



## PD WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES

### WELLNESS INSTITUTE OFFERINGS

Our **SCHOOL WELLNESS TEAM** includes yoga and mindfulness trainers, assistive technology specialists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists that focus on sensory integration in the classroom.

#### Topics include:

**MINDFULNESS:** Be Present to Learn

**MINDFULNESS** for Staff

**Yoga** – Flexible Minds, Flexible Bodies

**Resilience: Chaos to Calm** – Building Resilience in the Classroom

**Brain Health** - 5 to Thrive

**Using Technology to Promote Wellness**

**Sensory Regulation in the Classroom**

**Setting Up a Classroom that Promotes Wellness**

**Staff Wellness Retreat** (half-day option only)

### EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

#### Google Sites for the Classroom

The new Google Sites makes it easier than ever to create a beautiful website that looks good on every device. Learn how to create a website for your school or classroom to help you connect and communicate with students, parents, and fellow teachers or staff. We will walk through all the features of the new Google Sites and give you the opportunity to try them yourself while you build your very own website. Bring pictures and links that you'd like to include. Basic computer skills are needed but programming skills are not required

#### Setting up a Digital Classroom

Yes, it is here... even if you can't see it. It's in the minds of your students. This is the generation of the digital learner. Therefore, you need a digital classroom! Solutions will be presented for managing devices such as interactive boards, computers, ipads, and even mobile phones in the classroom setting!! Participants will learn various strategies to setup, manage, and implement digital devices in their classroom. The discussion will include popular cloud-based tools your students are already using in their personal

lives, such as twitter, instagram, facebook. Learn how to utilize them in the digital classroom for creativity, collaboration, and communication. For hands on participation, please bring your own iPad.

### **Differentiating Lessons with Google Tools**

In today's classroom creating digital differentiated lessons and assignments are a must and Google Apps have the tools you need! This workshop will explore the features and capabilities of Google apps including Classroom, Docs, Forms and more to create assignments that are leveled and provide choices for all learners. We will also investigate specific reading and writing supports to scaffold learning for individual students. Please make sure you have a Google account created before attending.

**Creating Accessible Worksheets and Handouts** Many of our special needs students require alternative access to traditional classroom materials. This session will focus on various tools and supports for creating accessible digital handouts and worksheets. This session is ideal for finding solutions for our students that may need to digitally complete their work rather than physically handwrite responses. iPad apps and computer based tools will be investigated.

**How AT Tools Can Help Differentiate Instruction** This workshop will explore technology tools and strategies to differentiate lessons across the curriculum. Participants will learn to identify specific features & capabilities of current technologies such as Google Apps and SMART Technologies, and to apply these tools to the content, process and product when developing lessons.

**Addressing Barriers to Learning through Assistive Technology** - Despite advancements in technology and the availability of computers and digital materials, barriers still exist that make it difficult for some students to learn. In this workshop, we will demonstrate how assistive technology tools and strategies can be used to create an authentic inclusive classroom.

**AAC Training for the Paraprofessional and/or Child Study Team** - introducing a variety of available communication systems and how to best facilitate their use.

**Chrome Extensions To Minimize Barriers to Learning** You're already a Google District and have access to all the great Google Apps for Education that's awesome! But did you know that you can use Chrome Extensions to personalize your students' learning experience to address many barriers to learning? Whether the issues are in reading, writing, focus, attention, or organization, there are apps that can help to level the playing field for students so they can be free to learn. Join us as we explore some of the amazing, mostly free, supports that are available on the Chrome Browser.

**iPad Apps for Your Self-Contained Classroom** - Do you teach in a self-contained classroom? Are you curious about new ways you can modify and adapt materials for your special needs students? Join us for a fun session to discuss awesome iPad apps to help you create adapted materials and engaging educational activities for your students. You will leave with the knowledge to create an iPad "toolbox" for your self-contained classroom. Please bring your iPad for a hands-on experience.

## **TRANSITION**

**Job coaching students to become successful in the community-** Learn how job coaches prepare students with specific disabilities to enter the community and the work environment. Job coaches will identify best practices and tools to meet the needs of individual students.

**Supporting and Empowering Families through the Transition Process** Learn about the necessary transition steps that families should be aware of and follow up with in order to identify options and resources for graduating students and how to bring Person-Centered practices to the school as part of students' transition plans. This workshop will provide information on improving post-school outcomes for students with disabilities and their families.

**Utilizing NJCAN (NJ Career Assistance Navigator) and Transition Portfolios to Involve Students in the Transition Process.**

NJCAN is NJ's free, web-based career guidance system. Participants will learn how to navigate the NJCAN site, and how to use its tools to address the vocational goals of special education students. Physical classroom portfolios will also be displayed and discussed by both presenters and student.

