



Welcome Parents to SPARK!

SPARK meetings are designed to give parents information to help them in their current and future steps of the journey of parenting children with *unique needs*. As parents, we guide and make decisions for our children and their development. The task can be overwhelming and we want nothing more than to be as informed as we can be when we set the course we believe our child should take. The **SPARK** committee and District 15 are grateful to have you and desire to serve you such that your journey is successful!

At **SPARK** we realize the importance of providing:

- Relevant programs and resources related to special education
- Opportunities to network, receive support and help
- Connections for parents with outside sources

The above are primarily accomplished at the district level through evening programs with district and outside speakers. We have **SPARK** representatives at each school who are a local contact and resource to the individual school families. We also have a Facebook online support group to share resources and offer encouragement. If you would like to join this group, send a request to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1688046171274344/>

SPARK will be meeting monthly for the 2020-2021 school year. Please see the **reverse side** of this flyer for the meeting dates and topics. Our meetings typically take place in the District Board Room (unless noted otherwise) at:

Walter R. Sundling Junior High School
1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine, IL 60067
7:00 – 8:30 pm

The programs can also be found on the District 15 website: www.ccsd15.net under Resources.
If you would like to be contacted by or connected with **SPARK**, contact
Orenza Jaske at ojaske@gmail.com

Due to COVID-19, ALL FALL meetings will take place virtually.
Please join our Facebook group referenced above for the most up-to-date information on meeting locations, virtual links and other changes.
In addition, links to meetings/changes will be posted at www.ccsd15.net as they become available.
Please contact Orenza at ojaske@gmail.com with any questions.

SPARK Program Calendar 2020-2021 School Year

Wednesday, August 26th at 1pm: Virtual IEP Webinar

Catherine Whitcher, MEd, Special Education Coach and Founder of the Online IEP Help Center will be joining us virtually. Catherine has set up a special time for SPARK. More details are to follow as the date gets closer. Please note the change in day and time. You can submit your questions ahead of time to ojaske@gmail.com prior to August 26th. Also the webinar will be recorded to view later if you are unable to attend.

Monday, September 28th: Meet & Greet with Ann Scully VIRTUAL

Meet Ann Scully, our new Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. Ann will be giving us an overview of District 15's Student Services programs as well as answering questions. Join us! There will also be a brief presentation from Special Gifts Theatre.

Monday, October 19th: Emotional & Sensory Self-Regulation VIRTUAL

Come learn about the Zones of Regulation (www.zonesofregulation.com). Lara Kowalski, LCSW, school social worker and Anne Bosslet, OTR/L school occupational therapist from Marion Jordan Elementary School will be our guests. Emotional and Sensory Regulation are critically important for kids and adults, not only to be ready to learn but also to be able to successfully engage in cooperative activities with other people. Lara and Anne will give an overview of the curriculum, the four different Zones, and ways to use the concepts and curriculum throughout the day. They will also offer modifications to the curriculum to meet the needs of a variety of learning styles.

Monday, November 16th: What About Me? Siblings of Children with Disabilities VIRTUAL

Julie Fanning LCSW owner of Holding Hope Services in West Dundee will be joining us again to discuss this very important but often overlooked topic. Being a sibling of a child with disability can be challenging. There are positives and negatives. Julie will discuss how to support siblings and resources available to assist them.

Monday, January 25th: Is It Sensory or Is It Behavior?

Dr. Angie Harisiadis, OTD, OTR/L, owner of In2great Pediatric Therapy in Buffalo Grove, will be presenting. In this workshop she will give you the opportunity to 1) better understand the 8 individual sensory systems; 2) improve your understanding of your child's sensory profile; 3) gain insight on how each sensory system can influence your child's behavior; 4) learn strategies that can help prevent/better handle some of the "behaviors" that have sensory basis while simultaneously improve your child's awareness. Challenging behaviors can stem from many places. You will have a better understanding of sensory processing challenges at the end of this meeting.

Monday, February 22nd: ADHD, Executive Functioning & Related Disorders

Amber Rakoczy, LCSW co-owner of Lakeview Counseling Services in Crystal Lake will be our guest. ADHD is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders of childhood. ADHD can have a major impact on executive functioning. Trouble with executive function can make it hard to focus, follow directions, and handle emotions, among other things. Amber will discuss common issues those with ADHD have with executive functioning. She will also talk about executive functioning and related disorders.

Monday, March 15th: Neurological Foundations: Assessment & Treatment

Dr. Suzanne Joseph, Doctor of Physical Therapy from Hands On Health Manual & Physical Therapy Services, LLC, offices in Naperville and Inverness, will join us. New research demonstrates the strong ability the nervous system has at any age to heal and further develop. Research also supports the need for specific therapies that mimic the way we originally learned. This presentation will show techniques to assist the nervous system to advance no matter what the challenge or development stage.

Monday, April 19th: Planning for Summer

Samantha Baker, BCBA & Director of ABA Delivery at By Your Side in Schaumburg will be with us. As school is wrapping up, we will learn about the importance of visuals, schedules and routines for those with various special needs, from ADHD to Autism.