

Welcome,

Once again it is wonderful to note that special education in Sevier County has gotten off to a great start and has already proven to be productive for our students. This successful start is due to the collaboration and cooperation that exists among teachers, administrators, and parents. It is very clear that everyone is focused on the students and meeting their needs.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with individuals from several school systems across the state and have gained some good insights and ideas. One particular practice that seemed to be very successful and highly recommended is based on Catching Kids Up by Max Thompson. He promotes a balance between preview of concepts and activities that will be taught in the general education classroom and any needed remediation that may need to follow the instruction. The general idea is for students to be pre-introduced to the concepts and vocabulary at some point before receiving the actual instruction. Remediation, as needed, would then follow. Positive comments about this practice came up in several different school systems, and I felt that it was interesting and worthy of sharing.

As much as I enjoyed gathering new ideas and insights, even more enjoyable was sharing with others the many effective strategies being implemented in our own schools. I am very proud of the commitment and dedication demonstrated daily in classrooms in all our schools. I encourage everyone to use this newsletter to share successes, specific ideas and strategies that you have found useful with all of us. Please contact Dr. Kaye Thomas with ideas or success stories you would like to share. Thank you for all you do.

Sandy Enloe

Guidance and Self-Discipline

Cecil L. Blankenship

As a teacher, you are one of the most influential people in a student's life. Your attitudes toward guidance and self-discipline will lay the groundwork for a student's attitude, self-concept and emotional feelings. A student's attitude toward challenges and setbacks in life are strongly influenced by your own reactions to life. In order for a student to develop the courage and strength to face challenges in life, he/she needs a strong role model with whom to identify. A strong role model, such as the teacher, assists a student in developing a strong self-identity, which includes developing pride in his/her self, family, school and culture. Students also need to learn self-discipline and need to be encouraged to stick to a task until it is complete. Two of the most important ingredients for success in life are: (1) a good attitude toward self, others and work, and (2) the willingness to stick with a job until it is complete.

A teacher can help instill pride and self-discipline in a student by encouraging him/her to take on new challenges in life with the fullest intent of succeeding. If, however, he/she fails, help the student understand that most failures are only temporary and that tomorrow is a new day and the sun will rise once again with a new opportunity for success.

Did you know... that over 3,000 students have been sentenced to the Sevier County Juvenile Detention Center over the past five years? Whether these students spend one day or several months at the detention center, they must be educated while they are there. Administrators met with Director Steve Layman to discuss how to better meet the needs of these students. Acquiring books and lesson plans for detainees is a major problem. The group decided to handle the situation much like the ALC. After a call from the detention center, the school will fax lesson plans. Parents will be responsible for bringing the books. You may contact Mike Pearson, teacher, at mikepearson@sevier.org for more information.



Changes at Sped office...

- Theresa McCroskey is now responsible for IEP management. She will enter information on all new IEPs and any changes to IEPs. If necessary, she will send reports to schools showing overdue eligibility or IEPs. Also, address questions about past eligibility to Teresa.
- Rebecca will be responsible for eligibility reports and reports submitted to the state. If you are sending in eligibility and IEP at the same time, still send that to Theresa. Of course, Rebecca is still scheduling all bus routes. Remember to use the form to request bus transportation (<http://www.slc.sevier.org/spcltran.doc>).
- Karen Corum will receive your Discrete Trial Training reports. She will also monitor training for TCI and assist you with interventions for students with behavior problems. Don't forget to fax completed restraint forms to her at 453-3112. These forms can be found at <http://www.slc.sevier.org/tciform.pdf>.

Guidelines for TCAP or TCAP-ALT

- Use regular TCAP if both cognitive and adaptive scores are in the 70's.
- Use TCAP-Alt if both are in the 60's, if scores are out of balance, or if the student can't be tested. Portfolios must be done beginning with third grade students. The new form for documenting TCAP-Alt in the IEP is on the web under the IEP and TCAP Alt links.

Portfolio Inservice

Inservice on portfolio writing will be at Pigeon Forge Middle November 10, 2006 from 8:00 to 11:00. Light breakfast will be provided. Bring your questions and your suggestions. Also bring a portfolio (or two) in progress.

Remember:

The Special Education Department kept the old phone numbers (453-1036 and 453-1037) and fax number (453-3112). The new address is 320 Cedar Street, Sevierville, TN 37862. The pony address is "Special Education" or "SpEd Dept."

The Trula Lawson Center kept the old address (550 Eastgate), but has new numbers (428-5793 or 5396, fax -3594). The pony address is "TLC" or "TLECC."

Tech Note

Acrobat 6 is Unstable in the Windows 98 Operating System

If you are using Win 98, you may have trouble opening PDF formatted files in e-mail attachments or as downloads from websites. Acrobat Reader 5 and the latest, version 7, work fine. But Adobe Acrobat 6 is "buggy" in Windows 98. If you are having this problem with PDF files, it is probably because Reader 6.0 is set as your default program for opening PDFs. If you still have Adobe Acrobat 5 (or even 4 or 3) on your computer, you can easily solve the problem by removing Reader 6. (Go into Settings/Control Panel/Add or Remove Programs and select Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0 to uninstall it.) If Reader 6.0 is the only version you have on your computer, you'll need to go to www.adobe.com/ and download Acrobat Reader 7.

If you try all this and get in a mess, Call Jeff Romanczuk, 748-7711, while you are at your computer.