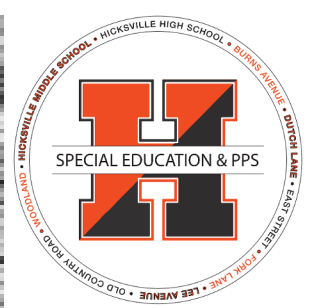
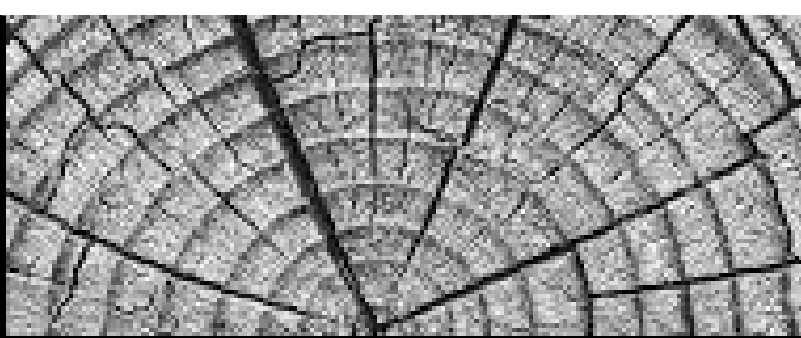


HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Hicksville Special Education & Pupil Personnel Department

NEWSLETTER

Term: Fall | Issue 9 | Date: October 27, 2023

CO-TEACHING

The district is exploring the co-teaching delivery of service at the elementary level. At the first Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), the results of an external review were shared and the possibility of a centralized co-teaching model were presented. As with anything, there are pros and cons to the existing model and to a centralized model. The meeting was well attended by staff and some families. This meeting allowed plenty of opportunity for anyone to share their comments and ask questions. There was support for both the existing model and a centralized model. The meeting had a feedback form, which received valuable information for district administration to consider. At this time, the district is further exploring the centralized model, with the feedback in mind.

Inna Mishiev, Executive Director

WHAT IS SEPTA?

Welcome back to a new school year! I am so happy to see things finally getting back to normal. My name is Cathy O'Neill and I am the current SEPTA President for the Hicksville School District.

What is SEPTA and what do we do you ask? Special Education Parent Teacher Association is part of New York State and National PTAs. SEPTA is designed to build strong partnerships among parents, teachers, administrators, existing PTAs and of course, our community. We make these alliances for the benefit of the families and children receiving special education services.

SEPTA is present in each school in the Hicksville district. SEPTAs primary role is to provide resources and support to parents, teachers and children who receive special education services through an IEP, 504 Plan, and related support services, such as resource room, counseling, speech, and occupational therapy. We are also here for those students who are specially gifted.

This year we will continue to focus on providing information about various issues that can aid parents in helping their children achieve their personal best!

Being a part of SEPTA provides the opportunity to come together with families of students from different schools in the district under one PTA umbrella. We support and help each other. By joining both SEPTA and PTA you support both your school and the special needs initiative for our district.

Please join us to help ensure each student in the district, no matter what challenges they face, are able to benefit from a great education in the Hicksville school district.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to Hickvillesepta@gmail.com

Have a fantastic year!

Scan the QR Code to Join SEPTA



Cathy O'Neill, SEPTA President

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

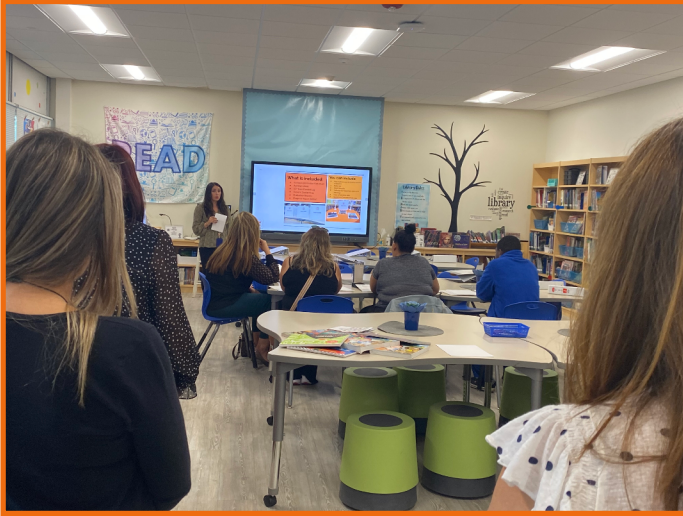
The term executive functioning applies to a set of skills including, but not limited to, self-control, planning, following directions, memory, and attention. Executive functioning is important for classroom performance and social-emotional regulation. Preschool and elementary-aged children use executive functioning skills when gathering materials to pack their backpacks, transitioning between activities, and regulating tantrums. At the secondary level, children use executive functioning to make plans to see friends, follow steps in larger school projects, think about potential rewards and consequences of actions, and adjust to changes in routine. For all children executive functioning skills must be taught, and for many children receiving special education services, these skills may not come naturally or easily. A student's IEP or 504 plan can be used to address the development of executive functioning skills. Some strategies that have been found to be effective for improving executive functioning include:

