

### Jake Schoenemann Named Julington Creek Elementary School Spelling Bee Winner!

Jake Schoenemann is a 5th grade student in the Gifted program at Julington Creek Elementary. Jake is also a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder. When Jake qualified for the school spelling bee, his team of teachers and parents had a decision to make—the pressure to do well, the noise of a filled auditorium with hundreds of eyes watching him. Would these factors be too much sensory stimulation? Would these factors, ultimately, be too much for Jake to have an enjoyable and successful experience?

Ultimately, both Jake and his team decided that this experience was worth it. As he competed at JCE, classmates cheered him on as he advanced each round and ultimately erupted in cheers as he was named the winner.



Jake went on to compete at the district level, where he was a poised competitor. JCE is extremely proud of Jake for not only overcoming new obstacles, but also for representing what it means to be a JCE Jaguar.

**Submitted by: Jennifer Sparks, Assistant Principal,  
Julington Creek Elementary School**



### Important Dates:

4/2, 6:00-7:30 pm- ESE Parent Advisory Committee Meeting,  
Fullerwood Training Center,  
10 Hildreth Drive

4/23, 6:30-8:00 pm- Gifted Parent Advisory Committee Meeting,  
Palm Valley Academy  
Media Center

# ACCOMMODATIONS 101



## WHAT ARE ACCOMMODATIONS?

- \* Accommodations are changes that remove barriers and provide your child access to learning. Accommodations don't change *what* your child is learning. Rather, they change *how* your child is learning.
- \* Accommodations don't change what your child is expected to know or learn. They don't lower expectations.
- \* This is what make accommodations different from modifications, which change *what* your child is expected to know or learn.

Type of Accommodation	What it is	Example
Presentation	A change in the way information is presented	Letting a child with dyslexia listen to audiobooks instead of reading printed text
Response	A change in the way a child completes assignments or tests	Providing a keyboard to a child who struggles with handwriting when she's writing an essay
Setting	A change in the environment where a child learns	Allowing a child with ADHD to take a test in a separate room with fewer distractions
Timing and Scheduling	A change to the time a child has for a task	Providing extra time on homework for a child who has slow processing speed

## HOW TO GET ACCOMMODATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD

- \* If you think accommodations may help your child, talk to her teacher.
- \* Under Federal law, kids with disabilities have the right to equal access to learning. This means accommodations for their disabilities, which can include learning and attention issues.
- \* An evaluation can lead to an IEP or 504 plan for your child. You and the school decide together what accommodations to write into the plan.



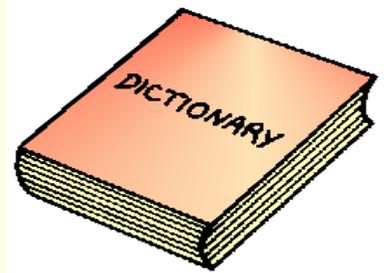
Source: [Understood](#)

Written by: Andrew M.I. Lee, J.D., an editor and former attorney who strives to help people understand complex legal, education and parenting issues





# Deaf/Hard of Hearing Spring Events



This Spring will bring many exciting opportunities for our students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing:

- The program staff have been busy planning the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Deafinition, a vocabulary competition, open to students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing in St. Johns and surrounding counties.
- A team of four students who are Deaf/Hard of hearing will represent SJCS in Rochester, New York during a National Math competition. The team has been busy practicing their Mathematical skills before traveling in April.
- On Sunday, April 28th our Annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing picnic will be held for all families of our students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. This will be an exciting event where families from all over the district come together for an afternoon of fun! The picnic will be from 1:30-4:00 pm at Wards Creek Elementary School.

## Scholarship Opportunity for Clarke Alumni

Any former student who has attended one of Clarke's campuses for at least one year may apply for a scholarship from the Yale Fund. The scholarship may be used for continuing education.

## History of the Caroline A. Yale Memorial Fund

In the fall of 1937, the Clarke School Alumni Association (CSAA), now Clarke Schools Alumni Council (CSAC), created the Caroline A. Yale Memorial Fund in memory of Miss Caroline A. Yale for her distinguished contributions to Clarke School for the Deaf. Miss Yale spent 60 years at Clarke and was the principal for 36 years. She was an early pioneer who supported oral education for students, firmly believing that they should be given every opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed in the hearing world.

