

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

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Celebrations in Professional Development

We have already engaged in hundreds of hours of professional development! Please find some of the topics below:

- Assistive Technologies
- Building Positive Relationships
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Co-Teaching
- Teaching to Strengths
- Design Loop
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- Differentiated Instruction
- Enhancing Student Engagement
- Executive Functioning in the Classroom
- Mindfulness
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Questioning Strategies
- Reading and Writing Strategies
- Social-Emotional Learning
- STEAM in the Classroom
- Transition to Life
- Trauma Attuned Classroom
- Vocational Programs
...and much, much more!

Social-Emotional Learning in our Schools

The term “Social-Emotional Learning” or “SEL” is a very popular phrase in current discourse in public education and beyond. While the concepts are not new to education, the packaging is. We have always addressed these skills or “competencies” through important work in our classrooms, school counseling sessions, school community building, and certainly through the goals and objectives in our student’s IEP’s. The research on SEL’s has yielded some very user-friendly structures to help ensure that from the inception of our curricula to the delivery of instruction to the assessment of student learning; we are acutely focused on what is truly important... our students!

For those who are not familiar with our framework, please read on...

Self-Awareness

- * Recognize one’s feelings and thoughts;
- * Recognize the impact of one’s feelings and thoughts on one’s own behavior;
- * Recognize one’s personal traits, strengths, and limitations;
- * Recognize the importance of self-confidence in handling daily tasks and challenges.

Self-Management

- * Understand and practice strategies for managing one’s own emotions, thoughts, and behaviors;
- * Recognize the skills needed to establish and achieve personal and educational goals;
- * Identify and apply ways to persevere or overcome barriers through alternative methods to achieve one’s goals.

Social Awareness

- * Recognize and identify the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of others;
- * Demonstrate an awareness of the differences among individuals, groups, and others’ cultural backgrounds;
- * Demonstrate an understanding of the need for mutual respect when viewpoints differ;
- * Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings.

Responsible Decision-Making

- * Develop, implement, and model effective problem-solving and critical thinking skills;
- * Identify the consequences associated with one’s actions in order to make constructive choices;
- * Evaluate personal, ethical, safety, and civic impact of decisions.

Relationship Skills

- * Establish and maintain healthy relationships;
- * Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others;
- * Identify ways to resist inappropriate social pressure;
- * Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways;
- * Identify who, when, where, or how to seek help for oneself or others when needed.

Our district, our schools, our departments, our grade levels, and our teams spend time together considering these competencies when they plan for learning. Each curriculum document in our district speaks to these competencies leading to incredible cross content opportunities for departments to reflect on how these are met through the skills addressed within each. For example, our physical education, health, and school counseling departments led this work for the past two years, as they worked together to create a crosswalk of these competencies within and across their lessons. I am quite proud of the leadership demonstrated in these two departments!

The district administrators have identified one of the goals for this year to...

- Identify and incorporate effective instructional methodologies that create positive social and emotional support for students;
- Get a baseline on current practice and analyze current rubrics. Determine what effective instruction looks like through the lens of the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) core competencies;
- Engage faculty and staff in professional development that allows for the understanding of core beliefs about instructional practices that best foster social and emotional growth;
- Define how we promote and operationalize these approaches throughout the district;
- Adopt a common language surrounding socially and emotionally supportive instructional practices.

Should you have an interest in reading more about SEL’s please find an invaluable resource below:

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/topics/social-and-emotional>

*Please see the **SEL Parent Academy** being held on **February 26, 2020** in the pages below*



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

11 Foxcroft Drive - Livingston, New Jersey 07039

PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 2019

September 12, 6:00—6:45 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for Parents of Students with a Disability
Livingston High School Media Center

September 12, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Livingston High School

September 17, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Heritage Middle School

September 18, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Mount Pleasant Middle School

September 19, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Hillside Elementary School

September 19, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for Parents of Students with a Disability
Mount Pleasant Elementary School

September 24, 6:30 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Burnet Hill Elementary School

September 25, 6:00—6:45 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for Parents of Students with a Disability
Riker Hill Elementary School

September 25, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Riker Hill Elementary School

September 26, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Mount Pleasant Elementary School



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 2019

October 2, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Collins Elementary School

October 3, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Harrison Elementary School

October 3, 7:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night for All Parents
Monmouth Court Campus

October 10, 6:00—6:50 p.m.

