



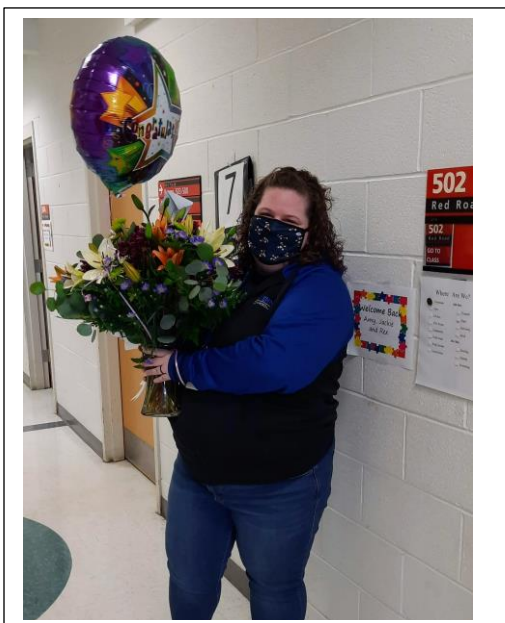
Monthly Newsletter

Principal: Heather Calkins
Asst-Principal: Jennifer Brown
Asst-Principal: Alexis Hackett
Asst-Principal: Patty Knapp
Asst-Principal: Pam Padovani
Asst-Principal, Extended Services: Mike Andrews

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Principal's Points



Congratulations to Amy Osman, our 2021 Teacher of the Year! Amy is a teacher onsite at Brennen. According to Amy's nomination, Amy Osman's outstanding care for her students, dedication to her profession, and willingness to volunteer her knowledge, skills, and services make her a valued member of not only the Brennen School but of our entire community. She is deserving and exemplifies all aspects of this Teacher of the Year nomination. I think we can all agree that Amy's dedication to her students and the program shows every day.

Upcoming Events

Brennen Spirit Week
4/19/2021

NCC School Districts'
Virtual Transition to Adult
Life Fair
Apr. 22, 2021
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

FREE COVID-19 Testing
Apr. 28, 2021
Noon - 4:00 PM

<https://www.christinak12.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=70&DomainID=38#calendar37/20210428/event/1432>

FREE COVID-19 Testing
May 10, 2021
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

<https://www.christinak12.org/Page/2#calendar1/20210516/event/1447>

Christina School District
School Board Elections
May 11, 2021
7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Christina School District
Board of Education
Meeting (Public Session)
May 12, 2021
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Special Event-Brennen Spirit Week

The week of April 19th, Brennen is holding a spirit week in honor of Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. Please join us celebrate!

Monday- Favorite Autism T-Shirt Day

Tuesday- Neurodiversity Tuesday (*tie dye or rainbow shirt*)

Wednesday- Sensory Friendly Wednesday (*wear something sensory friendly-no pjs*)

Thursday- Write It Up (*write up an autism acceptance message and post on Brennen Facebook page*)

Friday- Spirit Wear (*wear hallway color or building spirit wear*)

Enjoy celebrating the special days in April. Share with us. Post your pictures on Brennen's Facebook page. See attached calendar for more details.



2021 Summer School Program



2021 Summer Program begins Tuesday, June 29th (first student day)

It's that time of year again! Time to plan for summer programming. We are creating our Hybrid Summer schedule. We will have co-horts and school times prepared in the next few weeks. Thank you for completing the summer interest form and updating any changes in transportation.





5K WALK FOR AUTISM



**SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES ON
THE AUTISM SPECTRUM!**

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

Register at: <https://www.charitycrossing.org/events>

Proceeds will go to the Brennen School
Delaware Autism Program

Donate at: <https://charitycrossing.org/donations/aaw2021/>



MASKS REQUIRED


Autism Walk 2021: The 5K Walk for Autism is Live.

For the 4th year in a row, Charity Crossing is organizing a 5K Walk for Autism. Please join the walk to show your support. Spring is the perfect time to walk with your friends and family. All funds raised from this year's walk will benefit [Brennen School](#).

