



THE PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS
PARENT MENTORS



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WHAT IS A PARENT MENTOR?

- An Olentangy parent of a child with special needs.
- Has **experience navigating** the special education system.
- Helps parents **understand and obtain services** for students.
- Helps the schools understand **family perspective** and foster **relationships**.



THE VISION

School Districts choose to implement the **Parent Mentor Program** to promote necessary and effective **communication** by providing **information and support** to families about special education issues and providing a mechanism to convey the **family perspective** back to the system.



THE PURPOSE

To help parents of children with disabilities effectively navigate the educational system in **partnership** with the school district personnel, with the expectation that **students with disabilities** be ensured an **appropriate and meaningful education**.



FUNDING

Parent Mentors of Ohio is the Ohio Parent Mentor Project, **sustained by state, federal, and other funds** and managed by:



**Ohio Coalition for the Education
of Children with Disabilities**

Parent Mentors are in place to provide the necessary **support and resources, free of charge**, to families of children with disabilities and the professionals who serve them.



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARENT MENTOR?

Shelly Frederick

Preschool and Elementary Families

shelly_frederick@olsd.us

(614) 332-5269

[Bio](#)



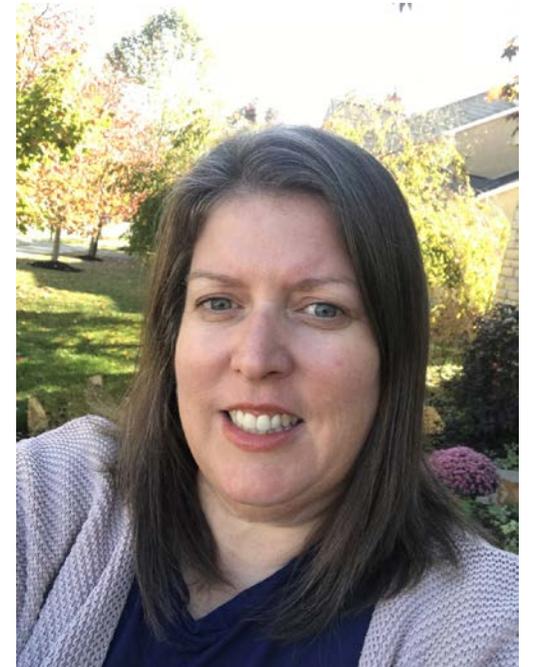
Fran Gardner

Middle and High School Families

fran_gardner@olsd.us

(614) 332-6868

[Bio](#)



HOW CAN YOUR PARENT MENTOR HELP YOU?

- Bridging - **communication**, collaborative **partnerships**, and **conflict resolution**
- Guiding families through the special education process, helping to understand rights and responsibilities. **Attending meetings** at the request of parents or staff.
- **Training** - workshops, training and support groups based on needs of families and professionals in the community.
- **Community resources** - understanding district programs and support services outside of school, like Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities, therapy providers, adapted activities, and opportunities for relationship building

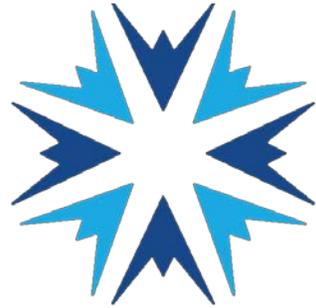


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Check out the [Parent Mentor Program](#) on the Olentangy Schools website under the Pupil Services Department for more information on the program, [past newsletters](#), and trainings available.
- The Parent Mentors also have a [Schoolology group for parents called Parents with Voices](#) that all parents are welcome to join. Contact your Parent Mentor for more information.
- Monthly Parent Mentor Newsletters are emailed to all parents (with emails listed in PowerSchool) who have a child with an IEP or a Section 504 plan.
- Virtual trainings for parents, called the [Parent Information Series](#), are housed on the website and emailed to parents with the newsletters when available.
- We will resume Meet Ups with the children when it is safe to do so. We plan to soon begin hosting Virtual Coffee Chats with parents.



We welcome your feedback on training topics, support group needs, or other resources and connections we can provide for you.



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THANK YOU