



Great Minds Parent Academy 2026

Program Descriptions

SESSION 1 (9:50 - 10:20 AM)

1. Dyslexia and The Reading Brain

Why is learning to read so difficult for some kids? Why does it not just come naturally like it does for other kids? Introduction into what neuroscience tells us about how children learn to read, and what that means for supporting students with dyslexia.

Location: Blue 1

Presenter: Ryan Masa, *Head of School*

2. The Emotional Side of Learning Differences

Learning differences affect more than academics—they can shape all parts of their lives. Children often expend tremendous, unseen energy keeping up or hiding what is difficult, while parents wrestle with when to push, support, or step back. This session explores what may lie beneath behaviors such as avoidance, perfectionism, and shutting down, while offering practical strategies to build accountability, and independence. Parents will leave with greater insight into their child—and themselves—and tools to help their child become a more confident, capable learner.

Location: Yellow 1

Presenter: Sungalina Lee, *K-8 Principal*

3. ADHD 101

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) often compounds the challenges of learning differences. This workshop unpacks what truly drives ADHD—spoiler alert: it's not just attention and hyperactivity—and how it affects classroom learning. Designed for parents asking '*Is ADHD real?*' or '*Why can my child focus on video games but not homework?*', this session provides essential insights to better understand and support your learner.

Location: Yellow 2

Presenter: Peggy Brandt, *K-8 Counselor*