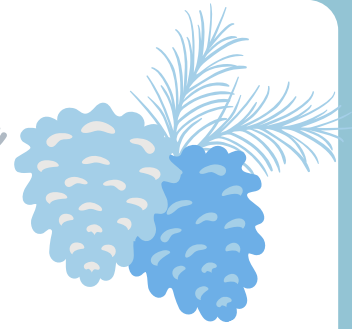




Special Education Department



PACE

PACE classes are underway again this year after a few weeks of second grade screenings and testing. Students are beginning a study of arctic and antarctic animals. Teachers have been able to use their new Virtual Reality headsets to introduce the unit! Third and fourth grade PACE students attended a trip to McWane Science Center in December. This is always a fun and educational trip!



THERE'S
SNOWBODY
LIKE
YOU!



SNAPS, CHEERS, and CONGRATS to you! You have been named the STAFF/TEACHER of the Month by your school. CCHS staff voted for you because of your dedication and the use of your time wisely and meaningfully for the students.

Teacher: Tory Baird

Staff: Robert "Speedy" Dawson



Helpful Links:

- ALSDE Press Release - Input for 2023 Alabama Courses of Study Career Technical Education - Science
- ALSDE Press Release - Special Education Records to be Destroyed
- ALSDE Press Release - Let's Celebrate Alabama Career Technical Education Month 2023
- Students at this Alabama high school test marketing skills by planning a concert
- Alabama's College-Going Rate Begins Recovery; Still Below Pre-Pandemic Rates
- Governor surprises award winning Newton students
- Dolly Parton free library signups soar after Alabama announces program
- Birmingham Elementary School Students Win Trip to Kennedy Space Center
- Alabama students organize supply drive for Selma: How to get food, hygiene items
- Alabama receives \$4 million grant as state expands early childhood efforts

PD Day for SpEd Teachers and Paras:

On Friday, February 17, there will be a PD Day for Special Educators and Para Educators. The PD will be from 8:00- 12:30. We will have guest speakers from Bridges and Professors from the University of North Alabama. Mark your schedule(s) for this learning experience. We will meet at Launch Point Church next to the Central Office!

Speakers will include:

Dr. Sweetwood from Bridges- Behavior Supports/Strategies/Interventions

Dr. Rebecca Hopkins from UNA- Behavior Support/Possible IEP
Development

Dr. Vicke Howell from UNA- Will Co-Present with Dr. Hopkins





Educators,

I hope all is well. As we move forward please check for the following information in your files. We are in the process of planning a time and day for some professional development to review the process(es) that you must complete to ensure that you (we) are compliant with the same procedures. Before that day occurs, please check the following to ensure that all is updated:

1. IEP has accurate and updated information.
2. All teachers have accurate information regarding accommodations and interventions on each student that they are working with in the classroom setting.
3. Be sure that you are communicating with parents. Document your phone calls that you are having with the parents. Include the date, time, and what you talked about.
4. Anytime you are having a face to face meeting with the parents; conduct your meeting and make notes of the meeting, and have the parents sign before leaving the meeting. Read the summary of discussion back to the parent and everyone sign(s). This helps to track your conversation and keep everything updated and official.
5. If any student of your caseload is having any behavior issues please be sure that you are keeping the parents informed. Also, let me know so that we can be sure to go through the correct process with the students.
6. Communicate and Collaborate with your co- teacher. Look for ways to be involved with the student(s). Check their notes, check their work, and provide praise and encouragement with the students.

I know you have a complex job with instructing, meeting(s), teaching, and balancing the paperwork regarding the students. The more you can be proactive helps with a lot of the various processes. You will be updated soon with the day and time of the PD date.

Dr. Fred Abernathy



Thanks to Mrs. Britney Landers and her organization Every Piece Matters for donating funds for teacher supplies and funds for the Cherokee Schools and New Bethel Elementary. In addition, she donated \$1,000 dollars in scholarship monies to a senior in the Colbert County School District. We really appreciate your generosity and support to Colbert County Schools.





Special Educators will be conducting IEP meetings in the very near future. Here are some suggestions to help all stakeholders as you engage with the parents:

1. Be proactive. Plan ahead of time to have someone cover your room(s) while you are attending the meeting.
2. While in the IEP meeting, be sure that you are an active participant. Provide meaningful insight to the meeting.
3. Stay on topic and avoid conversations that do not pertain to the meeting. Your time is valuable.
4. Display professionalism and be positive throughout the meeting.
5. Reach out to us as needed. We are here to support you and provide assistance to ensure all students are receiving FAPE.
6. Keep parents updated on a regular basis.

Happy
Valentine's
Day!