

Special Education/Intervention Newsletter  
Monthly Newsletter Sept. 2023



# Twin Ridge Elementary

1106 Leafy Hollow Circle  
Mount Airy, MD 21771  
T: 240-236-2300

Angela McAllister	Math Specialist	angela.mcallister@fcps.org
Kimberly Alexander	Literacy Specialist	kimberly.alexander@fcps.org
Julia Baldwin	Literacy Specialist	Julia.baldwin@fcps.org
Karalee Nagel	Reading Intervention Teacher	karalee.nagel@fcps.org
Cristen Reid	Reading Intervention Teacher	cristen.reid@fcps.org
Barb Cicmanec	Intervention Teacher	barbara.cicmanec@fcps.org
Rebecca Shoemaker	Special Education Teacher	rebecca.shoemaker@fcps.org
Amy Purdum	Special Education Teacher	amy.purdum@fcps.org
Kathryn Leaman	Speech-Language Pathologist	kathryn.smith@fcps.org
Erika Harrison-Ellis El	Speech-Language Pathologist	erika.harrison@fcps.org
Ali Green	Learning For Life Teacher	
Christine Dixon	Inclusive Pre-K Teacher	christine.dixon@fcps.org
Earl Hargett	Special Education Program Assistant	earl.hargett@fcps.org

## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

As our teachers here at TRES work to uphold this county-wide literacy vision through meaningful, intentional, and data-driven instruction, we encourage families to join us on this literacy journey! One way to help is to read with your student at home. For some, this may be an easy task to build into routines, but for others it may take some additional creativity to

get your student to buy-in to the idea. Here are some ways you may want to try to mix things up and make reading fun in your household:

- Set aside time where everyone at home stops to read something of their own choice (seeing others enjoy reading is likely to help your student enjoy it too)
- Read a chapter of a chapter book aloud as a family each day
- Create a special reading space
- Listen to audiobooks (at home or in the car)
- Read a book with a film adaptation and watch the movie together after reading
- Re-read a favorite book (it's okay if it is "too easy" to your child—sometimes you just need an "oldie but goodie")
- Download a book app or visit a free website to read. For website and app recommendations, visit [fcps.org](http://fcps.org) and click Academics>Language Arts>Language Arts (under Elementary) and you will find links to websites and apps for both primary and intermediate grades.

## **MATH**

Would you like to learn more about your child's grade level math curriculum and what resources are available for families? Check out FCPS elementary math resources on the FCPS website ([www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)). This resource was created to inform families about the math concepts and skills children are learning in school. It also provides ways for you to support your child at home with his or her math learning.

To access the grade level curriculum and home/school resources click on Academics>Curriculum, Instruction, and Innovation>Mathematics (under Elementary Curriculum). In the right column of the FCPS Elementary Math curriculum page, you can click on your child's grade level to learn more about the essential curriculum. Directly below the essential curriculum grade level tabs are the grade level tabs for home/school support resources.

## **Learning for Life**

## **Preschool**

## **Special Education**

Welcome to another great school year at Twin Ridge Elementary. As we start the 2023-24 School Year, we want parents and families to know that we are committed to working together as a team in order to meet each child's unique needs. There are many options available to support you as a parent/guardian of a child with an IEP. FCPS has a parent resources page that can be a valuable resource and is a great way to find more information. The link to the parent resources section of the FCPS website is located below. There is a menu on the right side with links to more information, including the Parental Rights Handbook and survey's for parents.

<https://www.fcps.org/special-education/special-education-parent-resources>

As this school year begins, we want to remind everyone of the importance of building routines at home, as a way to support your child with the schedule of school. Research has shown that children thrive on routine. At school, we work diligently to establish routines for all students. We have found that our students greatly benefit from having a predictable schedule. We encourage families to consider establishing predictable schedules for their child/children at home.

### **TIPS for BUILDING ROUTINES:**

**Plan Together:** Sit down to plan your child's week out in advance. Establishing his or her schedule in advance will help develop his or her executive functioning skills and teach them to plan ahead.

**Pack Up At Night:** The mornings can be an extremely hectic time. Asking your child to pack up and prepare for the next school day in the evenings can help alleviate stress for both you and your child. You can work with your child to increase his or her independence in completing this.

It takes 21 days to build a habit! Your child will not get the routine down perfectly the first time, but be patient. It will be worth it!

Our hope is that implementing some structures and routines at home will help make the rest of this school year a smooth one for your family!

### **LINKS for SAMPLE CHECKLISTS from Understood.org:**

<https://www.understood.org/articles/download-backpack-checklist>

<https://www.understood.org/articles/download-bedtime-checklists-for-kids>

Also, we wanted to make sure that everyone has our Program Assistant's contact information. Mr. Hargett schedules all IEP meetings, please know that his email address is [Earl.Hargett@fcps.org](mailto:Earl.Hargett@fcps.org). If you receive an email from him, please know that it is in regards to scheduling an IEP meeting.

## **Speech Therapy**

To start the 2022-23 school year, we would like to begin by answering the questions: What is speech therapy?

A speech-language pathologist treats disorders of:

- Articulation – the production of speech sounds
- Expressive language – how we communicate our thoughts and ideas (both written and spoken)
- Receptive language – how we understand other's thoughts and ideas (both written and spoken)
- Pragmatic language – how we communicate socially, such as conversational skills, regulating emotions, solving social problems

- Fluency – how “smooth” our speech is regarding stuttering and cluttering-type dysfluencies
- Voice – pitch, volume, breath support, and vocal hygiene (how we care for our vocal tract)
- Feeding – the process of eating and swallowing

Our emails are above and please contact your student's teacher with any concerns that you may have