



Special Services Newsletter

May 2018

Every student, every day, preparing for the future.

The mission of Derby Public Schools is to create a tomorrow that is better than today by ensuring all students continually grow and learn.



All,

As another school year draws to a close I want to take a moment and express my gratitude. Thank you for sharing your child with us. It has been great to see our students make amazing progress during the course of the school year and we're looking forward to more progress in the year ahead. Without your continued love and support none of this would have been possible. I wish you and your child a wonderful and well deserved summer break!

Dr. Vince Evans (Director)
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Early Childhood Screenings

Derby Public Schools provides public notice to all patrons of the availability of special education services and related services for all students (ages 3 through 21 years of age) residing within the school district. To learn more about services for our youngest students, please click on the Project Kids logo.



Parent Learning Opportunities

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Parent Night. We hope that you found the sessions to be insightful and purposeful. Based on our interactions with the attendees, we believe the event was very successful and we thank you for being part of that success. You were a great group and your participation and excitement helped make this event both productive and fun. We would like to have additional events next year and would appreciate your input. If you have any suggestions or ideas please contact the Special Services department at 316-554-8004.

Parent Reminder:

Are there times when you feel all alone in your struggle? You work hard to support your child's needs, in addition to the rest of your family! Have you taken the opportunity to seek encouragement from those who have trekked a similar road?

Whether you're raising a child with various physical, developmental or emotional challenges, we hope you'll find comfort in relating with other parents who are living the joys and trials of raising children with exceptionalities.

When you're feeling overwhelmed, just remember that sometimes, all you need is to bounce ideas off of another parent. Connecting with others who can relate to your journey can offer long-lasting friendship and fellowship!

Embrace it!



Did you know?

For the 2018-2019 school year, the following location changes will occur for special education programs.

Oaklawn

-Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) will be moved to Oaklawn from Park Hill.

Swaney

-The Life Skills program from Oaklawn will be moved to Swaney.

Cooper

-The Behavior And Social Communication (BASC) program will be moved from Oaklawn to Cooper.
-One of the Early Childhood programs from Wineteer will be relocated to Cooper.

Tanglewood

-The Functional program at Swaney will be relocated to Tanglewood.

El Paso

-The Tanglewood Early Childhood program will be relocated to El Paso.

These moves will create fewer transitions between schools for our students in the future. The changes will permit more EC students to attend their neighborhood schools. These moves will also create more equity throughout the district in how our specialized programming is distributed. All parents impacted by these moves have already been contacted, but if anyone has questions, please feel free to contact us!

Parent Q & A



What is Summer Learning Loss? Can it be prevented?

“Summer Learning Loss” or “Summer Slide” are terms that teachers use to describe the regression that occurs with some students over the summer break. Research has shown that special education students are most likely to be impacted by this. The few months of reading loss can continually grow year by year and by the time a child reaches middle school they may have lost at least 2 years worth of skills. Maintaining social skills can be as important as academic skills for youth with disabilities. Here are a few ideas to help prevent this regression:

- **Read!**
If a child reads at least 6 books over the summer break they will likely avoid this loss. That is less than a book a week.
- **Let your child cook with you.**
Letting your child cook with you will help them further develop skills in math, reading and following directions.
- **Plant a garden.**
This activity will help your child learn responsibility and take pride in their work.
- **Word of the Week**
Display a Word of the Week on your refrigerator with the description and see who can use it the most throughout the week. Through this activity, your child could learn up to 12 new words over the break.
- **Field trips**
Take frequent trips to local parks, zoos and museums. Help your child with a scavenger hunt and talk about what they have found and why they are there.

Online Summer Resources for Students

“While unstructured time for fun and play is valuable,” says the AFT Share My Lesson Team in this *American Educator* article, “many students could also benefit from intellectual stimulation during the summer.” For students who may not be able to take part in structured programs, they suggest these free online resources produced by the AFT:

“Summer Learning at Home”: <http://go.aft.org/AE118sml1>

“Baseball”: <http://go.aft.org/AE118sml2>

“Celebrate Science”: <http://go.aft.org/AE118sml3>

“Teacher Resources Inspired by Films”: <http://go.aft.org/AE118sml4>

“Storyline Online”: <http://go.aft.org/AE118sml5>

“Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens webinar”:
<http://go.aft.org/AE118sml6>

“Math Homework Help for Parents”: <http://go.aft.org/AE118sml7>



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