Students and parents can join the Brennen School team or start their own.

Autism Walk 2021- Charity Crossing
<https://charitycrossing.org/events>

Nurse's Nook— Kim White, RN & Michele Lockwood, RN

CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS LAUNCHED ANTIGEN TESTING

Christina School District has partnered with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Health (DPH) to help in an effort to help identify our students who may be infected with COVID-19 but who are not experiencing symptoms. As you may be aware, there are many times individuals may be carrying and potentially exposing others to COVID-19 without knowing they are infected.

The District, working with the DPH, is offering free Antigen testing to all students participating in the Hybrid Learning and in-person extracurricular activities in all schools and programs in the Christina School District. The District will be testing asymptomatic (without symptoms) individuals only with the Antigen testing. **There is no cost to students, parents or insurance.**

The process is much easier than some of the other testing processes you may have seen. The student simply takes the cotton tipped swab and swirls this into the front of both of their nostrils. For students that need assistance, there will be staff support to complete the process. There is no need to go deep into the nasal passage like some of the other testing. The cotton-tipped swab is then put into a small tube with the activating solution and then put onto a test cassette for reading. **Instruction and assistance will be provided for your student.**

The testing will be performed on a rotating basis. A consent form will be needed in order for students to participate in testing. An [FAQ](#) on the Antigen testing is available on the district website and can be found by also clicking [here](#). Please feel free to contact your school nurse if you have any additional questions.

The Brennen building will be antigen testing on Friday, April 23rd and every other Friday, as well as Tuesday, April 27th, and every other Tuesday. If your child's classroom is located in a different district building, you can contact that building for the testing dates.

FAQ link: <https://www.christinak12.org/cms/lib/DE50000539/Centricity/Domain/3560/Antigen-Testing-FAQs.pdf>

Consent forms link: <https://www.christinak12.org/Page/4937>

Student Nurse

Brennen School's Nursing Team had the pleasure of supporting a nursing student recently as part of her educational training. She was excited about the opportunity to work in our building and with our students.

Dana Giannuario is a senior nursing student at the University of Delaware. She had the opportunity to shadow Nurse Kim and Nurse Michele as a part of her clinical coursework. She learned a lot from this experience and can't wait to be a nurse!

Dana also created a pamphlet to create awareness about mask wearing for children with autism. Please see the attached pamphlet. Thank you Dana for your great idea!



Secondary (Middle & High) Cluster Info



New Castle County School Districts' Virtual Transition to Adult Life Fair April 22, 2021 5:00pm-8:00pm

Sponsored by Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Delaware Charter School Network, Christina, Colonial, New Castle County Vo-tech, Red Clay Consolidated School Districts



POST-SECONDARY



INDEPENDENT LIVING



EMPLOYMENT

Live Sessions for April 22, 2021

<https://zoom.us/j/92986562104?pwd=RzhERUgyYURwMWVVSXdrVEFuQ09CQT09>

Meeting ID: 929 8656 2104

Passcode: 388307

- 5:15-5:45 The Life Span Waiver
- 6:00-6:30 Delaware Division of Disabilities Services
- 6:45-7:15 Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- 7:30-8:00 Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship

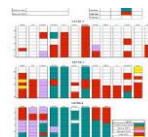
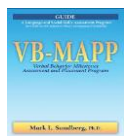
2021 NCC Transition to Adult Life Fair Vendor Presentations

Please click this link to a list of participating vendors and their materials

If you have any questions or need a language or ASL Interpreter please contact your district transition representative

Appoquinimink Allison Kerr Allison.kerr@appo.k12.de.us	Brandywine Miranda Thompson Miranda.thompson@bsd.k12.de.us	Christina Norma Brister Norma.brister@christina.k12.de.us
Colonial Beth Murray Beth.murray@colonial.k12.de.us	New Castle County VoTech Lynn Williams Lynn.williams@nccvt.k12.de.us	Red Clay Jill Machemer Jill.Machemer@redclay.k12.de.us
Red Clay Deb Shepherd Deborah.shepherd@redclay.k12.de.us	Charter School Network Stephanie DeMayo Stephanie.demayo@odyssey.k12.de.us	

Elementary Cluster Info



The VB-MAPP, What is that?

