

Parent Virtual Workshops 2024-2025 School Year



Inspire, Engage, Innovate

1. Tuesday, October 15, 2024
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Susan Donnelly, Supervisor of Special Projects
Title: Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)-Conflict vs Bullying

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93000629842?pwd=0ltMxvi0gPJensB2IE9RUcYJTsnJK.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop offers parents an in-depth overview of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) in schools. It covers essential aspects such as the relevant laws, recent mandates, the investigation process, and the definition of HIB. The focus is on distinguishing between conflict and bullying through practical examples. By participating, parents will be better equipped to support their children and collaborate effectively with schools to create a safe and inclusive learning environment. Understanding the laws, recent mandates, investigation processes, and the definition of HIB empowers parents to be active partners in addressing and preventing HIB incidents in schools.

Workshop Highlights

- **Understanding HIB:** Clear definitions and distinctions between harassment, intimidation, bullying, and general conflicts.
- **Investigation Process:** Step-by-step explanation of how HIB incidents are investigated and resolved within the school system.
- **Practical Examples:** Real-life scenarios to help parents identify and differentiate between conflict and bullying.
- **Parental Involvement:** Strategies for parents to support their children and work collaboratively with schools to maintain a safe environment.

2. Wednesday, October 23, 2024

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Andrew Moskowitz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Title: Overview of Curriculum and Selection Criteria for Elementary Advanced Mathematics and Enrichment Programs

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95593452513?pwd=3OPHR3FaMxfSNEmkoVXqWrSRyY4qvT.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will provide parents with an overview of the curriculum and selection criteria for the elementary advanced mathematics and enrichment programs. By participating, parents will gain insight into how students are selected for these programs and the curriculum materials used to ensure that students are academically challenged.

Workshop Highlights

- **Selection Criteria:** Detailed explanation of how students are identified and selected for advanced mathematics and enrichment programs.
 - **Curriculum Overview:** Introduction to the curriculum materials and teaching methods used to challenge and engage students.
 - **Program Goals:** Discussion of the objectives and outcomes expected from participation in these programs.
-

3. Wednesday, November 13, 2024

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Bruce Taylor, Director of Technology

Title: Overview of the District's Plan for Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91040548035?pwd=mM0Ojzl0ScwrhtvSxll9GZu3yypw0Ep.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will delve into the district's plan to ensure that AI is used to enhance and support student learning. Parents will be provided with an overview of the district's 2024-2025 plan to train and support teachers and students in using AI as an instructional support tool. By participating, parents will gain an understanding of the district's plan to use AI effectively and efficiently.

Workshop Highlights

- **District AI Plan:** Detailed overview of the district's 2024-2025 strategy for integrating AI into the educational environment.
 - **Teacher Training:** Explanation of how teachers will be trained to utilize AI tools to enhance instruction.
 - **Student Support:** Insights into how students will be supported in using AI to improve their learning experiences.
 - **AI Tools and Resources:** Introduction to the specific AI tools and resources that will be implemented.
-

4. Tuesday, December 10, 2024

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Shari Kauffman, Technology Specialist, Voorhees Middle School
Title: Navigating Social Media

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93144606733?pwd=yQTJovWHnrNbuQXr7HiJFwpSwitRPS.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop is designed to empower parents with the knowledge and tools they need to ensure their children's safe and responsible use of social media platforms. In an age where technology is an integral part of our lives, we want parents to be aware of the potential risks and take proactive steps to protect their children online. By participating, parents will gain an understanding of various social media platforms and strategies to ensure that their children are using social media responsibly.

Workshop Highlights

- **Understanding Social Media Platforms:** An overview of popular social media platforms and their features.
 - **Identifying Potential Risks:** Insights into the potential risks associated with social media use, including cyberbullying, privacy concerns, and inappropriate content.
 - **Safety Measures:** Practical tips and tools for setting up privacy settings, monitoring online activity, and establishing internet safety rules.
 - **Responsible Usage:** Strategies for encouraging responsible and respectful behavior on social media.
 - **Parental Involvement:** Guidance on how parents can actively engage with their children's online activities and foster open communication about internet safety.
-

5. Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Maria Pinizzotto, District Instructional Coach
Title: Questioning to Promote Higher-Level Thinking

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97121751020?pwd=xaXf8MYivy86O6aZH4sGbSaebEU5UE.1>

Workshop Summary:

In this engaging workshop, parents will delve into Bloom's Taxonomy, focusing on higher-level questions that foster critical thinking and deeper learning. Participants will learn about the different tiers of questioning, with a special emphasis on questions that encourage analysis, evaluation, and synthesis. By participating, parents will explore a variety of question stems and discover how to support their children in developing responses grounded in text-based evidence.

