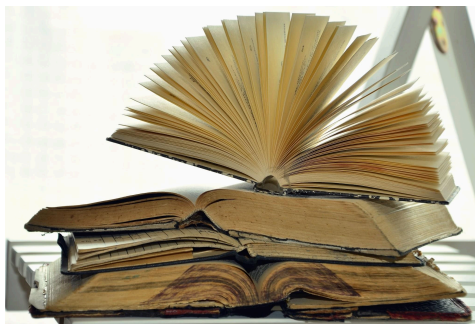


MERS PARENT UNIVERSITY

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,
and our Community*



We're excited to invite you to the 9th Annual MERS Parent University!

Initially launched in 2016 during American Education Week, *Parent University* was created to bring families and schools together in a shared goal—supporting every child's success. This event gives parents and guardians the chance to learn more about what's happening in our classrooms, discover helpful strategies to support learning at home, and connect with the educators who make it all happen.

Inside this brochure, you'll find details about all of the **FREE**, engaging, and hands-on workshops being offered on Thursday, **November 20, 2025**.

Take a few minutes to look through the sessions and choose the ones that interest you most. Then simply click the registration link below to sign up—it's that easy!

We look forward to another wonderful evening of learning, connection, and partnership with our MERS families!

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

November 20, 2025

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

Session Topics

****Special Session: 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 (6:45-7:45pm). 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 (6:45pm-7:15pm) and Session 2 (7:30pm-8:00pm).****

#1- 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.

#2—From Data to Growth: How Teachers Use Assessments to Support Your Child - Presenters: G. De la Paz, Special Education Coach, A. DePinho, School Psychologist (Audience: Parents of K-8th Graders, Focus on Special Education Data) ROOM 107

Have you ever wondered how teachers use test scores, classroom assessments, and progress checks to shape what happens in the classroom? In this session, we'll explore how assessment data is used to guide instruction and support student learning. We will share how teachers interpret data, make instructional decisions, and personalize learning to meet the unique needs of every child. Parents will also gain practical strategies to help their children prepare at home for both everyday classroom assessments and high-stakes or benchmark tests. By the end of the session, families will see that data is more than just numbers—it's a roadmap for helping every student grow and thrive.

#3— Supporting Your Child in ST Math – Presenters: B. Reese, ST Math Representative (Audience: Parents of K - 5th Graders) ROOM 126

ST Math is a wordless, visual, schema-based instructional program that students work on at their own pace. The program utilizes puzzles to build deep conceptual understanding. Join our session to learn more about how to support your child in using ST Math at home.

#4—Sensational Sight Words! Helping Your Child at Home - 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 1st-5th Graders) ROOM 121

Join us for an informative and engaging workshop designed for parents 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 transform into exciting experiments and creative challenges. Additionally, we will test your problem-solving skills and teamwork using puzzles. 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—Bridging the Gap Between Decoding, Fluency and Comprehension – Presenter: J. Levine & M. Zofrea, RTI Intervention Teachers (Audience: Parents of 3rd-5th Graders) ROOM 103

This workshop will focus on how decoding and fluency impact reading comprehension and how to support all three areas of reading.

#7—Prompting & Fostering Independence: All About the Prompt Hierarchy — Presenter: P. Halpern, Special Education Teacher (Audience: Parents of PreK-8th Graders, Focus on Special Education LLD and MD Classrooms) ROOM 106

Learn how teachers foster independence through the types of prompts and the hierarchy used in the classroom to support your child. You will also learn how you can carry them over in the home, and in daily life for things like homework, chores, or daily activities.

#8—Math Technology Resources for Parents – Presenters: J. Halko & 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, Genesis and Savvas.

#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—Achieve 3000 Program Review — Presenter: L. Gervasi, Achieve 3000 Representative (Audience: Parents of 3rd-8th Graders) ROOM: 123

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.

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

This workshop will cover information on what constitutes an act of HIB based on the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, the investigative process, as well as the continuum of mental health supports available in our district.

#12—Behavior Management at Home—Presenter: S. Shamin, BCBA (Audience: Parents of PreK – 8th Graders) ROOM: 109

This workshop will cover the basics of behavior, understanding why behavior occurs and strategies to change the behavior

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.
- ...**Kyle Rizzolo**, Custodial Supervisor at Wemrock Brook School, and his custodial staff for making sure that every room is ready.
- ...**Billy Moore**, Computer Technician at Wemrock Brook, for ensuring that we are wired and ready for every presentation.
- ... **Dr. Santora, Jodi Pepchinski**, and the **Board of Education** for their continued support.
- ...**Elizabeth Ruppel, 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, Supervisor of Science & Social Studies