

SAHS and Project SEARCH Graduate Is Keynote Speaker at DCDT's Awards



DIVISION ON CAREER
DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION
COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
LIVING • LEARNING • WORKING

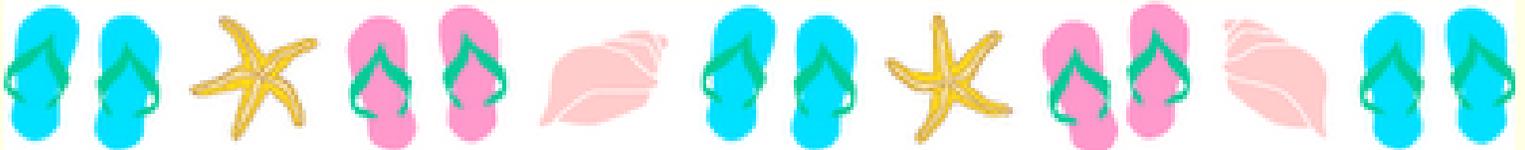
Philip Maffei, a student in the St. Johns County School District's Transition Program, was selected to give the keynote speech at the Division of Career Development and Transition's Visions Conference Awards Luncheon held at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort and Hotel. Phil's hard work and dedication have helped him to successfully complete Life Work and Project SEARCH, earn competitive paid employment at the Renaissance World Golf in the Banquet Department and the Conch House in the kitchen. He even has his driver's license! Phil gave a motivating speech documenting his life's achievements and future goals all while wowing the crowd with his amazing sense of humor and wit.



Co-workers use words like "focused, consistent, happy, helpful, and hard worker," to describe Phil. His manager, Frank Patricolo, said "Phil is an incredibly hard worker. He's diligent and a great asset to the team. He's always positive and happy to get the job done."

His sense of humor, willingness to work hard, and perseverance are the true essence of seeing the person first, instead of their disability. We are so very proud of Phil and all of his accomplishments so far and look forward to see how much he achieves in the future!

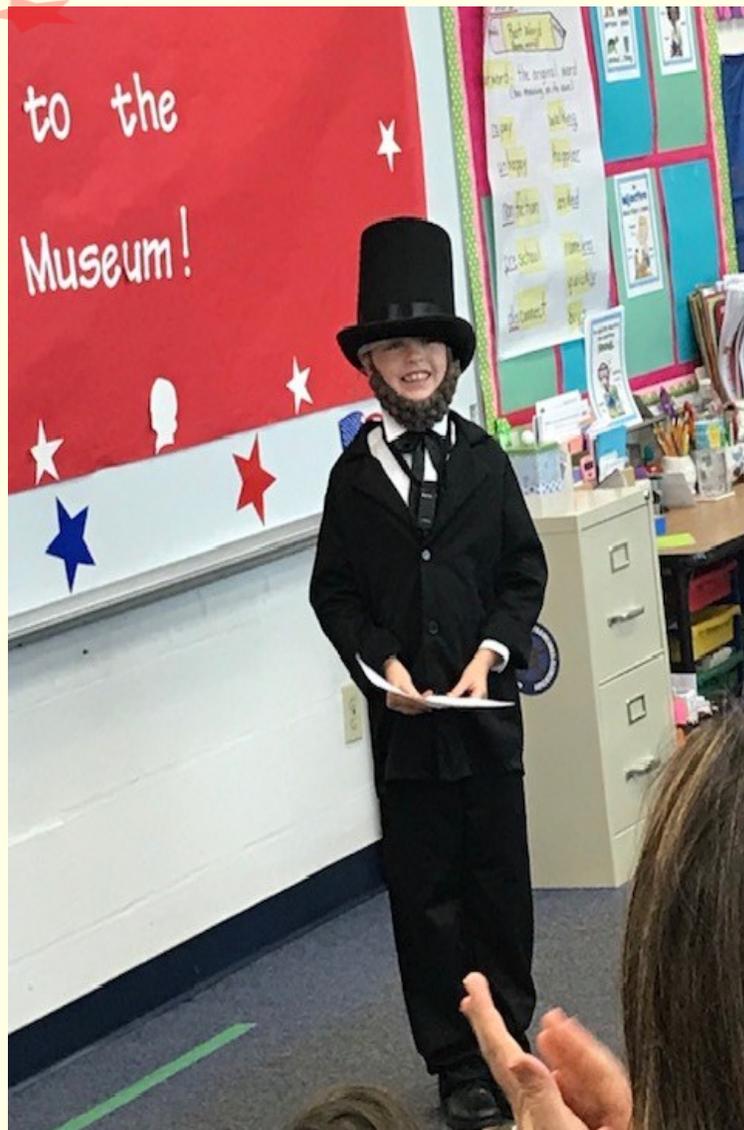
*Submitted by: Leigh Ann Hale, ESE Program Specialist,
Project SEARCH and Life Work Coordinator*