Workshop Highlights:

- **Understanding Bloom's Taxonomy:** Gain insight into the different levels of questioning and their educational purposes.
- **Higher-Order Thinking:** Focus on questions that promote analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.
- **Practical Application:** Learn question stems that encourage critical thinking and evidence-based responses.
- **Supporting Student Growth:** Discover strategies to help children engage more deeply with texts and improve their analytical skills.

6. Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Coleen Nolan, District Instructional Coach
Title: Problem Solving in Mathematics

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97065897526?pwd=91gj71xctlykMchkUf338Z0K9rOTOq.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop offers parents a comprehensive overview of effective problem-solving strategies in mathematics. Designed for students from kindergarten through 8th grade, the session will explore a range of techniques that can be used to approach and solve complex multi-step problems. By participating, parents will learn about foundational problem-solving methods

applicable across various mathematical contexts, equipping them to support their children's mathematical development.

Workshop Highlights:

- **Overview of Problem-Solving Strategies:** Explore a toolkit of strategies that can be applied to complex multi-step mathematics problems.
 - **Practical Techniques:** Learn basic problem-solving methods that enhance understanding and problem-solving skills.
 - **Supportive Role:** Gain insights into how to assist and guide children through their mathematics challenges.
-

7. Monday, March 24, 2025

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenters: Julie Lyons, Director of Early Childhood, K to 5 Literacy and Dr. Melody Alegria, Director of Special Education
Title: Specialized Programs

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96170452440?pwd=DZMldUPU1ucRjrjieDoycaPiLjX7ra.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop offers a thorough overview of the district's special education, preschool, and English as a Second Language programs. Parents will gain valuable insights into the curriculum, assessment methods, and goals of each program. By participating, parents will better understand how these programs support their children's educational needs and contribute to their overall development.

Workshop Highlights:

- **Program Overview:** Detailed insights into special education, preschool, and ESL programs within the district.
 - **Curriculum and Assessment:** Learn about the curriculum frameworks and assessment practices for each program.
 - **Educational Goals:** Understand the objectives and outcomes associated with special education, preschool, and ESL programs.
 - **Supporting Your Child:** Discover how these programs are designed to meet diverse learning needs and support student success.
-

8. Thursday, April 10, 2025

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenters: Dr. Neely Hackett, Superintendent and Andrew Moskowitz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Title: Overview of District Initiatives

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94491730269?pwd=imp23dBAzOIZiWp5L7wW909sHs8Ihl.1>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will update parents on several important district initiatives. Our goal is to keep parents informed about the purpose and progress of these initiatives, all aimed at enhancing the overall educational experience for every student. The following initiatives will be covered:

- **District Spanish Program:** Discover the K-8 Spanish Program and how it enhances students' language skills and cultural awareness.
- **Accelerated Mathematics Programs:** Explore opportunities in our elementary and middle school Accelerated Mathematics Programs and their benefits for your child's math education.
- **Instructional Coaches:** Understand the role of instructional coaches in supporting both teachers and students to achieve academic success.
- **Preschool Program:** Learn about the Preschool Program's benefits and how it prepares young learners for their academic journey.
- **Response to Intervention Procedures:** Gain insights into our Response to Intervention procedures, which ensure every child receives the necessary support.
- **What I Need (W.I.N) Period:** Learn about the 30-minute period three times a week for second graders, designed to address diverse learning needs.
- **VMS Financial Literacy Course:** Discover the new Financial Literacy course for middle school students and its impact on their understanding of financial literacy.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Learn about our new SEL program, led by guidance counselors, and other initiatives that support a positive learning environment.

This workshop is an excellent opportunity for parents to stay informed, ask questions, and engage with initiatives that impact their child's education. We look forward to your participation as we work together to support the success and well-being of our students.