Application Deadline: May 1, 2019

[Learn more>](#)



# Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech





Dates  
JUNE 3 - AUGUST 2  
8AM-3PM  
Extended Day  
Available



**Camp Locations:**

6/3-6/14 @Bridge of Life Church  
96 Masters Dr, St. Aug. 32084  
6/17-8/2 @Anastasia 16 Church  
110 Circle Dr E, St. Aug. 32084



**ACTIVE & FUN**  
**FOR ELEMENTARY AGES**

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**FAITH-BASED**

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## **RATES.**

SPECIAL NEEDS rate:  
\$250.00 PER SESSION  
OR \$60.00 PER DAY

SIBLING rate:  
\$185.00 PER SESSION  
OR \$40.00 PER DAY

EXTENDED DAY (3PM-5PM)  
\$10.00 PER DAY; NOT TO  
EXCEED \$20/FAMILY

## Offering 8 camp sessions

EACH SESSION IS 1 WEEK, MONDAY-FRIDAY  
NO SESSION WEEK OF JULY 1

## **Camp Themes**

AROUND THE WORLD IN FIVE DAYS!  
MASTER CHEFS  
THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC  
LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.  
ANIMAL PLANET  
LITTLE PICASOS  
IMAGINATION LAND  
WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP



For additional info (855) 288-6735 x5 or <http://abilitytreefc.org>

<<REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Space is limited.>>



# Switzerland Point Middle School Students Get First Hand Look at Local Fire Station



Swiss Point Middle School students went on a field trip to the Switzerland Fire Station on February 21. They were taught about fire safety, what to do in the event of a fire, and were shown the ambulance. The students also got to see a fireman in his uniform and learn that he is not someone to be feared. Everyone learned and had a great time!

**Submitted by: Ashley Swestyn,  
Access Points ELA and World History Teacher,  
Switzerland Point Middle School**





**THE ESE PARENT ADVISORY,  
ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION**

**WELCOMES**

**DAVID O. CHILDERS, M.D.  
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL-  
BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICIAN**

**FOR A DISCUSSION ON:**

***BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL  
EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

*Please register for this Parent Advisory Committee  
meeting here:*

<https://parentadvisorybehaviortalk.eventbrite.com>

**GOAL:**

To provide parents of 504, Gifted, and ESE students an overview of typical language development and how it pertains to parenting and child behavior.

**ESE PARENT  
ADVISORY**

**ST JOHNS COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**EXCEPTIONAL  
STUDENT EDUCATION**

**UF HEALTH  
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL  
PEDIATRICS**

**APRIL 2, 2019**

**LOCATION:**

**FULLERWOOD TRAINING  
CENTER**

10 HILDRETH DR  
ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

**6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**





## What's New at Hope Haven?

Hope Haven is excited to announce that we have added a licensed school psychologist to our professional staff. This means that for families seeking independent private evaluations, Hope Haven is an option once again.

### Evaluations

- Gifted Evaluation
- Psychological Educational Evaluation (learning disabilities assessment)
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Evaluation
- Autism Spectrum Evaluation

### Educational Advocacy

Educational advocacy can help families through the IEP process and advocate for a student's needs and accommodations. An advocate is available to attend IEP meetings with the family.

### Scheduling is Simple

Families can self schedule online on our website or call to speak to an intake coordinator.

### **Hope Haven continues to provide the following services:**

**Counseling** - treating children and families with issues including anxiety, depression, trauma, divorce adjustment, family conflict, AD/HD, autism, and social skills

**Tutoring** - hourly individual tutoring for preschoolers through high school students addressing readiness, math, reading, and study skills

**After School Program** - for youth with special needs ages 3 to 22

**Camp Hope** - summer enrichment camp for youth with special needs ages 3 to 22

**Project Search** - employment readiness program for young adults with special needs

**Employment Services** - job search and employment assistance to individuals with special needs

**Discovery School** - preschool, kindergarten and lower elementary school for children needing a small, nurturing environment to learn, discover, and thrive

**Children First** - parenting and stabilization course for parents going through separation/divorce

**FAAST (Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology)** – free assistive technology lending library

**For information and scheduling call 904-346-5100 or at [www.hope-haven.org](http://www.hope-haven.org)**



## Counseling

Licensed mental health counselors provide mental health counseling to support children and families with a variety of issues such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, trauma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD), family conflict, social skills, divorce, autism, and developmental disabilities.