Fun Times at PVPV/Rawlings



PVPV/Rawlings students participated in Field Day, which included competitive races against other classes. These second graders show their class unity by working together to accomplish a goal!



Students in first grade at PVPV/Rawlings dressed as figures from American history and presented facts from their lives. Here, a student teaches his classmates and their parents about Abraham Lincoln.

*Submitted by: Jessica Armstrong, ESE Resource Teacher,
PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School*





Reinforcing Your Child's IEP Goals Over the Summer



✓ Identify Summer-Friendly Goals

Start by re-reading your child's IEP plan. It's the first place to turn when you're trying to create a summer plan. Not all goals are things you can work on at home, however.

When your child's IEP team creates goals, its focus is on skills to help your child succeed in school. So some goals are designed to be worked on *at school*.

For example, your child's IEP may say, "Olivia will increase reading accuracy and fluency to a fourth-grade level. To do this, she'll use a research-based reading program."

In that case, the goal is tied to a specialized reading program. You're probably not trained to use that program. But there may be more general goals you *can* tackle, such as decoding words or learning how to use fractions.

Your child may have goals that aren't strictly academic, too. She may be working on social-emotional skills or functional goals. For example, one of her goals might be, "Olivia will identify and manage feelings (anxiety, stress) on a daily basis."

That's something you can help her with at home. If your child has a behavior intervention plan, there's even a description of how the teachers worked with her at school on this goal. You can use the same approach.



✓ Break IEP Goals Down Into Skills You Can Work On

Looking over your child's IEP can help remind you of the bigger goals she's working toward. But goals span a whole year and aren't met all at once. In many cases, it may make sense to focus over the summer on specific steps toward those goals.

Think of each goal as sitting at the top of a ladder. There are many rungs your child has to climb to get there. Each rung is a skill she needs to learn to get to the next one. For example, before she can write a sentence using two different meanings of a word, she has to be able identify the different definitions.

Sometimes an IEP plan breaks goals into smaller steps or skills already. If your child's plan doesn't, check her progress report or ask her teacher to help you list the skills that make up each goal.

✓ Plan Your Summer Program

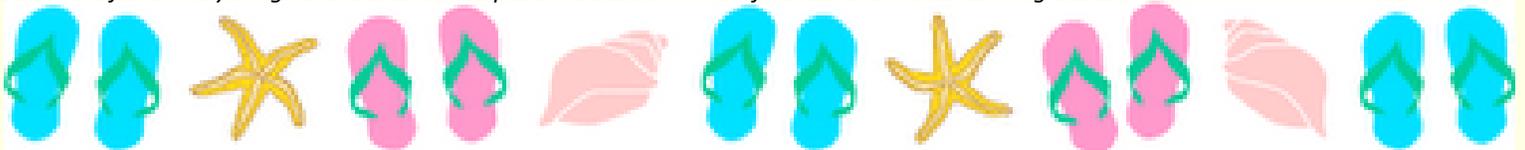
Be realistic about what you can accomplish. Trying to tackle too much can be counterproductive. Make a list of the top things you want to work on over the summer. And be specific. For example: "Olivia and I will read three books from her summer reading list and work on fractions for 20 minutes every day."