- Use of a **visual schedule** to allow for planning. At the younger age levels, a visual schedule can encourage independence and allow children to mentally prepare for the day. A schedule they can see will serve as a reminder of what activities they need to prepare for. This can eliminate some stress that comes as a result of attempting to remember what comes next and feeling caught off guard when the memory is incorrect. At the older age levels, a visual schedule can assist in planning for long-term projects and understanding what is expected of them.
- Explain the **reasoning** behind tasks and assignments. It is important for children to understand why they need to complete a task or else planning for it can seem like a high effort and low reward exercise. Children can become creatures of habit and breaking old habits and routines, even when they are ineffective, can be a difficult hurdle to overcome.
- **Checking for understanding** when giving multi-step instructions or when introducing novel tasks. Learning a new skill or following multiple steps puts pressure on the working memory, and for children, this can mean some information falls through the cracks. Checking for understanding ensures they have remembered the task instructions and know how they should proceed.
- **Practice** exploring social and academic scenarios. For all ages remembering to stop and think is crucial to successful learning and social development. For children working on self-control, remembering to stop and think can be a challenge, especially when emotions are running high. Learning to use self-regulation skills in a neutral setting can make these techniques more familiar and increase the chances of remembering them in a real-world scenario.

One of the best ways to advance executive functioning skills is through home and school collaboration. Stay in contact with your child's teacher and support staff, and allow your child to know they have a team of adults rooting for them. Learning is a lifelong journey and we are all in it together!

Rachel Clive, School Psychologist

OUR FALL IN PICTURES



Above: Rachel Reckert presents to families at the Build a Binder Workshop



Above: Students at the HS received hand made bookmarks from the PPS



Above: Hicksville walked for Wellness and Suicide Prevention at Jones Beach



Above: HS Vocational students practice travel training in NYC



Above: MS vocational students visit White Post Farms for their Fall Trip



Above: HS staff having a great time with their students at White Post Farms

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

This summer staff district wide participated in Mental Health First Aid for Adults and Mental Health First Aid for Youth. The courses taught all participants how to identify:

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect a person with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use and self-care.

Representation from each building participated in the training. Staff members learned how to help a colleague in crisis as well as students who are in crisis.

The topics covered included:

- Depression and Mood Disorders
- Anxiety Disorders
- Trauma
- Psychosis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTA Meeting - November 20, 2023

Topic: *The Special Olympics 7:00 PM*

Video call link: meet.google.com/tux-asam-dme
Or dial: (US) 1-314-474-2657 PIN: 546 367 103#

SEAC - December 21, 2023 7:00 PM

Topic: *Wellness In The Home*

Video Link: meet.google.com/zyg-gpox-vez

Or dial: (US) +1 202 838 7672 PIN: 703084494#

Stay Tuned for Our Winter Newsletter!



Special Upcoming Events

College Night for Students with Disabilities

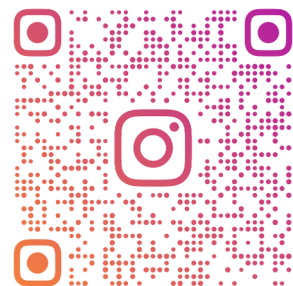
November 27, 2023 6:00 PM

Video call link: meet.google.com/nfv-uprn-vpt

Or dial: (US) 1-812-727-7547 PIN: 264 412 675#

Don't Forget to Follow us on **Instagram!**

[hps_specialeducation_pps](https://www.instagram.com/hps_specialeducation_pps)



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