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.

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 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.

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
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](https://www.christinak12.org/cms/lib/DE50000539/Centricity/Domain/3560/Antigen-Testing-FAQs.pdf). 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.


Consent forms link: [https://www.christinak12.org/Page/4937](https://www.christinak12.org/Page/4937)

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**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

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### Live Sessions for April 22, 2021

- **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

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### 2021 NCC Transition to Adult Life Fair Vendor Presentations

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you have any questions or need a language or ASL Interpreter please contact your district transition representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appoquinimink</strong></td>
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<td>Allison Kerr</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Debra.shepherd@reclay.k12.de.us">Debra.shepherd@reclay.k12.de.us</a></td>
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**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 trial. 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
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

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Favorite Autism T-Shirt Day</td>
<td>Neurodiversity Tuesday</td>
<td>Sensory Friendly Friday: Wear something comfy (no PJS)</td>
<td>Write it up and Share your Autism Acceptance message</td>
<td>Hallway Color or Building Spirit Wear Day</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Brennen Autism awareness week</td>
<td>Comic Strip explanation of Autism Spectrum</td>
<td>National Administrative Professionals' Day</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>National Jellybean Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Proclamation of Autism Acceptance and Inclusion Month</td>
<td>Join Autism Delaware and Governor John Carney on April 20, 2021 at 4 PM as we proclaim April 2021 as Autism</td>
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### 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](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.
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 use this web address: [https://www.smart911.com](https://www.smart911.com)
Remember to always stay positive!

You can do it!

You do what can

Impossible Task...

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

Children with autism are known

Get easier.

Wearing the mask is should you have developed a routine for sticking to a routine. Once

Children with autism are known

It will seem

Others will recognize the less strange

The more your child sees

Watching videos about wearing

Singing songs, reading books, and

Increase exposure to masks by positive behavior:

Encourage and reward your child for multiple hours per daly like at school. minutes and work your way up to increments of time. Begin with a few

Start with wearing the mask for small

You are more likely to want to wear the mask:

Characters or colors to make them

Can incorporate their favorite

Choose a mask the child will like:

If the ears

Stuffed animal

You yourself or arogate object such as a demonstration wearing the mask on

Autism and masks

People with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can

with sensory issues.

Wearing a mask can be a challenge for those

Be highly sensitive to touch.