



# SPECIAL & GIFTED EDUCATION PARENT GROUP MEETING

May 20, 2025

# AGENDA FOR TONIGHT

- **Year End Recap**
- **Discuss next steps forward**



# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the OJR Special & Gifted Education Parent Group (SAGE) is to promote the understanding, respect, support, and inclusion of all neurodiverse children in the OJR community's special education and gifted education programs.

Through celebration and acknowledgment of each child's unique abilities and individual progress, we strive to foster an environment that values and respects their diverse journeys.

We are parent-driven and parent-led.

The goal of SAGE is to look at "systemic issues" – that is, challenges and opportunities that affect larger groups of students.

# September

- Introduction of the SAGE team
- Pupil Services Presentation
  - Detailed overview of the Pupil Services team (and resources) that fall under Dr. Bentman
  - Overview of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
  - Overview of Pupil Services Department Goals
  - Excellent feedback from parents & plan to present again

# October

- ✓ Presentation by OJR School Psychologist, Dr. Brian Schneider:  
Developing Executive Skills in Children and Adolescents
  - Defined executive functioning
  - Shared a framework of executive skills
  - Explained developmental considerations & individual differences
  - Shared two general approaches to help support executive skill development as well as a few practical examples
  - Shared steps on how to address bigger challenges

# November

- **Presentation about High School Courses for Advanced Learners**
  - **Walked through the course selection timeline**
  - **Brief overview of course offerings like AP, IB, Honors, Dual Enrollment, etc.**
  - **Shared how GPA is calculated**
  - **Overview of the Gifted Enrichment Elective**
  - **Explanation of advanced learner resources offered**

# January

- ✓ Resource Exchange
  - Academic
  - Sports
  - Music
  - Other Activities
  - Community Support

# February

- **Presentation on Possibility Development by Mike Nakkula**
- **5 step model**
  - **Exploration of Interest**
  - **Prioritizing Interests**
  - **Planning**
  - **Action**
  - **Assessment**

# March

- ✓ Presentation on Post Secondary Planning by Megin Nuding, HS Counselor College
  - Comprehensive presentation on the large events that OJR hosts: Trade and Technical School Day, College Fair, Reality Fair, Financial Aid Night, etc.
  - Insight into the Individual Student Planning
  - Shared trends and important information such as importance of campus visits, etc.
- ✓ Student Transitions by Melody Nay, Transition Coordinator
  - Shared the interview process for students
  - Shared resources and information

# April

- **Presentation about Sensory Information and Mental Health Support**
  - **Meeting the needs of the Whole Child**
  - **Explanation of Sensory Processing Skills and why they are important**
  - **Details about the varying sensory systems we have**
  - **Explanation of what a Sensory Processing Disorder is and what it presents as**
  - **Shared self regulation strategies according to our varying sensory systems**

# FUTURE for SAGE

**What do we want SAGE to look like next year?**

- Continue meeting parents interests and availability (Zoom)**
  - Growing involved membership**
    - Additional topics to explore?**
      - Leadership**



# Tentative Schedule 25–26

Date	Topic
September 18, 2025	Overview of SAGE and the Pupil Services Department and Acronym Bingo
October 16, 2025	Middle School Gifted Overview and Gifted Topic?
November 13, 2025	Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey
January 22, 2026	Transitions ES-MS, MS-HS, HS to Post Secondary, Agency Support
February 12, 2026	Digital Citizenship
March 19, 2026	Student Assistance Program and Crisis Response
April 16, 2026	Recap of the year

THANK YOU!