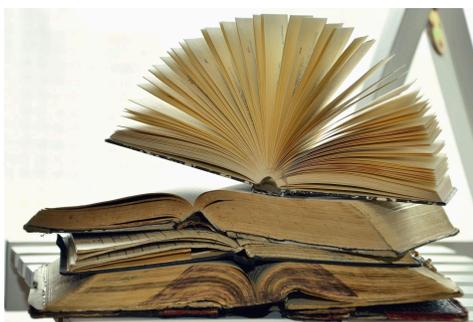


MERS PARENT UNIVERSITY

Connecting Home, School and Community for Student Success

*A Collaboration Between
The Manalapan Englishtown Education Association,
The Manalapan-Englishtown Administrators/Supervisors Association,
The Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Board of Education,
our Parent-Teacher Organizations, and our Community*



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The entire MERS staff is proud to present our 8th Annual Parent University event!

Initially launched in 2016 as part of our American Education Week outreach, Parent University is designed to help parents/guardians gain a better understanding of the curriculum in our schools/classrooms and provide you with the tools and strategies to support your child's learning and growth at home.

This brochure contains information about all of the **FREE**, informative, and engaging workshops that will be offered on November 20, 2024 at Wemrock Brook School.

Please review this brochure and select the workshops that interest you. Then, register for the workshops of your choice by clicking on the link below. It's that simple!

We look forward to another amazing and informative evening, as we continue to strengthen our home/school partnership.

To register for workshops, click [HERE](#).

November 20, 2024

Wemrock Brook School
118 Millhurst Road, Manalapan

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Session Times*

Session 1 – 6:45pm-7:15pm

Session 2 – 7:30pm-8:00pm

**Special Session - 6:45pm-7:45pm (one workshop only)

PARENT UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

November 20, 2024
Wemrock Brook School
(DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM)

Session Topics

#1—An Introduction to the Nurtured Heart Approach for Parents—Presenter: J. LoGatto, School Counselor (Audience: Parents of PreK – 8th Graders - THIS IS A ONE HOUR WORKSHOP THAT SPANS BOTH SESSIONS. ROOM: WB Cafeteria

This workshop will provide an introduction to the Nurtured Heart Approach, which is a set of strategies that help children use their intensity (which can lead to behaviors) in successful ways and with an energy that builds self-esteem/self-worth, rather than shame and self-doubt. The NHA is an approach that was originally designed to heal challenging and intense children, but has been found to help all children flourish. This workshop will help parents to implement strategies of NHA at home.

****All of the workshops below are 30 minutes in length and are offered in session 1 and session 2.****

#2—How to Support Your Child in Becoming a More Fluent Reader: Bridging the Gap Between Accurate Word Reading and Comprehension - Presenters: H. Schulz, RTI Interventionist, M. Wind, Literacy Coach (Audience: Parents of 1st-3rd Graders) ROOM 107

Fluency is the ability to read a text with automatic word recognition, appropriate expression and phrasing, and at an appropriate rate. It is the critical link between word decoding and comprehension. Fluency develops gradually over time and with practice. At this workshop, you will learn easy, engaging ways support your child's fluency at home and leave with hands-on resources.

#3- Childhood, Parenting, and the Internet —Presenter: M. Fiorillo, MEMS Principal (Audience: Parents of K-5th Graders) ROOM 124

All indicators of children's mental health have plummeted precipitously since 2010. This includes staggering increases in anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideations. This workshop aims to give parents the information they will need to make decisions on how the internet, cell phones, and technology in general can fit into their child's life.

#4—Sensational Sight Words! - Presenters: L. Nortman, RTI Reading Intervention Coach & C. Botti, Special Education Teacher (Audience: Parents of K-2nd Graders) ROOM 125

What are sight words? What are the differences between sight words and high frequency words? How are these skills being taught in the classroom? How can I help my child at home? During this session, we will answer these questions and provide you with engaging, hands-on activities, so you can help your child at home with this essential component of reading.

#5—STEM Solutions: Super Simple Home Activities — Presenters: J. Britton & S. Hanson, Enrichment Teachers (Audience: Parents of K-5th Graders) ROOM 121

Join us for an engaging workshop designed for parents who are eager to spark their child's curiosity in science, technology, engineering, and math! We will guide you through a hands-on STEM project that is simple, affordable, and perfect for all ages. Discover how everyday materials can be transformed into exciting experiments and creative challenges, fostering problem-solving skills and teamwork. You will leave with a toolkit of ideas to inspire learning at home. Let's make STEM a part of your family's everyday adventures!

#6— Steps to Helping Your Child Succeed in Math — Presenter: A. Giuca, RTI Math and Reading Intervention Teacher (Audience: Parents of 1st-5th Graders) ROOM 130

This presentation will provide parents with tools to help their child succeed in math. The session will focus on the following areas:

1. Fact Practice: Facts are the building blocks for math. Strategies, including both low tech and high tech, will be provided to assist students in having a fluent and automatic recall of their basic facts.
2. Word Problems: Helpful strategies for assisting students in solving and interpreting word problems and determining an operation to solve them.
3. Homework Help: Demonstrating and providing different ways to assist students in their homework. We will use the "Another Look" video provided by Savvas to assist when students have difficulty completing their homework.

#7—What to Expect at an IEP Meeting — Presenter: L. Reiser, Supervisor of Special Education (Audience: Parents of PreK-8th Graders) ROOM 106

This workshop will detail the process of IEP development and parent involvement, including specific recommendations for parents on how to be active participants.