Find creative ways to work on skills. You can support your child's learning in all sorts of ways. Take a field trip to a local science museum. Help her practice fractions and measurement while you cook together. You can even work on social skills and money management by having her order and pay at a restaurant.

In addition to working on her IEP goals, don't forget the real-life learning opportunities your child has during her summer vacation. It's a good time to work on making friends and to explore her passions and strengths. But remember to build in some downtime, too!



Article From: [Understood](#), written by Amanda Morin, who has worked as a classroom teacher and early intervention specialist for 10 years. She is the author of *The Everything Parent's Guide to Special Education*. Two of her children have learning issues.



EDUCATING AS A TEAM

On February 27, Flagler College Deaf Awareness Club hosted a panel whose target audience was parents of deaf/hard of hearing students within Florida School for the Deaf and Blind as well as St. Johns County School District. The main goal was to create a bias- and judgement-free environment for parents and students to ask questions they may otherwise feel uncomfortable or embarrassed to ask. To achieve this, the panelists answered questions submitted by attendees to further their knowledge and understanding of the resources available to them as well as their students. Thanks to the collaboration of both districts within the panel, attendees gained a better understanding of the options available to them throughout the school.



Jessica Peterson, a Wards Creek Elementary School alumni, is in the Deaf Education Program at Flagler College, and coordinated the event. Jessica is also an incredible volunteer in Ms. O'Rourke's ESE/VPK classroom, volunteering every day at the beginning of the school year before classes started at Flagler.



Pictured here, from left to right are: Kim Peterson, ESE Paraprofessional, Wards Creek Elementary, Lissa O'Rourke, PreK ESE/VPK Teacher, Wards Creek Elementary, Jessica Peterson, Sonia Howley, ESE Program Specialist (SLP, DHH, Interpreting), St. Johns County School District, and Carol Carberry, DHH Teacher, Wards Creek Elementary.

*Submitted by: Lissa O'Rourke,
ESE/VPK Teacher,
Wards Creek Elementary School*





The Arc Summer Day Camp is for school-age children, ages 3-17 years old, with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida and other special needs. Campers can expect exciting summer activities, including:

- Arts & Crafts, Science
- Music, Cooking
- Recreation, weekly outings

Throughout the activities, specially trained staff will be able to engage campers in cognitive and social behavior development at the same time.

Criteria for Enrollment

Any elementary school-aged student with a developmental disability may enroll in our camp. We are equipped to accept children with special needs who require assistance with changing or ambulation. Each session has a specified age range, so that children of similar ages are grouped together and age appropriate activities are provided.

Location for PreK Summer Camp (3-5 years old)

The Therapeutic Learning Center for Children
2109 Arc Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32084

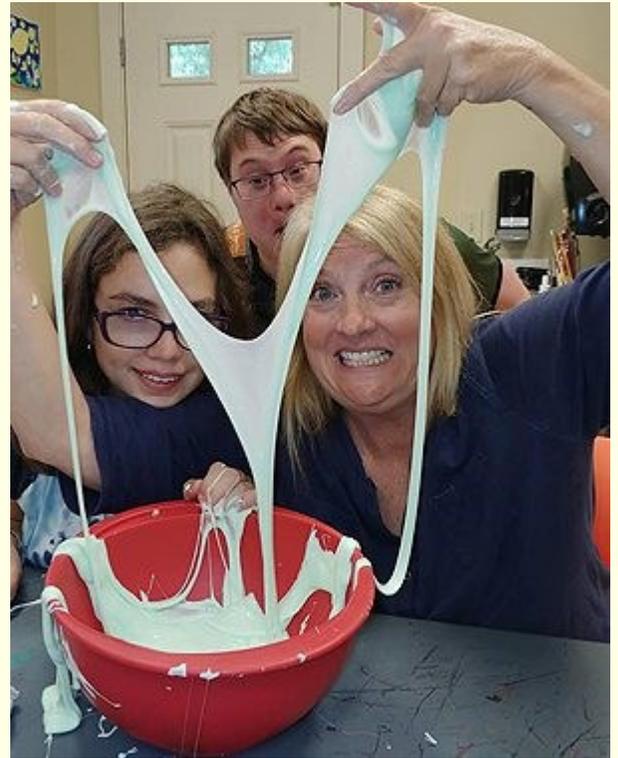
Location for Elementary-High School Summer Camp (5-17 years old)

