



Welcome to the Newsletter for NCKSEC. This newsletter will feature student achievements, teacher achievements and news you can use to help improve student outcomes, add instructional strategies to your toolbox, and keep informed of happenings across the cooperative.

Coach, Consult, Collaborate

Teacher Tidbits

When Meetings Go Bad (adapted from Rethinking Behavior; Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders by Victoria Rollins Ballew, Ballew Educational Consulting, Columbia, MO; Winter 2019)

List of factors that cause meetings to go badly and what team members can do

Never head into a meeting with the notion that there is only one outcome.	Let it evolve! Each person brings ideas unique to their experiences. There is something exciting about watching a plan evolve that everyone feels good signing.
Everyone comes to the table with their own unique perspective.	Before the meeting, spend a couple of minutes thinking about who will be there. Put yourself in each of their shoes, be open-minded and positive.
Taking personal offense to questions or suggestions will surely derail a meeting.	Take a deep breath, and ask for clarification using a positive tone of voice. Everyone at the table should be focused on the child. Taking things personally is selfish and unproductive.
Mistakes happen. We are human, so be human.	Own the mistake if it is yours. Accept responsibility and work to fix it. When a parent or student sees you covering up a mistake and not

	owning it, it destroys trust and contributes to an us-versus-them mentality.
Stop the emails. Some meetings are doomed before anyone enters the room through misinterpreted email threads.	Make a quick phone call or save your question or comments for the meeting where you can express your compassion, concern, and clarify any misunderstanding immediately.
Never bring surprises to the meeting.	If you have concerns or issues, share them ahead of time so that parents are aware and prepared. Communicate with parents before the meeting. Let them know what will be discussed. Give them a heads up if an administrator or other unexpected person will attend.
Ignoring the importance of trust is the biggest reason for parent dissatisfaction and contention.	Put yourself in their shoes, how would you like sensitive or disappointing information shared with you if you were the parent. Remember, parents are trusting you with their most prized possession, <i>their child</i> .
Resist the urge to lay blame for whatever issue is on the table.	What matters is how the team is going to move forward for the student. Start the meetings with an agenda, discuss the purpose and expected outcome for the meeting. Quickly refocus the meeting by referring to the agenda.
Toxic team members sigh, cross their arms, and look like they would rather be elsewhere than at the meeting.	Before the meeting, explain to them that you want the meeting to be positive and communicate a willingness to work together for the child.
When meetings do go badly, autopsy your meeting.	Take the perspective of a neutral observer and dissect the conversation and behavior. Reflect on “How could this have been avoided?” Determine what worked and what you can do in the future to replicate a successful process.

Student Showcase

EdiLyn McGuire

Define Success. Is it knowing your math facts better; reading all your sight words correctly, or getting an A+ on your spelling test? It could be all of these things. However, for EdiLyn McGuire, a second grader at Thunder Ridge, it's so much more.

When she walked into our doors four years ago, she had no way of communicating. She didn't even know nodding her head for yes and no was a means of communication. Seven days into her first year of kindergarten, after physically moving her head yes after asking if she wanted to swing more at recess, she nodded on her own! From then, she added to her Yes nod and learned a few signs like more, please, and thanks. Words she used often to answer questions asked frequently and intentionally. After realizing communication had meaning, she mastered the Go Talk 20, having pages for general words, lunch time, and colors/numbers, as well as using a low-tech choice board at recess. Since then she has moved on to using a small communication book with different tabs for things like: calendar, weather, shapes/colors, numbers, lunch/food, leisure activities, animals, feelings, recess, games, places, teachers, and personal information. She has also added several verbalized words to her repertoire. This combination of efforts has opened a whole new world to her.

For a little girl who is visually impaired, cognitively delayed, and autistic, she has surpassed so many goals, using vision as her primary modality for learning. The secret was to find out how she could show us what she knew. For years, she had gathered information without a means to tell anyone. We use structured teaching for her direct instruction of skills. She has also gained independence by using a visual schedule to move through her day. We also use the playground, recess, community outings, pe, and music as classrooms to directly teach skills like getting along, asking for help, communicating her wants and needs, life skills, and strengthening peer relationships.

Success is not an easily defined word. In my opinion, it certainly includes continually gaining new skills and independence and using each teachable moment to teach and reinforce those skills. Edilyn now learns sight words, spelling words, counts money, shops at the grocery store, uses a calculator to add and subtract large numbers, engages in games with her peers at pe, draws, colors and writes....and most importantly, LOVES school; a place that has structured her day to ensure she learns and is surrounded by friends who adore her. The smile on her face each day when she enters the doors truly shows us that EdiLyn knows she is experiencing SUCCESS!!



**CONGRATULATIONS, EDILYN MCGUIRE, FOR BEING NCKSEC STUDENT SHOWCASE
IN MARCH 2019!**



EVERYONE IS LIKE A BUTTERFLY, THEY START OUT UGLY AND AWKWARD AND THEN MORPH INTO BEAUTIFUL GRACEFUL BUTTERFLIES THAT EVERYONE LOVES.

Drew Barrymore

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CALENDAR REMINDERS:

SPRING BREAK— MARCH 11-15
USD 110, 211, 237,269, 270, 271, 325,
392, 399

MARCH 18-22
USD 212, 326, 399

SAVE THE DATE!

PLC MEETINGS IN APRIL:
INTERRELATED—APR. 16 IN ALEMENA
APR. 17 IN PLAINVILLE
APR. 18 IN SMITH CENTER

GIFTED—APRIL 10

SLP—APR. 26

EC—APR. 26

CONSULTANTS—APR. 10

LAST DAY FOR IEPs—APRIL 18

JOB OLYMPICS—APRIL 24

NEXT NEWSLETTER COMING IN MAY

