

Parent Virtual Workshops 2023-2024 School Year



Inspire, Engage, Innovate

1. Thursday, September 21, 2023
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

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

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91503734645?pwd=ZzFseEFzdIRMbXRTU3hHa21tTzdNZz09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop offers parents a comprehensive understanding of HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) in schools. It covers key aspects, including the law, recent mandates, the investigation process, and the definition of HIB.

Workshop Highlights:

- Understanding the Law: Gain insights into the legal framework surrounding HIB, including the state and federal laws that govern it. Learn about your child's rights and the responsibilities of schools in preventing and addressing HIB incidents.
- Notification of New Mandates: Stay up-to-date with the latest mandates and regulations related to HIB. Discover how these mandates impact school policies and procedures, ensuring your child's safety.
- The Investigation Process: Get an in-depth look at how schools investigate and respond to HIB reports. Understand the steps involved, from reporting an incident to resolution, and the role parents can play in this process.
- Defining HIB: Clearly define what constitutes HIB behavior in a school context. Recognize different forms of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including online bullying (cyberbullying), and understand the criteria used to determine if an incident qualifies as HIB.

By participating in this workshop, parents will be better equipped to support their children and collaborate effectively with schools to create a safe and inclusive learning environment. Understanding the law, recent mandates, investigation processes, and the definition of HIB empowers parents to be active partners in addressing and preventing HIB incidents in schools.

2. Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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

Presenter:: Dr. Neely Hackett, Superintendent
Title: Update on District Initiatives

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94253411562?pwd=VHA4ZStxU0o1ZUJBU0VRek9Rdm1Zdz09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will provide parents with updates on several important district initiatives. Our aim is to keep you informed and engaged in your child's educational experience. The following initiatives will be covered:

- Elementary Spanish Program: Learn about the district's Elementary Spanish Program and how it enhances your child's language skills and cultural awareness.
- Accelerated Mathematics Programs: Discover the opportunities available for students in our elementary and middle school Accelerated Mathematics Programs, and how they benefit your child's math education.
- Instructional Coaches: Understand the role of instructional coaches in supporting teachers and students to achieve academic success.
- Buildings and Grounds Renovations: Get updates on the ongoing renovations and improvements to our school buildings and grounds, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment.
- Preschool Program: Learn about the benefits of our Preschool Program and how it prepares young learners for a successful academic journey.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee: Explore the work of our Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, promoting an inclusive and equitable educational experience for all students.
- Response to Intervention Procedures: Gain insights into our procedures for addressing student needs through Response to Intervention, ensuring that every child receives the support they require.

This workshop is a valuable opportunity for parents to stay informed, ask questions, and engage in the various 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.

3. Monday, November 13, 2023
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m

Presenter: Mr. Andrew Moskowitz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Title: Overview of the Atlas Platform (Curriculum Guides) and iReady Diagnostic Results

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94373911206?pwd=aGpaVDJuVINvbIpGc1psUzJJdFFyQT09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will delve into the Atlas program—an innovative curriculum development platform that's making a difference in education. Here's what you can expect:

- Atlas Overview: Discover what the Atlas program is all about. Learn how it benefits educators, students, and the entire district.
- Curriculum Guides: Get a firsthand look at a sample of our district's curriculum guides. Explore the content, understand the structure, and see how they support your child's education.
- Trusted by Educators: Understand why Atlas is trusted by educators in over 6,000 schools and districts. Explore real-world examples of how it's enhancing teaching and learning.
- Empowering Equitable Learning: See how Atlas empowers districts to develop, review, refine, analyze, and share standards-aligned curricula and lessons. Learn how this ensures equitable learning outcomes for all students.

This workshop will also summarize the iReady Diagnostic results for grades 2-8. iReady is the district's progress monitoring tool. This workshop will provide the opportunity to gain insights into the powerful tools and resources that shape your child's educational experience.

4. Tuesday, December 12, 2023
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/93081819316?pwd=SWh2WXNSQy9NclpZb2NrYk9Bc1J1dz09>

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, it's crucial for parents to understand the potential risks and take proactive steps to protect their children online.

Key Workshop Topics:

- **Understanding Social Media:** Explore the most popular social media platforms, their features, and the age restrictions associated with them. Learn about the role of social media in today's youth culture.
 - **Online Privacy:** Learn how to protect personal information online, including setting strong privacy settings on social media profiles. Understand the risks associated with sharing too much information.
 - **Cyberbullying Awareness:** Recognize the signs of cyberbullying and how to support your child if they experience it. Discuss strategies to prevent and address cyberbullying incidents.
 - **Social Media Addiction:** Understand the potential for addiction to social media and its impact on mental health. Learn strategies to promote healthy screen time habits.
 - **Monitoring and Communication:** Explore effective ways to monitor your child's online activity without invading their privacy. Foster open and ongoing communication with your child about their online experiences.
-

5. Thursday, January 18, 2024

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

Presenter: Julie Lyons, Director of Early Childhood and Literacy K to 5

Title: Reading Wonders K to 5 English Language Arts Program

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97673392429?pwd=ZGpOYjc5VVU0eURBenV5a0RIS0tlZz09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will explore the various components of Reading Wonders, the new K to 5 English Language Arts Program. Specifically, parents will be provided with information on the following components of the program:

- Weekly and daily lesson plans and pacing guides for whole group and small group lessons
- rich in vocabulary
- Balance of fiction and non-fiction text at all grade levels, often making cross-curricular connections
- Text is authentic and engaging for our students
- A consumable student book allows students to annotate text
- Strong writing component that includes rubrics and student writing models
- Writing is aligned with prompts students will see on NJSLA

- All content and assessments are available online
 - Interactive games are engaging for students
 - A data dashboard provides teachers with valuable reports and recommendations for instruction and grouping
 - Leveled readers are provided for all levels and include questions and resources for the teacher
 - Built-in differentiation including differentiated spelling lists, vocabulary lessons, and support for English Language Learners (ELLs)
-

6. Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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

Presenter: Barbara Andrew, Reading Specialist, Kresson Elementary
Debra Figard, Reading Specialist, Osage Elementary
Title: Suggested Books for Reading with My Child

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92337312139?pwd=bkp3QlovbDUwVFVUSHhqNHZib3MxQT09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop is designed to assist parents in nurturing a love for reading and fostering strong literacy skills in their children. Reading with your child is a wonderful way to bond and stimulate their cognitive development, and this workshop aimed to provide parents with valuable insights and recommendations for selecting age-appropriate, engaging, and diverse books.

Key Workshop Highlights:

- The Importance of Reading: We explored the numerous benefits of reading with your child, such as enhanced vocabulary, comprehension, and a lifelong love for learning.
- Age-Appropriate Choices: Parents received guidance on choosing books that are suitable for their child's age and reading level, ensuring an enjoyable and educational experience.
- Engaging Your Child: Learn strategies for making reading an enjoyable and interactive experience, including asking questions, discussing stories, and encouraging your child's curiosity.
- Access to Resources: Parents were provided with resources for finding book recommendations, including libraries, online booklists, and parent networks.
- Setting a Reading Routine: Establishing a regular reading routine at home was discussed as a way to make reading an integral part of your child's daily life.
- Sustaining Interest: Discover tips for keeping your child interested in reading as they grow, including finding books that align with their interests.
- Reading Challenges and Rewards: We explored ways to make reading more exciting, such as setting reading challenges or offering small rewards.

By participating in this workshop, parents will gain the knowledge and tools necessary to create a positive and enriching reading environment at home. Building strong reading habits and

selecting appropriate books tailored to their child's needs and interests ensures that parents can play a pivotal role in nurturing their child's literacy skills and a lifelong love for reading.

7. Monday, March 18, 2024

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

Presenters: Dr. Melody Alegria, Director of Special Services

Title: Inclusion

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94152427123?pwd=ZEV0QWF3VUNZS3hTRnBGK2x0M3R1QT09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of inclusion and its various models implemented in schools. This workshop is aimed to empower parents with valuable insights into inclusive opportunities within the district and resources available in the community to support these initiatives.

Key Workshop Highlights:

- Inclusion Exploration: Parents delved into the concept of inclusion, gaining a deeper understanding of what it entails and why it's crucial for all students.
- Diverse Models: The workshop introduced parents to the diverse models of inclusion used in schools, allowing them to appreciate the flexibility and adaptability of inclusive education.
- Districtwide Opportunities: Parents had the opportunity to learn about the various inclusion opportunities offered districtwide, enabling them to make informed decisions about their child's educational journey.
- Community Resources: The workshop didn't stop at the classroom door. It also discussed community resources available to support inclusive opportunities, fostering a holistic approach to education.

By participating in this workshop, parents will gain a broader perspective on inclusion in education. They will be equipped to engage more effectively in their child's educational experience, advocate for inclusive practices, and access community resources to ensure every child receives the education they deserve.

8. Tuesday, April 16, 2024

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

Presenters: Ms. Donna Ross, Supervisor of Special Services

Lisa Morgan, Assistant Principal, Osage Elementary School

Title: Overview of RTI and Enrichment Programs

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93265014480?pwd=cG5mMGIBeIVtSVJFSIB1RDd0RFNOZz09>

Workshop Summary:

This workshop will delve into the world of RTI (Response to Intervention) and Enrichment Programs within our school district. This workshop is designed to empower parents with a deeper understanding of how these crucial services and opportunities can benefit their child's educational journey.

Key Workshop Topics:

- Introduction to I&RS: Gain insight into the purpose and function of the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) program. Understand how it supports students who may be experiencing academic, behavioral, or emotional challenges.
- I&RS Process: Explore the step-by-step process of how I&RS works, from identifying a student's needs to developing and implementing personalized intervention plans.
- Role of Parents: Learn how parents can actively participate in the I&RS process, collaborate with educators, and contribute to the success of their child's interventions.
- Enrichment Programs: Discover the wide range of enrichment opportunities available within our district. From gifted and talented programs to extracurricular activities, find out how these programs can help your child thrive academically and personally.
- Supporting Your Child: Learn strategies for supporting your child's participation in both I&RS and Enrichment Programs, ensuring they receive a balanced and supportive educational experience.

By attending this workshop, parents will be equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to actively engage in their child's education, take advantage of intervention services when necessary, and explore enrichment opportunities to enhance their child's learning journey.