ELEMENTARY:

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
2940 CR-214
St. Augustine, FL 32084

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL:

St. Paul A.M.E. DEVELOPMENT CENTER
83 Washington Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084



Sessions

The Summer Day Camp runs
June 4 thru July 27
(No camp on July 4th)

Camp Hours

9:00 am—3:00 pm
Monday—Friday
Extended Day is available 3-5pm for an additional fee

Registration

Please complete the summer camp registration enrollment form. Payment is required to reserve a space for your child. Tuition **MUST** be paid each week prior to the child attending.

[Click here to Register Online](#)

Tuition

\$150 per week per camper
Insurance may cover all or part of the program.
Please inquire.

Extended Day Tuition

3:00 pm—5:00 pm
\$40 per week per camper
Please Note: Transportation is not provided



MATH COMPETITION™

FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

St Johns County Deaf & Hard of Hearing teachers took a team of 4 students to compete in the annual DHH Math Competition. The Competition is held for middle school students (who have a documented hearing loss) from across the US and Canada. National Technical Institute for the Deaf, which is housed on Rochester Institute of Technology campus, hosts the three day event aimed at showcasing the math skills of the students. The students compete in a total of three rounds: team, spring and target. They earn points for every correct answer within the given time limits and the top individuals as well as teams compete for top honors. This was St. Johns County School District's first time competing and they placed 21st out of 45 teams.



Submitted by: Odessa Mayer,
DHH Teacher





A Moment in Time with a Gifted Mind



Meet Aidan Stevens! Aidan is 12 years old. He is a bubbly, blonde, curly haired young man who is full of life and happiness. He loves to ride his bike or scooter. He enjoys classical music. He knows the names and flags of all the international race cars in the Pixar film *Cars 2*. He loves cheeseburgers and fries, just like most middle school boys. However, Aidan is also diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Because of this disorder, he enters school every day with high needs struggles. He struggles with communication. He struggles with variation from schedule.

He struggles with the perception of being different.

What Aidan loves most, however, is clocks! He has been collecting clocks since age 6. His current collection hails over 50 clocks, not counting his watches. From his prized cuckoo clocks to his treasured grandfather clock, Aidan finds fascination in watching time tick away one wand at a time. He prefers analog to digital. This obsession with time and the drawing of clocks has been the cornerstone to his now growing art form. He is creating his own portfolio of graphic communication through his clocks in the form of a comic strip. The motion and emotion he is able to capture through simple stick figures and clock faces is phenomenal. Pacetti Bay is proud to have Aidan as part of the Special Wildcat Team here at The Bay! Look out Charles Schultz! It is "time" for Mr. Stevens to make his mark!



*Submitted by: Twila Needham, Assistant Principal,
Pacetti Bay Middle School*



EASY CRAFTS FOR KIDS WITH MOTOR DISABILITIES

POOL NOODLE CRAFTS

Take a look at [32 Of The Best Pool Noodle Hacks, Crafts, and Games](#). From obstacle courses to DIY game sets, large foam pool noodles are a good material for crafts for children with motor disabilities. This can be a great experience for a child who has difficulty grasping or controlling smaller objects, and the child will be able to use their creativity in versatile ways.



TORN PAPER TEXTURE ART

Tearing paper is an amazing fine motor activity for kids! According to The OT Toolbox, “Tearing paper requires strength and endurance of the small muscles in the hand. These intrinsic muscles are important in so many fine motor skills, including handwriting and coloring, managing buttons and zippers, manipulating pegs, and more. When paper is torn, the hands assume a great ‘tripod’ grasp, a mature grasp for writing and coloring. The non-dominant hand assists in the tearing and encourages appropriate assistance for tasks like holding paper while writing and managing paper while cutting with scissors.” Paper tearing art activities can be a great way for kids to get creative, especially if they aren't comfortable with scissors.