## Evaluations and Therapies

There are many reasons that children may struggle in school and there are often rival explanations for their difficulties including learning problems, attention problems, social/emotional problems, and/or behavioral problems. Areas of concern that we address include: Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, Down syndrome, Gifted/Intelligence Testing and Learning Disabilities including Dyslexia.

## Educational Advocacy

With so many paths to meeting your child's educational and enrichment needs, it can be overwhelming to navigate the options. Our educational advocates are skilled experts in the statutes and services available to persons with special needs. We can help you through the IEP process and advocate for your student's needs and accommodations.

## Tutoring Services

Hope Haven offers hourly tutoring using students' school texts and materials, tutor-selected supplemental materials, and educational computer programs. Experienced tutors are available for students of all ages, from preschoolers needing readiness skills to high-school students needing help in specific subject areas.

## Children First

Parent separation and divorce can put a huge strain on the entire family. To help your family navigate this difficult and sometimes painful process, Hope Haven offers a parent education and stabilization course called Children First.

## The Discovery School

At Hope Haven's Discovery School for Preschool, Kindergarten and lower elementary students, our team of highly qualified teachers and professionals will provide your child with an engaging, inclusive environment to learn, discover and thrive.

## After School Programs

At Hope Haven we understand that your child's needs for high-quality, supportive learning and enriching experiences continue after the school day ends. Our Hope After School program provides a safe, structured after-school setting for youth aged 3 to 22 with physical and/or developmental disabilities where they can learn, grow and have fun.

## Camps

Camp Hope provides a summer camp enrichment program for youth and young adults ages 3 – 22 with physical and/or developmental disabilities. Campers are grouped by age and need. The camp operates Mondays through Fridays during June and July providing traditional camp activities such as field trips, sports, and arts and crafts as well as meaningful skills development. Academic Day Camp is available as a morning session with campers joining Camp Hope for afternoon activities.

## Hope Academy-Project SEARCH

Hope Academy – Project SEARCH, a business-led collaboration, helps young adults with special needs develop job search skills through internships where they learn to gain and maintain employment.

## Employment Services

Hope Haven's Employment Services program provides job search and employment assistance to individuals with disabilities who want to find or keep a job.

## Alliance For Assistive Services and Technology, INC. (FAAST) Lending Library

Hope Haven's unique lending program helps maximize the potential in children and adults with disabilities through an extensive resource library of assistive technologies.



# Homework Anxiety: What You Need to Know



Does your child seem to spend more time worrying about homework than actually doing it? Homework anxiety can eat up a lot of time and energy. As bedtime looms closer, worries about having too much homework tend to snowball as kids have less and less time to get it done. A little bit of worry about homework can be used as fuel to help a child succeed: “I know this is hard, but I’m pretty sure I can do it.” But a lot of stress or anxiety can block learning by shutting down the parts of the brain that need to do the work.

Anxiety turns on the fear centers of the brain, and this may cause kids to see homework as something they should avoid. Homework anxiety can start in the earliest years of grade school. It can affect anyone. But it can be an especially big issue for kids with learning and attention issues.

## Ways to Help Reduce Homework Anxiety

As a parent, it can be exhausting trying to coax or nag your worried child to finally sit down and get started. If homework battles have become a nightmarish routine, it’s time to reach out to your child’s teacher or guidance counselor. You can work together to find out what it is about the homework that feels so overwhelming to your child.

