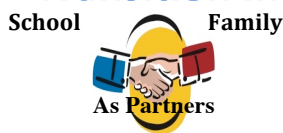


Transition Information Newsletter for Middle and High School Families



Middletown City Schools Parent Mentor Program

Linda McDowell, Parent Mentor

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Web site: www.middletownparentmentor.com

Jan. 2012



January and February 2012 Family Transition Information Night at MHS

What: What A Parent Can Do If Your Child Is Unable To Make Financial, Medical or Other Important Life Decisions at Age 18

Where: Middletown High School Media Center (library); enter building under the awning

When: Tuesday, January 10, 6 – 7:30 p.m. (cancelled if school cancelled /dismissed early for weather)

Remember at age 18 your son or daughter is considered an adult in the eyes of the law. This means they can sign and obtain credit cards, make their own decisions (including medical) and be held liable for their actions as an adult under the law. There are ways that you can protect your child if you feel they are not capable. Julie Honican from Legal Aid will be addressing the different options available to parents (including guardianship) on the next parent information night.



Questions That Will Be Answered:

- ✓ What choices do you have to protect your son or daughter if they are unable to make important decisions?
- ✓ What is guardianship and power of attorney? Are there different types?
- ✓ What is a representative payeeship (rep payee)? Your son or daughter may need one if they receive SSI. Who can be a rep payee?
- ✓ What are your options for medical/health decisions? Can the doctor refuse to share information with you? What if your child is not reliable enough to take their medication as prescribed?
- ✓ How can you help your son or daughter with financial decisions? Are there protections that you can set in place so they are not taken advantage of?

February Information Night: Planning for College



What: Planning For College: What You Need to Know

Where: Middletown High School Media Center (library); enter building under the awning

When: Tuesday, February 14, 6 – 7:30 p.m. (cancelled if school cancelled /dismissed early for weather)

You can be successful at college! Although a student with a disability may not receive the same support as they did in high school, help is available in college. The February Information Night will inform parents and students of what changes will take place in college and how best to prepare for the changes that lie ahead. We will also share tips for selecting the college that best suits your needs and discuss how to pay for it. Everyone will be given a FREE folder of information that includes checklists, forms and other helpful information. The earlier you get started (yes, even in middle school) the better but it is never too late!

Transition Planning & The IEP: What Happens When

Age 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of transition needs that focuses on your child’s course of study (college or vocational training). <p>Hint: <i>This is when you look at the individual courses your child is taking and make sure they support his/her future goal of college, training or work. Request a copy of the Yearly Program of Studies Course Description, which lists the graduation requirements, and a description of the courses that are taught. Even though your child is only 14, decisions are being made now which will affect whether he/she will have the necessary courses to go to college. Assessments will tell you if their future goal is realistic and what further work, goals and courses may be needed.</i></p>
Age 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition planning formally begins (focus on interagency responsibility or needed linkages including DD, BVR, SSA, etc.) • Identify when student will leave school (can attend through age 21) • Identify job interest, abilities and activities. This includes career assessments and exploration, job sampling and job training. • Identify community services that provide job training, placement, summer employment and volunteer experience • If college bound, take PSAT and plan for test accommodations if needed, consider AP classes and review class schedule with guidance counselor • Develop an understanding of own disability and learning style, practice self advocacy skills <p>Hint: <i>This is the time a transition team is formed and a formal transition plan is written that includes goals and activities to support moving on to college, employment and independent living. Information will be gathered (i.e. assessments) that let teams know what your teenager can do and what further work needs to be done. All of these will be included on the transition page of the IEP.</i></p>
Age 16-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Adult Services Programs. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colleges, vocational or technical schools, Social Security Administration (SSA), Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities (BCBDD) or Butler County Mental Health Board ○ Residential or independent living services, recreation/leisure groups ○ Medical Services • Begin formalized vocational assessments (to clarify what type of work you are best suited for) • Continue to work on transition goals and activities related to college, work and living. <p>Hint: <i>For a list of adult contact services, programs and groups including contact names and phone numbers call the parent mentor office.</i></p>
Age 17-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to consider and research guardianship • Continue to review and update transition plan • Take ACT, SAT tests, visit colleges and disability services office, register with Disability Service Office of your preferred college by the end of Senior year, pursue college scholarships, grants. etc. • Review eligibility of medical insurance due to age <p>Hint: <i>Remember at age 18 your teenager is considered an adult. This means your teenager makes their own decisions and can sign all contracts including cell phone, credit cards, etc. If parents feel their teenager is not capable of these decisions, they can pursue guardianship, which is a legal process in which your child is ruled incompetent. A guardian is appointed by the courts to handle their affairs.</i></p>
Age 18-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish health benefits if needed and develop long-term financial support plan (ex. SSI) if needed • At age 18, males will need to register for Selective Service (mandatory registration, forms available at your local post office) • Check local taxation code for any yearly filings that will need to be done (ex. Middletown income tax is filed by each individual) • Continue to update and review Transition Plan