EGG CARTON & FRUIT PAINT STAMPING

Gripping a paintbrush may be challenging for children with motor disabilities. Utilizing familiar tools like cut fruits, such as apples, or textured materials, like egg cartons, is a fun way in create stamp crafts for kids with motor disabilities that can be easily grasped. Stamp painting is easy with these adaptive tools.



Source: [Coach Art](#) to view the rest of the article with more fun summer projects!

COACH  **ART**



PVHS Takes The Players Championship By Storm!



It was a day of sunshine, excitement and smiles, as the self-contained ESE classroom from PVHS took The Players Championship by storm! In mid-March of 2019, one of our fantastic parents donated tickets for the PVHS ESE self-contained class to enjoy a practice round day at TPC.

Upon arriving at Sawgrass, our eager students gathered at the Jack Nicklaus Entry for a group photo. It was an experience in and of itself, getting 13 excited and very distracted high schoolers to pose for a picture! An unintimidated onlooker was kind enough to take a few pictures, and suddenly we were off - making our way through the ticket lines and out onto the paved walkways lining the course. With growing anticipation, our crew walked (some faster than others) toward the TPC Clubhouse - a popular spot to snag some high-profile autographs, and an even more beautiful place to get a group photo. A brief stop at the 17th hole resulted in an exciting moment for our students, as a player sunk a mean looking shot, and the crowd applauded with

delight! For many of these students, the rules and purpose of the game of golf was not an important factor of this trip. This journey was more about us as a unit, a team, a family. We walked together- arm in arm, most of us. There we were - out in public, in this place, on this day where so many golf fans dream of being. We were smiling, laughing and looking around at this place of extravagance; it was a day of wonder for these ESE high schoolers. Where most come to admire the athleticism of the players, the beauty of the course or the energy of the crowd, TPC ended up being so much more than that to us. We saw inclusion and kindness in the people around us. We saw generosity and sincere thoughtfulness in those players who took the time to sign our TPC flags. As the teacher of these exceptional kids, I was overwhelmed with pride in our students and the team of adults who support these kiddos through the birdies and bogies of their (and our) everyday lives.

*Submitted by: Margo Meyer, ESE Teacher,
Ponte Vedra High School*



The Jericho School

For Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

2019 INTENSIVE ABA SUMMER PROGRAM!



The Jericho School is now accepting registrations for the 2019 Summer Program. This is not a Summer Camp where your child learns new arts and crafts. This will be four weeks of intensive Applied Behavior Analysis and Verbal Behavior services for children with developmental disabilities. Each child will receive a comprehensive and Individualized Program with identified goals and objectives for acquisition of targeted skills. You can choose Part Day or Full Day Program. You can select two weeks, or take advantage of all four weeks of the Individualized Summer Program.

SUMMER PROGRAM

WEEK ONE	July 8 th – July 12 th
WEEK TWO	July 15 th – July 19 th
WEEK THREE	July 22 nd – July 26 th
WEEK FOUR	July 29 th – August 2 nd

THERE ARE LIMITED SPOTS FOR OUR SUMMER PROGRAM!

Last year we were at full capacity and we expect to fill the available spots in a short period of time. Please register early. You can download the Summer Program Enrollment Package from our website: www.thejerichoschool.org