## What Causes or Contributes to Homework Anxiety

Having a learning or attention issue like dyslexia or ADHD doesn’t automatically create anxiety. But here are some of the factors that can lead kids with these issues to become anxious about homework:

- ⇒ **Lack of accommodations:** Kids need to know or believe they can actually *do* the homework that’s assigned. If they don’t have a work-around (like “ear-reading” an audiobook), then they may feel anxious about having to do certain tasks.
- ⇒ **Falling behind peers:** When kids always feel like they’re behind in school, homework is just another hurdle to deal with. Doing the homework also probably won’t catch them up with their peers. This makes it even more likely that they’ll feel anxious about having to get through it.
- ⇒ **Test prep:** Homework that helps kids prepare for a test makes it sound very important. This can elevate stress levels, which can affect short-term and long-term memory. Some kids may respond to this kind of pressure by refusing to do test-related homework. This will give them an excuse if they fail: “I’m not stupid. I just forgot to do the homework.”
- ⇒ **Anxiety issues:** Kids with generalized anxiety disorder tend to worry about lots of things, and this can certainly get in the way during homework.
- ⇒ **Emotional regulation:** For some kids with ADHD and other issues who easily get flooded by emotions, homework can be a trigger for anxiety.
- ⇒ **Perfectionism:** Some kids with ADHD and other issues who excel in a subject may worry that their work “won’t be good enough.”

- ⇒ **Use class time to get started.** One way the teacher can help is by clearly connecting the new homework assignment to the work that is done in class. For example, the teacher can “prime the homework pump” by having students do the first two homework problems in class. Then, the teacher can point out that the rest of the problems are pretty much like the first two.
- ⇒ **Use rating scales.** This is a common strategy to help kids track their anxiety levels. You or the teacher can ask your child to look at the homework assignment and

Time	Difficulty	Ability
How long do you think this homework will take to complete? (Then help your child keep track of the time actually spent on homework.)	How hard do you think it will be for you to complete this homework? Use a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the easiest and 5 being the hardest.	How likely is it that you’ll be able to complete the assignment? Use a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 for “I’ll breeze through it” and 5 for “I don’t even know how to get started.”

Then the next day, you or the teacher can ask how accurate your child was in making these predictions. Ratings scales can help kids see that the assignment took less time and wasn’t as hard to complete as they thought it would be. They can also be part of a larger effort to help kids develop a growth mindset.

Rating scales can help if they’re only done at home, but they’re much more powerful if the school uses them, too. With practice, kids can learn to use rating scales on their own. Building this kind of self-awareness can help break the cycle of homework anxiety.

For kids with learning and attention issues, ratings scales can also give you and teachers insight on whether more instruction or support is needed. Communication is key. Parents and schools need to be very clear about how long they expect kids to spend on homework.

- ⇒ **Set time limits on homework.** Many schools use the “10-minute rule”—that’s 10 minutes per grade level. If your child doesn’t finish in that amount of time, send the teacher an email. Some teachers give parents a chart to take notes on how much time and effort their child put in. Reassure your child that it’s OK to stop working for the night. Help your child understand that sleep can affect how kids learn. Your child needs to be alert the next day to get schoolwork done. Sleep also plays a role in how kids cope with stress.

Source: [Understood.org](http://Understood.org)

Written by: Jerome Schultz, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist and lecturer in the Harvard Medical School Department of Child Psychiatry.



# Pedro Menendez High Movers and Shakers!



The Pedro Menendez Falcons received gold medals in basketball at the State Special Olympics in Tavares, FL on February 2nd.



## "Choose to Include"

Pedro Menendez High School now has 60 active members in their Best Buddies Program. Best Buddies is an international club that pairs students with intellectual disabilities with non-disabled peers in hopes of forming everlasting friendships. Buddies participate in monthly activities.

Submitted by: Kathleen Wolfe, ESE Teacher,  
Pedro Menendez High School



Ms. Wolfe and Mrs. Smith's art class created Valentine's Day art work inspired by the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky. The students painted 36 hearts using watercolors and layered the cutouts onto black poster board.



**FREE  
PROGRAM**

# **BROOKS REHABILITATION PEDIATRIC RECREATION**

The Pediatric Recreation Program provides a supportive environment for youth with physical and/or developmental disabilities to engage in recreation activities alongside their peers. Located throughout Jacksonville and St. Augustine area.

