

Breakout Session Descriptors Saturday, March 5, 2022

Presenter	Room/ Time	Title/Descriptor
<p>Nadine Glass Retired, Learning Support Teacher</p> <p>SESSION A Room 109</p>	<p>8:30-10:00</p>	<p><u>AUTISM: A POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE</u></p> <p>Autism Spectrum Disorder refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. There is not just one autism. Each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Autism is often accompanied by sensory sensitivities and medical issues such as gastrointestinal disorders, seizures or sleep disorders as well as mental health challenges with anxiety, depression and attention issues. This presentation will give an overview on autism, provide simulations on some challenges that are faced by individuals with autism, provide ideas of interventions and offer resources.</p>
<p>Jill Schweizer Professor, Delaware Valley University</p> <p>SESSION B Room 108</p>	<p>8:30-10:00</p>	<p><u>USING PEER SUPPORTS TO BUILD SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p>Students on the Autism Spectrum and other students with Developmental Disabilities require social skills to be successful in relationships at home, school, in the community and the workplace. The neurological nature of Autism makes it difficult for students to learn these skills without explicit instruction and intervention. It is critical that intervention plans include strategies to enhance social understanding, social relating, and that these strategies take into account the individual's cognitive and learning abilities. Unfortunately, many individuals with ASDs (with varying cognitive abilities) are placed within integrated environments without adequate supports to scaffold the development of appropriate social interactions. Under these suboptimal conditions, individuals with ASDs face further stigmatization from their peers based on their social awkwardness (e.g., misinterpreting social cues, lacking understanding of another's perspective; consequently, some even develop anti-social behaviors to engage their peers. This workshop will focus on social skills development and how to use peer supports to build the skills of students with developmental disabilities while enhancing the school community.</p>
<p>Suzanne Dailey Instruction Coach, Central Bucks SD</p> <p>SESSION C Room 106</p>	<p>8:30-10:00</p>	<p><u>TEACH HAPPIER: SMALL SHIFTS; BIG GIFTS</u></p> <p>In this interactive session, you will learn realistic, manageable, and proactive strategies based on positive psychology that will help us achieve work/life satisfaction while navigating this unique time of teaching. These small and manageable shifts, practiced over time, will help us teach happier, parent happier, partner happier, work happier, and increase our overall happiness and well-being.</p>
<p>Mary Pellegrino Special Education Teacher, Central Bucks SD</p> <p>SESSION D Room 105</p>	<p>8:30-10:00</p>	<p><u>PARENT/CARETAKER PERSPECTIVE</u></p> <p>Teachers will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the parent's perspective of the IEP process. Parents can be excellent advocates for their children, but that comes with a high level of resiliency and determination. Having a child with special needs means the caretaker's stress levels naturally run higher at baseline. This can lead to defensiveness, feeling overwhelmed, being 'checked out', or being overinvolved in their child's day. How can educators foster productive relationships with parents and guardians? What can educators do in the early days of the school year to set up for a successful year? Why is this so important in the IEP process/IDEA? Tips and tools will be shared, along with a variety of perspectives and experiences of the presenter and attendees.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Christopher, M.S. CCC-SLP Educational Consultant, PaTTAN</p> <p>SESSION E Room 112</p>	<p>8:30-10:00</p>	

Large Group Session Descriptors for March 4 & March 5, 2022

Presenter	Room/ Date/Time	Title/Descriptor	Act 48 / Chapter 14 QR Code
<p>Dr. Blake Colaianne Assistant Research Professor, Penn State University</p> <p>Deans Hall</p>	<p>Friday, March 4 7:00-8:30 PM</p>	<p><u>MINDFULNESS AND COMPASSION IN SCHOOLS: RECLAIMING CARE, CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY</u></p> <p>Mindfulness and compassion have emerged as important new areas to strengthen social, emotional, and academic learning. Now, as the world recovers from the pandemic, cultivating these qualities in schools is more important than ever before. In this talk, we will begin by building teachers' capacity for self-care and discuss how teachers can care for others in more sustainable and healthy ways. We will then explore what it means to create a more mindful and compassionate classroom environment. We will end by envisioning a more equitable and caring school community - one where all teachers, staff, and students feel like they belong.</p>	
<p>Kerry Smith, Esquire Director, Office for Dispute Resolution</p> <p>Deans Hall</p>	<p>Saturday, March 5 10:15-11:30 AM</p>	<p><u>SPECIAL EDUCATION DISPUTES IN PENNSYLVANIA: AN OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION</u></p> <p>This session will address the types of special education disputes between parents and schools, ways to resolve them through ODR, and ways to avoid them.</p>	
<p>Carole Clancy Bureau of Special Education, Director</p> <p>Deans Hall</p>	<p>Saturday, March 5 12:30-2:00 PM</p>	<p><u>THE ESSENTIALS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION</u></p> <p>The past twenty-four months have been a pivotal time for public education. Join this session to reflect on the past and look into the future with the director of the Bureau of Special Education for Pennsylvania. She will discuss the state of special education across the Commonwealth, highlight Pennsylvania Department of Education priorities, and the vision for the future.</p>	
<p>Andrew Wollaston Staff Associate Counsel, Legal, PSEA</p> <p>Deans Hall</p>	<p>Saturday, March 5 2:15-3:30 PM</p>	<p><u>LEGAL UPDATE</u></p> <p>Special Education legal updates.</p>	