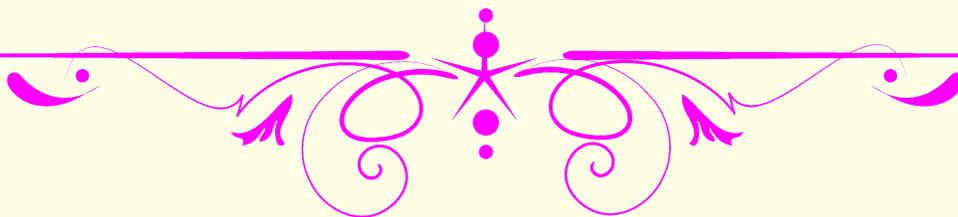
Summer Program	
Individualized ABA/VB Instruction with a 1:1 student-teacher ratio	
1:1 Full-Day Individualized Instruction	\$750 / week
9:00 – 3:30 Full Day Individualized Instruction	
1:1 Part-Time Individualized Instruction	\$375 / week
9:00 – 12:00 Part Day Individualized Instruction	
12:30 – 3:30 Part Day Individualized Instruction	
10% DISCOUNT FOR 4 WEEKS PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO: MAY 25TH	

PLEASE CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION: (904) 744-5110

The Jericho School
welcomes students
regardless of race,
religion, gender or
national origin.



Creekside High School's Miss Royal Knight 2019



Creekside High School hosted their first *Miss Royal Knight Pageant* on 4/27. There was an interview portion, career wear, formal wear, and talent. Congratulations to all seven girls who participated and their new titles:

Miss Royal Knight: Jojo Morgan

Miss Sweetheart (runner up): Adrionna Birchenough

Miss Talented: Sarah Maxham

Miss Fashionista: Destiny Belanger

Miss Dedicated: Katelyn Matthews

Miss Congeniality: Taylor Luce

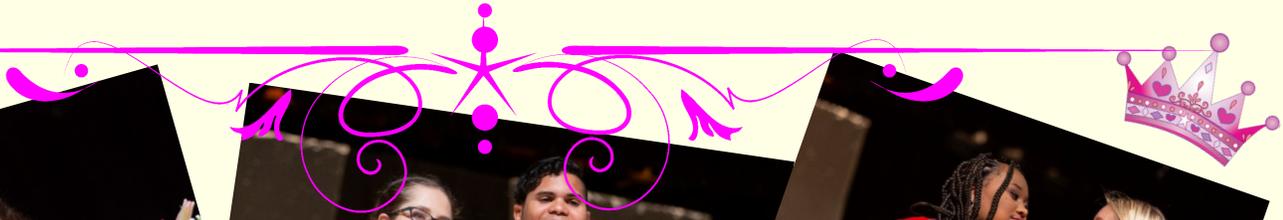
Miss Photogenic: Ricki Nickerson



*Submitted by: Kaley Presnell,
ESE Teacher, Creekside High*



Creekside High School's Miss Royal Knight 2019



Upcoming Events

Jax4Kids – Special Needs Camps for Summer

For years now one of the best online resources for Jacksonville summer camps specifically tailored to families with special needs has been the Jax4Kids website. If you're interested in finding the right summer group for your child consider their list at <http://jax4kids.com/summer-camps/categories/special-needs-camps>.

VB-MAPP – Early Intervention Screenings for Toddlers and Young Children

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System—Multidisciplinary Center (FDLRS-MDC) has a program focused on screening young children ages 3 to 5 years who are at risk of developmental or language delay and/or autism using The Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP). The VB-MAPP is a criterion-referenced assessment tool, curriculum guide, and skill tracking system that is designed for children with autism and other individuals who experience language delays. The purpose of the screening program is to increase access to interventions and techniques for children awaiting a formal evaluation utilizing a parent training model. Children who are selected for this program will be followed for one year or until they begin receiving formal applied behavior analytic services or no longer qualify due to the reduction of developmental concerns. This grant funded program does not charge for its services. All appointments will be held at the UF Health Developmental Pediatrics Center, 6271 St. Augustine Rd., Suite 1, JAX, FL 32217. To schedule an intake or for general questions about this service or any UF Health FDLRS-MDC service, please contact marlena.jenkins@jax.ufl.edu.

****New** FDLRS/CARD Satellite Clinic – St. Johns County**

June 4, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., The UF-Jacksonville Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and the UF-Jacksonville Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Multi-Disciplinary Center (FLDRS-MDC) offer clinics to outlying counties in order to more effectively serve their constituents. Sign up for a consultative appointment with clinicians who specialize in child psychology, behavior therapy, academic interventions, Autism screeners, transition, and more. Appointments are at no cost to the family. **Location: The Webster School.**

To schedule an appointment please contact chanel.baldwin@jax.ufl.edu, (904)633-0816.