#8—Math Technology Resources for Parents – Presenters: J. LaGregor & D. Wilmot, MEMS Math Teachers (Audience: Parents of 6th-8th Graders) ROOM 101 (Computer Lab)

This workshop will provide parents with instructions on how to access and navigate student and parent resources including IXL, Google Classroom, and Genesis.

#9—Managing and Preparing for the Transition to High School —Presenter: J. Tumbleson, MEMS Teacher/Coach (Audience: Parents of 7th-8th Graders) ROOM 129

Does the thought of being a parent of a middle schooler generate questions about their success and transition to high school? If that is the case, this is the workshop for you. Taking 20+ years of teaching middle school and being a parent who has lived the experience, this workshop will offer insight on developing positive work behaviors, student expectations, the role of the parent, and fostering academic independence as 7th and 8th graders prepare for the transition to high school. This workshop is designed specifically for parents of 7th and 8th graders, especially those who have never experienced the process; however, all are welcome.

#10—Supporting Student Success: Sensemaking Tools for Families—Presenter: M. Pellizzari, Middle School Science Teacher (Audience: Parents of K - 8th Graders) ROOM 123

In this workshop we will explore strategies to support your child's critical thinking and sensemaking skills. This session will highlight the vital role you play in your child's education! You will learn practical and effective questioning techniques, how to model thinking processes, and how to create meaningful connections to everyday experiences. Engage in interactive discussions and leave with valuable resources to enhance your child's understanding and enthusiasm for learning!

#11—Developing and Strengthening Time Management & Study Skills –Presenter: L. Daccurso, MEMS Social Studies Teacher (Audience: Parents of 5th - 8th Graders) ROOM 102

A presentation for parents/guardians interested in learning strategies to help students who are transitioning to middle school or who are currently attending middle school. The presenter will share resources to assist with effective time management and study skills so that students gain greater control over time and work with more confidence while mastering their everyday tasks and responsibilities.

#12—Achieve 3000 Program Review — Presenter: L. Gervasi, Achieve 3000 Representative (Audience: Parents of 3rd - 8th Graders) ROOM: WB Media Center

Achieve3000 Literacy is designed to help students build literacy across content areas and strengthen reading. Achieve3000 Literacy's digital solution reaches all students one-on-one, at their individual reading levels, to accelerate learning, boost high-stakes test performance and prepare them for college and career. An Achieve3000 Specialist will review the program and provide you with strategies and techniques to have meaningful conversations with your children about the texts that they read. You will learn different ways to engage your child in what they are learning and learn how to monitor your child's academic progress.

#13—Mental Health Supports at MERS—Presenter: A. Perez, Supervisor of Special Education (Audience: Parents of PreK – 8th Graders) ROOM: 108

Discussion on the continuum of mental health supports available in our district.

#14—Parental Rights in Special Education—Presenter: G. Petillo, Director of Pupil Personnel Services (Audience: Parents of PreK – 8th Graders) ROOM: 109

Learn more about your rights throughout the special education process including the evaluation, eligibility and classification process. This workshop will inform you about common terminology, acronyms and due process procedure.

#15—How to Support Your Anxious Child 101—Presenter: R. Waller, School Social Worker (Audience: Parents of PreK – 8th Graders) ROOM: 126

In this workshop participants will be presented with information about anxiety and how it works including physical symptoms. Parents will learn how to handle anxiety and learn what to say when anxiety inevitably shows up.

#16—HELP! Homework Strategies for the Elementary School Parent — Presenter: T. Tozzi, Elementary School Teacher (Audience: Parents of 1st-5th Graders) ROOM 127

This presentation will provide parents with tools to help their child with homework.

#17—Middle School Survival Guide — Presenter: T. Lehmann, MEMS Teacher, M. Reid, MEMS Assistant Principal (Audience: Parents of 5th-8th Graders) ROOM 128

In this presentation we will go over key factors to a student's success while offering some perspective and goals at home to foster the best environment for our growing students.

#18—Enhancing Reading Comprehension: Fiction – Presenter: M. Zofrea, RTI Intervention Teacher (Audience: Parents of 1st-5th Graders) ROOM 103

Does your child struggle with holding on to the big ideas of stories? This workshop will focus on utilizing strategies for comprehending fictional text in the intermediate grades. This workshop will provide hands-on activities and offer take-away resources that can be used at home.

To register for workshops, click [HERE](#).

Special Thanks to...

...all of our dedicated **TEACHERS** who have given their time as **workshop presenters and staff volunteers**; without their enthusiastic participation this event would not be possible.

...**Rebecca Seery**, Principal of Wemrock Brook School, for welcoming the event into Wemrock Brook School, arranging the room assignments, and securing all of our workshop needs.

... **Dr. Santora, Jodi Pepchinski**, and the **Board of Education** for their continued support.

...**Anthony Bergamino, Jessica Britton, Monica Fiorentino, Simon Nortman** and the entire **MEEA** for supporting this event in every way possible.

...the **MERS Administrative Team** for their assistance in every area, from presenting workshops to volunteering.

...our **parent organizations** for spreading the word about the event and offering their assistance.

... **ALL of the parents** who sign up, attend, and help make this event a success.

Thank you ALL for your support of this endeavor!

–Jodi Pepchinski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Human Resources

–Kerry Marsala, Principal, Taylor Mills School