Transition to Post-Secondary Education for
Parents of Students with a Disability
Livingston High School Media Center

October 10, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Overview of the College & Career Process for All Parents
Livingston High School Auditorium

October 10, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop
Helping Develop Speech and Language Skills at Home
Burnet Hill Elementary School

October 16, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

“Knock, Knock... Got a Minute?”
How to Foster Open Communication with your Child for All Parents, All Schools
Mount Pleasant Middle School Media Center

October 23, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Financial Aid Presentation for All Parents
Livingston High School Auditorium

October 24, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

“The Most Influential Case of My Entire Career”
Presented by Steven Benvenisti, Esq. for
All Parents and Students, grades 7-12
Livingston High School Auditorium



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 2019

November 13, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop
Social Stories
Burnet Hill Elementary School

November 13, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

ESL Parent Night
Livingston High School Media Center

November 19, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Family STEAM Night for
All Elementary Parents, Grades 2—5
Mount Pleasant Middle School



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2019

December 3, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop
Promoting Independence and Developing Play
Burnet Hill Elementary School

December 11, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Hour of Code Family Night for
All Parents and Students, grades 3-5
Harrison Elementary School



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

JANUARY 2020

January 9, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

“15 Minute Child Break”

Presented by Bill Lillis of the Partnership for Drug-Free NJ for
All Parents

Heritage Middle School Auditorium

January 16, 9:15—10:15 a.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop

OT & PT Activities at Home

Burnet Hill Elementary School

January 16, 6:00—7:00 p.m.

8th to 9th Grade Transition Night for
Parents of Students with a Disability
Livingston High School Media Center

January 16, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

8th to 9th Grade Orientation Program for
All Parents

Livingston High School Auditorium and Breakout Classes

January 22, 6:30 p.m.

Science Pathways Parent Night

Livingston High School Auditorium



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 2020

February 26, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Parent Academy for
All Parents, grades K—5
Riker Hill Elementary School

February 27, 1:00—2:00 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop
Exiting PRIDE: What to Expect?
Burnet Hill Elementary School



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

MARCH 2020

March 12, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop
Full STEAM Ahead
Burnet Hill Elementary School

March 12, 6:15—7:00 p.m.

6th to 7th Grade Transition Night for
Parents of Students with a Disability
Heritage Middle School Media Center

March 12, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

6th to 7th Grade Transition Night for
All Parents
Heritage Middle School Auditorium

March 19, 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Transition to Post-Secondary Programs for
Parents of Students with Intellectual Disability
Focus Program: Turning Point
Livingston High School Cafeteria

March 19, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

College Admissions Panel for
All Parents
Livingston High School Auditorium

March 26, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

“Breaking the Silence”
Presented by Sara Mendez Emma, LCSW & Robyn Krugman,
LCSW
of Jewish Family Services for
All Parents and Students, grades 7-12
Livingston High School Auditorium & Media Center



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

APRIL 2020

April 1, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

ESL Parent Night

Livingston High School Media Center

April 2, 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Division of Developmental Disability (DDD) Presentation for
Parents of Students with a Disability, ages 16-21

Livingston High School Media Center

April 2, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Post-Secondary Application Process for
All Parents, Class of 2021

Livingston High School Auditorium

April 21, 6:30—7:30 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop: Preschool Family Fun Night
Burnet Hill Elementary School Cafeteria

April 22, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Livingston High School College, Career and Transition Fair for
All Parents

Livingston High School Fitness & Wellness Center/Auxiliary Gym

April 23, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop: Understanding Behaviors
Burnet Hill Elementary School Media Center

April 26, 12:00—3:00 p.m.

Abilities Expo 2020

Livingston High School Cafeteria

April 28, 7:30—8:30 p.m.

Math Program Information Evening for
All Parents, grades 7-12

Heritage Middle School Auditorium



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

MAY 2020

May 7, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

PRIDE Parent Workshop

The Transition from PRIDE to Kindergarten

Burnet Hill Elementary School Media Center

May 14, 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Managing Expectations of the Junior Year for

Parents of Students with a Disability, Class of 2022

Livingston High School Media Center

May 14, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

Post-Secondary Planning Process: Overview of the Junior Year for

All Parents, Class of 2022

Livingston High School Auditorium

May 20, 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Book Tasting for

All Parents, grades K-2

Mount Pleasant Elementary School Media Center

May 21, 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Book Tasting for

All Parents, grades 3-5

Mount Pleasant Elementary School Media Center



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

JUNE 2020

June 4, 7:00—10:00 p.m.

Senior Awards and Scholarship Program
Livingston High School Auditorium

June 11, 6:30—7:15 p.m.

5th to 6th Grade Transition Night for
Parents of Students with a Disability
Mount Pleasant Middle School Media Center

June 11, 7:30—8:30 p.m.

5th to 6th Grade Transition Night for
All Parents
Mount Pleasant Middle School Auditorium