

Colbert County Schools Special Education Department

Educators,

As you are working through the course of the year, please let us know if we can be of any assistance or help. We are here to support and assist you. Please see the outline approach below that will help you be successful as you engage and interact with students and their families.

Be sure that you are servicing our students at the 10 level. You will start with high standards and end with high standards. When this occurs, you will get high quality results. Please let me know if you have any questions/ concerns. Have a nice, safe 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Fred Abernathy
Director of Special Education
Colbert County Schools

0. Hold High Standards

1. Communicate
2. Be Flexible
3. Accommodate
4. Patience
5. Be Consistent
6. Be Proactive
7. Tell your story.
8. Motivate.
9. Help.
10. Hold



From the Speech Department: Judd Franks, Hannah Lolley, & Savannah Latham, M.S., CCC-SLP

I hope you have all had a wonderful start to the school year! Hannah, Judd, and I, would like to genuinely thank each and everyone of you for being so accommodating, patient, and understanding as we have gotten referral meetings underway - a record number of 32! Speech schedules should now be finalized, except for minor glitches that we will continue to work through! We want to thank all administrators, teachers, nurses, and parents for your participation in the referral process. Thank you to all of our Special Education teachers, ESL, Reading Interventionists and Math Coach for coordinating with us on schedules to make sure all of our students receive the services they need in order to succeed.

I would also like to touch on the referral process. Please remember, that in order for a student to qualify under the Alabama Administrative Code to receive speech services, we have to have substantial data and evidence that the speech/language disorder is adversely affecting the student academically and/or socially. As much as we wish we could serve every student with a speech sound error, we have to prioritize the students who are suffering academically and/or socially due to it. When you are considering referring a student for testing - please consider the following:

Adverse Educational Impact

Impact is on student – not family or teacher

• Academic

- Grades
- Difficulty with school work

Functional/ Social/ Emotional/ Behavioral

- Ability to interact in school setting is impacted
- Emotional state impacts ability to participate
- Behaviors impact ability to par-

Documenting educational impact using data sources such as:

- Academic activities (homework, journals, work samples, classroom tests, etc.)
- Articulation errors reflected in spelling? Poor intelligibility?
- Language impacting performance?
- Data from responses to strategies already used by teachers? (MTSS, RtI and IDEA pre-referral intervention)
- Social emotional challenges in the school setting?
- Behavioral impact in school setting?



From the Gifted Teachers:

Michelle Reaves & Amanda Parker

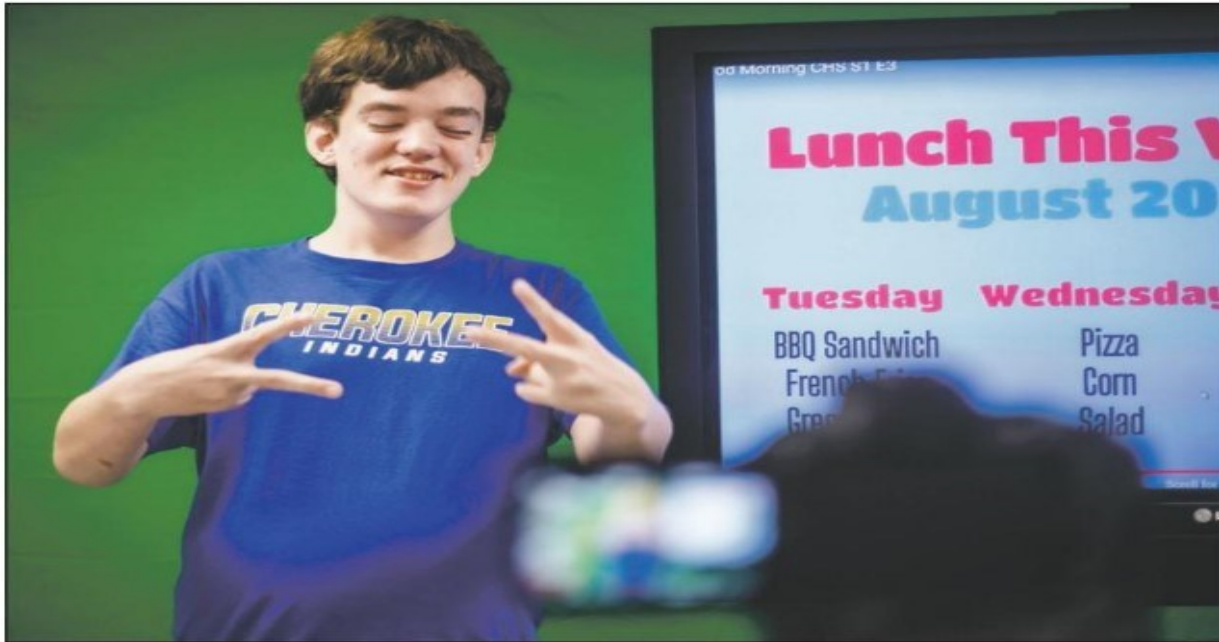
Last week the gifted department relocated to Building 114 on the Campus of NWSCC. Specialists are working feverishly to get the classroom prepared for students, referrals completed, meetings held, and all technology issues resolved. We are looking forward to starting PACE classes very soon!

PACE would like to remind everyone that there will be a group going to participate in the Disney Imagination Campus program from September 19th -23rd. Please remember that students on the trip should have absences coded as an excused field trip. Students must have the opportunity to make up missed work and they will not be eligible for perfect attendance. The secondary students who are siblings attending the trip should have excused absences and these days can not be counted when figuring exemption for exams.

Students from 5th and 6th grade PACE will have the opportunity to attend a field trip that will include tours of NWSCC and Athens State University on Wednesday, October 19th.

Cherokee High School made the local paper in August! Jonathan Owens, a Para-Professional at CHS, along with Ashley Owens organized and implemented a new broadcasting club. You can keep up with their hard work on Facebook or on their Youtube Channel, CHSTV.Network.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Student Austin Crocker gives his signature, “deuces” after delivering the lunch menu for the Broadcasting Club on Friday at Cherokee High. [DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]

1. Document, Document, and Document.
2. Educators be sure to communicate with parents. Parents want to be informed in regards to the child's educational process.
3. Attend IEP meetings and be a part of meeting(s). Provide insight and details regarding the student. Stay the entire meeting.
4. Be Proactive and make arrangements to have someone cover your duties, etc. in case you are involved in a meeting.
5. Make sure to collaborate, communicate, and involve your co-teacher in the instructional process. Divide and conquer so that ALL students are receiving a level educational experience.
6. The IEP is a living breathing document. Be sure that all students are receiving accommodations/ interventions.
7. Remember the referral process is to keep the student out of special education; during this process you are providing interventions/ accommodations to help the student master the goals/ task(s) within your courses.
8. There will be some PD coming for Special Educators to review the following: IEP writing, Co- Teaching Tips, Forms to help with Communication and Documentation, and Ways to become an Effective Special Educator



We are here to help, assist, and support you. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance! Have a nice, safe week!