The VB-MAPP (Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program) is one of the assessments we use at the Brennen School/Delaware Autism Program with students through 5th grade. This assessment is typically completed by the classroom team prior to your child's IEP to assist them in identifying skills to be considered for the upcoming IEP. The VB-MAPP consists of several components including:

- The Milestone Assessment: a representative sample of a child's existing verbal and related skills including requesting, labeling, answering questions, listening, motor imitation, play skill, group/classroom skills, etc.
- The Barrier Assessment: assess common learning and language acquisition barriers faced by children with autism
- Transition Assessment: may help teams set priorities to help meet the child's educational needs

Young (Infant-BK) Cluster Info



What is "Book Share"?



Book Share encompasses a set of strategies and routines that help us realize the potential of using books to promote learning. Student learning is enhanced, as books are adapted to meet their educational needs. Through adaptation and the incorporation of real objects and motivating activities, students are more engaged in the story, which creates more opportunities for teaching and learning. The theme of each book is carried over into other classroom activities like art, snack, and/or Fun with Food. Some of the skills that are the prime focus of this intervention include vocabulary development, peer-to-peer interactions, and joint attention skills.

Simple tips for looking at books at home:

- Simplify your language when reading and highlight the important words. If the text is written in a 3-sentence paragraph, see if you can edit it down to a 2-4 word sentence that is meaningful to your child.
- Help your child point to pictures in a book as you label the item.
- Keep story time brief if your child is not a fan, but try to make it fun and engaging to increase attention and interest in books.

Adapted Physical Ed Department

Spring is a great time to get outside and enjoy some physical activity. Throughout Newark and Wilmington, there are many great trails and paths to explore and get some exercise. The Newark Reservoir has a great walking path along with wonderful inclusive playground Preston's Playground. Glasgow Park has a great walking path along with great playground that is sensory friendly. In Wilmington the DuPont Environmental Education Center has a great boardwalk trail. Also, spring is when we typically work on soccer skills. The Physical Education playlist on the Brennen School YouTube channel has several soccer skills videos that contain multiple activities. Here is a link to a couple of them:

Soccer Skills with Dave:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhmq90Z6rpE&list=PLiO7mE7AEFMS4obvsCCvXyQh-KhnQyG0S&index=12>

Young Athletes Balancing and Jumping, Part 6: Foot Trap:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsM_zEW4gSY&list=PLiO7mE7AEFMS4obvsCCvXyQh-KhnQyG0S&index=34

Young Athletes Activity Guide: Kicking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7psL4TZpQ4&list=PLiO7mE7AEFMS4obvsCCvXyQh-KhnQyG0S&index=7>

PBS Autism Awareness Month Programming

SPECTRUM: STORY OF THE MIND

Multiple PBS series are celebrating Autism Awareness Month in April by spotlighting new autistic characters, including one based on Grandin. The 73-year-old professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University appears as a child in the aforementioned episode of “Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum,” which premiered last week and is available to stream in full on the PBS Kids [YouTube channel](#). It can also be found at

<https://www.pbs.org/show/spectrum-story-mind/>

State of Delaware Autism Proclamation

*Join Governor Carney on April 20 as we proclaim April
Autism Acceptance and Inclusion Month!*

*Join Governor Carney, Autism Delaware's Brian Hall and members of the
community as State of Delaware proclaims April as Autism Acceptance and
Inclusion Month!*

*The event will be broadcast LIVE on YouTube at 4 PM on April 20! Join us
for this uplifting annual event!*