****New** The Arc Jacksonville – iCareer: A Free Readiness Camp**

June 10, July 8-19, July 20-August 2, 9:00am-6:00pm, iCareer is a free work readiness camp for ages 14-21. It's goal is to help prepare students for employment. Students must have a past or current IEP or 504 plan and active status with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) for pre-employment transition services. Two locations available. For more information contact employmentservices@arcjacksonville.org



Chris Burke is an actor best known for his role as Charles “Corky” Thatcher in the 1989-1993 family drama *Life Goes On*. Corky was the first character in a network television series with Down Syndrome and changed the way audiences viewed people with disabilities. Since *Life Goes On*, Burke has made appearances on numerous TV show and movies, most notably co-starring with JoBeth Williams in the NBC Movie of the Week *Jonathan: The Boy Nobody Wanted*. Burke has been the Goodwill Ambassador for the National Down Syndrome Society since 1994. As Goodwill Ambassador he travels the country attending Buddy Walks, making public appearances, speaking with the press and greeting fans. When he is not on the road, Burke is a valued member of the National Down Syndrome Society’s staff, working in their New York City office.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)



The PRIDE of CFA, our Cheer Abilities Team!

This team is a Co-Ed Inclusive Cheer team for Athletes with intellectual and/or physical disabilities who want to cheer, have fun and gain lasting friendships along the way. Your Athlete will increase confidence and will be motivated to reach their full potential in a positive, loving environment.

Parent Information Meeting: Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CFA-JAX | 7111 Davis Creek Road Jacksonville, Florida | 904-292-1134 | CFA-JAX.COM

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!





**St. Johns County School District
Exceptional Student Education Department**

Ms. L. Bell, Director of ESE
(904) 547-7672 (office)
(904) 547-7687 (fax)

Ms. T. Kennon, Assistant Director
(904)547-7546 (office)
OT/PT, Assistive Tech, 504, McKay Scholarships

CHARACTER COUNTS!



Ms. J. Tabala, Executive Secretary
(904) 547-7672

Ms. L. Sitch, Confidential Staff Secretary
(904) 547-7712

Program Specialists

Mrs. L. Adkins, Specific Learning Disabilities,
Learning Strategies, Other Health Impaired, FSA/
EOC Waivers

Mrs. H. DiMare, Gifted Services

Mr. G. Freeman, Emotional Behavioral Disorders,
Mental Health Counseling,
Behavior Specialists

Mrs. A. Greene, Hospital Homebound, Orthopedically Impaired,
Traumatic Brain Injured, Visually Impaired,
Virtual School, Surrogate Parents, Private Instructional Personnel,
Parent Advisory Meetings

Mrs. L. Hale, Transition, Intellectual Disabilities,
Alternate Assessment, Diploma Options/Deferrals

Mrs. S. Howley, Speech/Language Impaired,
Deaf Hard of Hearing

Mrs. L. Thacker, Autism Spectrum Disorders,
Access Points Curriculum

Mission Statement: To identify and meet the unique educational needs of exceptional students and to provide support and resources to enhance educational opportunities so they become productive citizens.

ESE programs and services address the unique needs of students who are gifted in kindergarten through 12th grade and those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities from age three until they graduate with a regular diploma or until their 22nd birthday. ESE programs and services are designed to assist students in reaching their educational goals through the use of instructional and behavioral approaches which are research-based and exemplify best practices. Technology is used in many creative ways to meet student needs as well.

ESE services are available at all district schools for gifted students and students who have mild to moderate disabilities. PreK students with disabilities and students with more significant disabilities are served in cluster programs at selected sites. Program support is provided to students, parents and school personnel by program specialists based at the district office. Students with disabilities who are not eligible for services through the ESE program may be eligible for an accommodations plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and useful. *Parents As Partners Newsletters* are posted to the St. Johns County School District web site at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/>