**Utilizing Person Centered Approaches as part of transition planning** – Learn how to bring Person-Centered practices to the school as part of students' transition plans. This workshop will provide information on improving post-school outcomes for students with disabilities through the utilization of a person-centered approach in the classroom and community. Hear directly from a student about his involvement in the process and how it has assisted him in making informed choices about his future.

**Post-Secondary Transition: What Do I Do, How Do I Do It?** The transition into a post-secondary education can be overwhelming and quite confusing for any student and his or her family. Now, add special education and accommodations into that whirlwind of a process. During this session, we will explore the different types of programs and services that are made available to students at the collegiate level of education. We will also identify the processes and objectives associated with obtaining accommodations and supports in post-secondary education. Finally, we will be discussing the best methods that can be utilized when working collaboratively with the CST and students' families to achieve post-secondary goals.

## **EDUCATIONAL TOOLS/STRATEGIES**

**Strategies to Enhance Students' Attention and Focus -** Understand how Visual perceptual and visual motor skills are core foundations that a student requires to be actively engaged in their school environment. Topics will include ocular motor foundation skills, and vision and how it relates to other sensory systems.

### **Is the student available to learn? - Tapping into sensory systems to facilitate school readiness**

Occupational therapist will discuss the why's and how's of our sensory systems and its impact on student's school readiness ("alert system"), executive functioning (organizational skills), and overall participation in the classroom. Attendees will learn how occupational therapists can be used as a consultant to complement their child study team when there is a student who learns "differently" or who may be struggling. Participants will be provided with a general list of suggestions and have the opportunity to try out materials during this interactive session.

### **Thinking Back, Looking Ahead - How did Covid-19 Challenge our Students' Sensory Processing**

This workshop will identify any number of challenges our students have faced during this period that we may be looking to address. These may include sensory challenges, behavioral challenges/school readiness issues, physical challenges (gross and fine motor, endurance) and writing issues.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING/WELLNESS**

### **Mindfulness: Be Present to Learn**

Mindfulness is being embraced by educators in order to address the "whole" child. Exciting neuroscience research shows that mindful practice actually rewires the brain's reaction to external stimuli and fires up the areas of the brain responsible for learning and memory, rational thinking, and empathy. Participants will receive an overview of how both, staff and students, can utilize MINDFULNESS PRACTICES in order to:

- Decrease Stress and Anxiety
- Promote Emotional Regulation
- Strengthen Interpersonal Skills
- Improve Attention and Focus
- Improve Cognitive Outcomes

### **Flexible Mind - Flexible Body: Yoga in the Classroom**

Understand how yoga can calm, focus, and energize your classroom. Develop methods to provide therapeutic yoga to your students and learn therapeutic exercises and yoga postures that you can use the next day! Participate in a hands-on sensory yoga lab! (Please wear comfortable clothing)

## **DYSLEXIA**

### **Dyslexia for Educators**

This professional development workshop is designed specifically for educators who are required to fulfill two hours of instruction on screening, intervention, accommodations, and the use of technology for students with reading disabilities, including dyslexia. The comprehensive nature of this workshop will provide educators with an in-depth analysis of dyslexia, its effects on learning, and classroom strategies using evidence-based interventions. It will focus on early identification of the disorder by recognizing key features, diagnosis based on specific areas of assessment, and research-based instructional methodologies to increase reading skills. Participants will have access to a host of technology and educational resources to assist them in providing help to struggling readers.

### **Dyslexia, an Occupational Therapist's perspective on how we can support students**

Dyslexia is a specific neurobiological learning disability that is defined as a deficit in the phonological component of language. It challenges word recognition, decoding, reading, spelling and writing. Participants will gain an understanding of the role occupational therapists can play in supporting children who are dyslexic in terms of developing related skills.

### **Assistive Technology tools to support Dyslexia**

Many of our students are struggling with learning disabilities and Dyslexia is one of the most common. Come see how to use web tools, the Google environment, apps, and extensions to support the learner's reading and writing skills. There are many free supports available now!

### **OTHER:**

### **UDL: Planning Instruction to Help All Learners Develop into Expert Learners**

- Learn to apply the concept of universal design to the learning process by developing, designing, and delivering instruction and material that makes learning more accessible to all students.
- Focus on the principles of UDL, flexible curriculum to remove barriers to academic success, learner variability in the classroom, and comprehensive use of technology.
- Discover how a UDL designed classroom, based on findings of recent brain research, operates.

Contact us for additional information:

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