## **Recreation programs to focus on:**

- **Sports/Fitness**
- **Socialization**
- **Healthy Lifestyles**
- **Community Integration**
- **Education**
- **Family Respite**
- **Independence**



*“Promoting a sense of self-worth, belonging, and quality of life”*

**For more information:**

**(904) 345-7501 • [PediatricRecreation@brooksrehab.org](mailto:PediatricRecreation@brooksrehab.org)**

**BROOKS**  
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# BROOKS<sup>®</sup> Rehabilitation Pediatric Recreation

## Weekly Classes

<u><b>Aqua Challenge</b></u>	Fun, fitness and endurance pool class
<u><b>Aqua Play</b></u>	Comfort in water and social skills for younger kids
<u><b>Adapted Aquatics</b></u>	A Red Cross based learn to swim class
<u><b>Splash &amp; Dash</b></u>	Two-part land and water class
<u><b>Sports Explorers</b></u>	Each week kids will explore the basics of a new sport
<u><b>PAR Players</b></u>	Our Sports Explorers class modified for younger kids
<u><b>Brooks Kooking for Kids</b></u>	Kids will make a new recipe each week
<u><b>Brooks Krafty Kids</b></u>	Focuses on a new craft and following directions each week
<u><b>Pitch Perfect Peds</b></u>	Led by our music therapist – interactive songs and dances
<u><b>Tunes-N-Tots</b></u>	Interactive songs and dances for our younger kids
<u><b>Movers &amp; Groovers</b></u>	A dance class focused on coordination and body awareness
<u><b>Tiny Dancers</b></u>	Our Movers & Groovers class modified for younger kids
<u><b>Club PAR</b></u>	Social group for teens



To register please call (904) 345 - 7501 or  
email [PediatricRecreation@BrooksRehab.org](mailto:PediatricRecreation@BrooksRehab.org)  
3599 University Blvd S., Jacksonville FL 32216

**BrooksRehab.org**  
#WeAreBrooks     



# BROOKS<sup>®</sup> Rehabilitation Pediatric Recreation



## Special Events

### Parents Day Out

Games, activities and snacks are provided for children and siblings while parents can enjoy some free time

### Jump Back Into School

Enjoy a night of jumping at Pump at Up

### Brooks Lil' Putters

Partnering with our friends at the First Tee of North Florida kids can explore the basics of golf

### Horsin' Around at Hope

Hope Therapy provides us with a day on the farm to visit with horses and play fun games and activities

### Brooks On Ice

Kids of all ages and abilities can try out ice skating or sled hockey at this annual event

### Disney Dance Day

Crafts, movement games and learning to dance to hit Disney songs

### Wheelin' Warriors

A fitness and fun event for youth with mobility impairments

To register please call (904) 345 - 7501 or  
email [PediatricRecreation@BrooksRehab.org](mailto:PediatricRecreation@BrooksRehab.org)  
3599 University Blvd S., Jacksonville FL 32216

**BrooksRehab.org**

#WeAreBrooks    



# ESE PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is composed of parents, educators, administrators, business representatives, and other interested community members concerned with the education of students with disabilities.

The purpose of the committee is to provide information to parents and input to district staff regarding our ongoing effort to continuously improve services for students with disabilities.

Topic: GUARDIANSHIP: HOW TO BEST PROTECT YOUR CHILD  
WHEN HE OR SHE TURNS 18

Presenter: Stephen Furnari, Florida Attorney, Founder of Guardian Project.US

Date/Time: 05/07/19 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Location: Fullerwood Training Center - 10 Hildreth Drive St. Augustine, FL 32084

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# GIFTED PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Gifted Parent Advisory Council (GPAC) meets four times per year to exchange information between the community and the school district about ways in which we can improve our efforts in serving our gifted students. Learning opportunities are provided at each meeting.

Parents of K-12 gifted students from throughout the district are encouraged to come to all of the meetings.

Final date for 2018-19:

Tuesday, April 23

**Palm Valley Academy**

6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Media Center

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## Upcoming Events

### CARD/FDLRS Satellite Clinic – St. Johns County

**April 2, 9:00 A.M.-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: Cunningham Creek Elementary. To schedule an appointment please contact [chanel.baldwin@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:chanel.baldwin@jax.ufl.edu), (904)633-0816.