Agenda












Governor Carney, Welcome, Introductions

- Brian Hall, Executive Director, Autism Delaware
 - Andrea and Patrick Creed, parents
 - Diane Treadwell-Deering, Director, Swank Autism Center at Nemours/AI DuPont Hospital for Children
 - Josh Keating, Executive Chef, Delaware Park
- Governor Carney, Read and Sign Proclamation

Link to the Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1q_s_BWx_VA



Calendar of Events

April						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
18	19 Favorite Autism T-Shirt Day  Brennen Autism awareness week	20 Neurodiversity Tuesday  Comic Strip explanation of Autism Spectrum Proclamation of Autism Acceptance and Inclusion Month Join Autism Delaware and Governor John Carney on April 20, 2021 at 4 PM as we proclaim April 2021 as Autism	21 Sensory Friendly Friday: Wear something comfy (no PJS)  National Administrative Professionals' Day 	22 Write it up and Share your Autism Acceptance message   Earth Day  National Jellybean Day	23 Hallway Color or Building Spirit Wear Day 	24
25	26	27 National Tell a Story Day 	28  National Superhero Day	29	30 Arbor Day 	

Social Media Info

At Brennen, we are excited about the new school site and are working on how we can share information that is meaningful to our school community. <https://www.christinak12.org/Brennen>

We are also increasing our presence on Facebook please follow and get weekly information on what's happening at Brennen.





Smart911™



Safety Profile

Provide additional information to 9-1-1 so they can help you faster in an emergency.



Alerts and Notifications

Stay informed of weather, traffic, and other emergencies in your community.



Vulnerable Needs Registry

Alert emergency managers that you need special assistance when a disaster strikes.

New Castle County is proud to be the first PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) in the State of Delaware to offer Smart911 capabilities. We are proud to provide this service to our residents, and to anyone passing through our County as we know this system can and will help save lives.

Physical Disabilities

For those who have a physical disability or mobility restrictions, it is vital for responders to know about the person, their disability and what type of assistance or special equipment they may need to evacuate their home or receive transport.

Developmental Disabilities

For families affected by autism or who may have difficulty communicating verbally with 9-1-1 their individual conditions as well as rescue notes indicating how responders will need to approach the individual can be include in their Safety Profile.

Medical Conditions

For citizens who are affected by epilepsy, diabetes, Alzheimer's, allergies or other medical conditions Smart911 can inform responders of your condition as well as medications and emergency contacts.

General Emergencies

For all citizens, there is always the risk of unplanned accidents or events. Whether in a vehicle or in your home, even the most basic details such as the address association with a mobile phone can be available to 9-1-1 and response teams to send help fast.

To sign up for a free Smart911 profile us this web address:

<https://www.smart911.com>

WEARING A MASK IS
IMPORTANT TO KEEP
PEOPLE SAFE!

BE A SUPERHERO AND
KEEP YOUR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY SAFE.

References

Robyn Thom, M. (2020, June 10). Helping people with autism spectrum disorder manage masks and COVID-19 tests. Retrieved from www.health.harvard.edu



DANA GIANNUARIO

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE 2021



WEARING A MASK

FOR PARENTS OF KIDS
WITH AUTISM

AUTISM AND MASKS

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can be highly sensitive to touch. Wearing a mask constantly can be a challenge for those with sensory issues.



Wearing a mask does not have to be an impossible task...



WHAT CAN YOU DO

Demonstrate wearing the mask on yourself or a favorite object such as a stuffed animal.

Not all face masks are made equally. Allow your child to **choose** one that is comfortable. Some masks are made so they do not loop around the ears.

Choose a mask the child will like! You can incorporate their **favorite characters or colors** to make them more likely to want to wear the mask.

Start with wearing the mask for small increments of time. Begin with a few minutes and work your way up to multiple hours per day like at school. **Encourage** and reward your child for positive behavior.

Increase **exposure** to masks by singing songs, reading books, and watching videos about wearing masks: The more your child sees others wearing masks the less strange it will seem.

YOU CAN DO IT!

Children with autism are known for sticking to a routine. Once you have developed a routine with wearing the mask it should get easier.

Remember to always stay positive!

