

Specialized Learning

MONTHLY

Issue 001

September 8, 2023

Strengthening the home-school partnership leads to student success

Study after study supports that a key ingredient leading to student success is a strong partnership between a child's family and the school's educators. This is especially true of our students with specialized learning needs. The individualized education plan (IEP) team should work collaboratively and with parity to develop a plan that all team members believe can help support a student's success. At MOT Charter, we believe we have a critical role in applying family input to support student success. We also believe that it is our duty to educate parents in how they can be ready to take part in the IEP process, as well as support their child(ren) at home.



At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.



~ James D. Hull



The first step: Connection through communication

At MOT, we value connection through open communication. Our teachers and specialists will connect with families through email, phone calls, and parent input surveys to learn more about your child and share about your student's learning profile here at school.

Preparing Parents and Guardians

We know that the IEP process can be overwhelming for families, and we would like to help families feel prepared to be equal partners in their child's IEP meeting. Your knowledge and insight about your child are vital to the IEP process. Each month, we hope to provide helpful resources and strategies for our families through our specialized learning newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions!
April Lomas - april.lomas@mot.k12.de.us

Specialized Learning

MONTHLY

Issue 001

September 8, 2023

Strategies for a successful start to the school year

We have found that our students with special needs often benefit from routine and structure, especially when it comes to school. In the classroom, we use visual schedules, checklists, timers, and/or agendas to help guide students to independence in the classroom routines and work habits. These are tools you can use at home, too, to help your child develop skills that will foster success each school year. All children (and adults!) benefit from knowing what to expect. Schedules and checklists can simplify getting out of the door for school in the morning, as well as guiding a positive evening routine for homework and bedtime. Please check out the links below for resources and printables about creating routines to help your child transition into a successful school year!



Helpful Links

Please feel free to reach out for support to implement any of the ideas you find below!



- Guide for Parents - [Promoting Learning and Positive Behavior at Home](#)
- Article - [Routines for Special Needs Children](#)
- Article for Older Students - [Prioritize & Organize With These Planner Pointers](#)
- Links to Free Printables for Schedules-[Free Visual Schedule Printables to Help Kids with Daily Routines](#)

Specialized Learning

MONTHLY

Issue 001

September 8, 2023

Staff Spotlight

Mrs. Lomas has been an educator at MOT Charter School since 2003. She began as a classroom teacher in special education for grades K-4 and then moved into the role of 5th-grade math teacher for several years. In 2020, Mrs. Lomas transitioned into her current role as the educational diagnostician at MOT K-8 building. She helps families, students, and teachers navigate the special education process. Mrs. Lomas enjoys working with teachers and families to find strategies that support success for all students. Outside of school, Mrs. Lomas loves spending time with her family, watching college football (Go Blue!), listening to music, and spending time outdoors.



April Lomas

Jenna Camponelli



Mrs. Camponelli joined the MOT Charter staff in 2017 as a 5th-grade inclusion teacher and has been an educator since 2006. She then transitioned into a leadership role as acting Director of Special Education at both the K-8 and High school campuses. Currently, Mrs. Camponelli serves as Director of Learning Support for grades K-12. In this role, Mrs. Camponelli oversees the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) programming, as well as the special education services provided in all grades. It is her passion to work with teachers and staff towards success for all students in their classrooms. When not supporting staff and students at MOT, Mrs. Camponelli likes to spend her time exercising, swimming in her pool, and spending time with her family.