### Annual CARD Spring Fling 2019

**April 11, 5:30-8:00 P.M.,** You and your family are invited to the UF Neurodevelopmental Pediatric Center for an evening of fun and games at our annual Spring Fling event! Hunt for eggs. Play in the Game Rooms and win prizes. Shake your stuff in our Dance Theater. Enjoy crafts and other activities. Bring a camera and have your picture taken with The Easter Bunny or pick a design and have your face painted. All of this is available at no cost to the family. Please call (904) 633-0750 for more information.

### Kiddin' Around

A new program consisting of small group instruction which focuses on opportunities for social interaction with peers via board games and card games. Skill areas include: sharing the conversation, waiting, turn taking, giving compliments, accepting feedback, playing games fairly, oversharing of information, and making friends. Children must be between the ages of 8 and 12 and registered with CARD to participate. Sessions are offered twice monthly. All group meetings are held at the UF Health Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics Center, 6271 St. Augustine Rd, Suite 1, Jax, FL 32217. CARD is a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education. This grant funded program does not charge for its services. For more information contact [Chelsea.pierce@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:Chelsea.pierce@jax.ufl.edu).

### The Jericho School – Teaching Language to Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

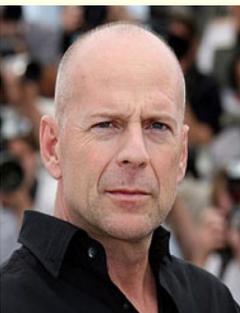
**April 11-12, 9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.,** A free 2-day parent workshop held at the UNF University Center. Participants will gain a greater awareness of Behavior Analysis as a Science of Learning. Participants will acquire the understanding and application of the basic principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. A focus will be on utilizing B.F. Skinner's analysis of Verbal Behavior to assist in the acquisition of language skills for children with developmental disabilities.

[www.thejerichoschool.org/community-outreach-program](http://www.thejerichoschool.org/community-outreach-program)

### CARD-FAU and CARD-USF: Online Tutorials and Trainings

Both the Florida Atlantic University CARD and the University of South Florida CARD have a variety of excellent tutorials and online trainings available for online viewing. Topics range from Toilet Training, Behavior Basics, and Using Visual Supports in the Home to Developing Leisure Skills and Enhancing Engagement in Science, and many, many more. The extensive list of online trainings for CARD-USF are available at:

<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/resources/training.html>



While the world knows Bruce Willis as an A-list actor, few know that he struggled with stuttering throughout his first 20 years. He occasionally discusses his past struggles with stuttering in both print and television interviews. Willis is quoted as saying, "I could hardly talk. It took me three minutes to complete a sentence. It was crushing for anyone who wanted to express themselves, who wanted to be heard and couldn't." Willis had a definite formula to conquer his stuttering by implementing a series of confidence building exercises encouraged by a school speech therapist. Willis' struggle with stuttering is inspirational. Unfortunately, it is rarely mentioned in interviews. However, by identifying himself as a person who stutters, Willis has an opportunity to put a human face on the daily struggle stuttering often represents.

Source: <https://www.stutteringhelp.org/bruce-willis-look-whos-talking>

Photo Credit: <http://www.meanstars.com/celebrity/bruce-willis/216>

The 21st ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ

HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO

FEATURING THE GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT ON DISABILITIES

JUNE 7-9, 2019  
Orlando, Florida

## The 21st Annual Family Café

This year's Annual Family Café is in Orlando on **June 7-9, 2019**. The Annual Family Café is the nation's largest cross-disability event and online registration is now open. The Family Café remains committed to connecting attendees with information and resources at minimal cost, so there is no registration fee for individuals with disabilities and their family members.

Since 1998, The Annual Family Café has brought together thousands of individuals with disabilities and their family members for three days of information, training and networking.

With a great range of individual breakout sessions, a packed exhibit hall with dozens of vendors, and a series of special events including keynote speakers and The Governors' Summit on Disabilities, The Annual Family Café offers families exposure to a wide range of public and private resources, opportunities to find support by networking with other families, and unprecedented access to policy-making officials.

For more information and to register, go to

<https://www.familycafe.net/>

### Important Dates

**Friday, April 19 — Student/Teacher Holiday**

**Friday, May 24—Last Day for Students**





**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/>

