navigate the many agencies and services that offers opportunities for employment and continuing education. She is familiar with the various state agencies and local organizations that provide support, training, and avenues for appropriate quality services. She can help your student begin the transition process regardless of how old they are while still attending school. “Not only will I work with you and your child, but I work close with their case managers to provide assistance in writing appropriate transition plans, providing professional development on most recent news on transition, facilitating community experiences, and completing career assessments with students.” Cindy adds, “There are also many opportunities while attending SCPS for your child to prepare them for transitioning that includes college preparation, Somerset County Technical High School, vocational exploration, youth transition programs, job experiences and/or training, to name a few.”

You may contact Cindy directly if you have questions or want to discuss your child’s secondary transition needs. She looks forward to assisting your child go from high school to their next step in life.

Cindy Taylor, Transition Teacher
Phone: 410-726-9293
E-mail: cbtaylor@somerset.k12.md.us

Events for You and Yours

March 11 at 7pm  JM Tawes Campus
Special Education Citizens Advisory Council (SECAC) -
Everyone is invited to come “meet and greet” the new Parent Support Coordinator and school administrators and faculty. Special presentation by the ARC and DHR who will talk about the Medicaid Waivers and how your family can benefit.
See page 2 for more information on what this council is and how you can be involved.

UPCOMING Play Dates for Infants & Toddlers
March 29 10am-11am  CoCo’s
April 26  Ceasars
May 31  Salisbury Zoo
To RSVP and confirm times, call 410-623-2037.

Beach Buddies
For ages 0-5 and caregivers
Every Wednesday 1:30-2:30 from April—October
Wellington Beach, Crisfield
Call 968-1295 for more info!

Play Pals Schedule for kids birth through 5
Every Tuesday at 10am  Crisfield Library
Every Thursday at 10am  Princess Anne Library
For more info, call 410-651-1275.

To highlight your event here, call 410-999-1016.
NEXT SECAC MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2019
At 7 PM
JM Tawes Vocational School Conference Room A
7982 Crisfield Highway, Westover, MD

AGENDA

- Meet and get to know the new Parent Support Coordinator
- Network with other parents, professionals, and school officials
- Updates from Board of Education
- Open forum for questions and your input
- Childcare can be provided

(Contact 410-999-1016 to let the Parent Support Coordinator know if you will need childcare.)

YOU ARE INVITED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you are a parent, grandparent, caregiver, educator, advocate, administrator, or a student—
YOU can

- Make a positive and lasting impact by providing input into local programs
- Stay informed on state policy changes
- Network with other parents, professionals, and service providers.

Will you help us improve education for the children of Somerset County who have disabilities?

Contact the Parent Support Coordinator at 410-999-1016 to say “yes!”

Guest Presenters

Linda Prochaska
Family Engagement & Navigation Coordinator
thearcchr.org

& Presenting on the Medicaid Waiver and how it can benefit your child—

Kathleen Walker
Employment & Family Coordinator
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Kathleen.walker1@maryland.gov
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

First of all, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and to check out what the Family Support Services program is doing and can do for you. I have met many parents and caregivers throughout my career and I am the first to say that you are valuable—not just to your child who has special needs, but to the rest of our community as well. The world watches as you care for your loved one, as you ensure their safety and give quality to their days. You are watched as you advocate for your child and teach them to navigate the world of services and education—as you become the voice of those who are not easily heard. What you do is priceless and I am privileged to be able to support you in this process.

As I learn this job and as I learn the educational process of Somerset County, I look forward to gleaning from your experience and knowledge. I am positive that as a team, we will work to make your child’s education a success and together, we will watch as they learn to soar and live life to their fullest ability.

Until the next time...

Joy Hartman Hale
Cell: 410-999-1016
jahale@somerset.k12.md.us
www.facebook.com/joy.hartmanhale

* Raised and currently resides in Somerset County
* Has two teenagers, including a son who has Attention Deficit Disorder
* Has over a decade of experience with case management and advocacy for individuals with disabilities and providing support for families

CONNECT

Yes—we are now on social media! You can find our group page by going to https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCPSFSS/ and let’s start sharing what we know!

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Cut on dotted line and return to: Joy Hale, PAES, 11576 Lankford Street, Princess Anne, MD 21853

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PARENT/CAREGIVER RESPONSE FORM

Check □ if mailing address is correct on page 4 (on other side of this form).
If address is incorrect including spelling of names, please correct legibly on the other side and mail back to our office even if you do not select any of the options below.

Check all that apply:

- I found the information in this newsletter helpful and/or encouraging.
- I would like more information regarding my child’s IEP and the educational process.
- I would like to know more about SECAC (page 2) and how I can be involved.
- I would like training or workshops provided on the following subject(s):

  __________________________________________

- I would like help accessing or completing the state survey (from MSDE) that I have received.
- I would like someone to contact me because I have questions regarding my child’s disability.
  Disability(ies): __________________________________________

- I would like someone to contact me because I have questions about what resources are available.

Name of Child: ____________________________________________ Age: _________

Name of Person desiring contact from the Parent Support Coordinator: __________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Keeping track of all the information you need to stay on top of your child’s IEP is not easy. Good news is that there are tools out there that can help parents and caregivers be proactive and prepared.

A great resource is Understood.com. On this website, you will find easy tips and manageable forms to download and print to help you be prepared for your child’s IEP meetings and to help you organize school communications. There are even forms to help keep track of goals, assessments, behavior plans, and progress reports. Instructions are given for each section to help you organize the notebook for easy access and quick references. This binder has a place for you to put what you will need at your fingertips so that there’s less searching and seeking right before and during your meeting.

If you would like one of these binders but don’t have access to the internet or a printer, contact Joy Hale, your Parent Support Coordinator. There will be a limited amount available but she will help you create one for your child. Included in the binder will be a description of each section of the IEP, a copy of your parent rights, and an easy-to-follow guide for parents who may be new to the IEP process.

If you would like to make your own IEP binder, go to the following website for downloadable and printable forms: https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/ieps/how-to-organize-yourchilds-iep-binder.

“He who is best prepared can best serve his moment of inspiration.”
— Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Somerset County Public Schools
Family Support Services
Joy Hale, Parent Support Coordinator
PAES
11576 Lankford Street
Princess Anne, MD 21853