Middletown Public Schools

Professional Development Workshops

Certified & Non-Certified Staff

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Professional Learning Time

All Staff
8:00a-3:20p

Select Your Session by Department

Agricultural Science and Technology Education	Career and Technical Education	English Language Arts, 6-12	Library Media Specialists, K-12
Mathematics, 4-12	Multilingual Learners, K-12	Performing Arts, K-12	Physical Education/ Health, K-12
Science, 6-12	Social Studies, 6-12	Visual Arts, K-12	7-12 World Languages
PreK and KPA Certified Staff	General Classroom & ELA Teachers, K-5	Academic Interventionists	K-12 ICM Teachers
Special Education Teachers, K-5	Special Education Teachers, 6-12	School Counselors, 6-12	School Psychologists, K-12
RISE Tier 3 Social Workers, K-5	Social Workers, K-12	Speech & Language Pathologists	Legacy Staff
	BCBAs, K-12	Occupational Therapists	
Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Wesley, Bielefield, Snow, Spencer, and Farm Hill		Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Moody, Lawrence, Macdonough, MHS, and Beman	

Curriculum Departments

Session Title:

A Backwards Design Mindset: Connecting Standards, Assessment, and Curriculum

Audience:

9-12 ASTE, 6-12 ELA, 4-12 Math, 6-12 Science, 6-12 Social Studies, K-12 Performing Arts (not attending conference), K-12 Visual Arts, 7-12 World Language, K-12 Library

Facilitator(s):

Carlos de la Barrera, Paul Griswold, Department Leaders, Building Leaders

Locations:

ASTE: MHS, ASTE Conference Room
ELA: Beman, B 205
Math: Beman, A 304/305
Science: MHS, 329
Social Studies: MHS, 203
Visual and Performing Arts: MHS, Black Box
World Languages: Beman, B 201
Library: Wesley, LMC

Description:

Educators will develop shared language and expectations for coherent written curriculum using Understanding by Design and the MPS curriculum templates. Through differentiated agendas, participants will examine assessment demands or learning progressions, explore UbD resources matched to their familiarity, and assess existing curriculum. Teams will complete or refine Curriculum-at-a-Glance documents, begin prioritized unit development or revision, and identify next steps.

******Please bring devices.***

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Career and Technical Education

Session Title:

Accelerating the Assets: From Opportunity to Outcomes — Powering CTE Through Perkins V, College Credits, and Industry-Recognized Credentials

Audience:

CTE Staff

Facilitator(s):

Dave Reynolds

Location:

MHS, 113

Description:

By the conclusion of this professional development session, educators will be able to:

- *Analyze current CTE program strengths, opportunities, and areas for improvement through the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) to establish priorities for continuous program improvement.*
- *Evaluate existing curricula, course sequences, and instructional practices to identify opportunities for alignment with postsecondary coursework, dual enrollment, college credits, and Industry-Recognized Credentials.*
- *Identify appropriate strategies for leveraging Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education funding to support program quality, industry alignment, credential attainment, and equitable access to high-quality CTE opportunities.*
- *Collaborate with colleagues and postsecondary and industry partners to develop actionable strategies that expand college credit opportunities, credential attainment, and career-connected learning experiences for students.*
- *Establish measurable program improvement goals and identify evidence of progress, including college credits earned, industry-recognized credentials attained, student participation, and alignment with workforce needs.*
- *Develop actionable next steps for implementing and monitoring CTE program improvements that build upon existing assets, address identified needs, and strengthen students' college and career readiness.*

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General Classroom & ELA Teachers & Academic Interventionists, K-5

Session Title:

The Science of Learning: The Power of Practice

Audience:

General Classroom & ELA Teachers, and Academic Interventionists, K-5

Facilitator(s):

Dan Raucci, EISTs, and Building Leaders

Locations:

- *Bielefield, Farm Hill, Snow, and Wesley staff: Snow School Auditorium*
- *Lawrence, Macdonough, Moody, and Spencer staff: Macdonough School (@Keigwin) Auditorium*

Description:

In the session, Science of Learning: The Power of Practice, we focus on enhancing instruction by integrating evidence-based practices rooted in brain science. We will explore the connection between memory and student practice and plan instructional routines for using effective student practice methods.

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K-12 Multilingual Learners

Session Title:

LAS Links preparation, review, student conferences and GT plans for LAS Links 2027. Organization and details for ML Family Resource Fair.

Audience:

K-12 Multilingual Learners

Facilitator(s):

Patty Gantenbein

Locations:

MHS, LMC 2

Description:

Teachers will…

- *review LAS links administration details, organize pre-testing conferences with students and set GT goals*
- *identify dually identified students and plan for administration*
- *plan and organize roles and duties for Nov 12th ML Resource Fair to provide support for ML parents and families*

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K-12 Physical Education/Health

Session Title:

Cadre of Physical Education Trainers Election Day Physical Education & Health Education Professional Development

Audience:

K-12 PE/Health Teachers

Facilitator(s):

Locations:

Hamden High School

Description:

Educators will be able to collaborate with colleagues from across the state in both PE and Health with a specific focus on strategies and plans being used to improve fitness. This is our one opportunity throughout the year for our entire department to meet with educators in our discipline across the state on key instructional strategies to improve the quality of instruction for our students PreK-12 in both PE and Health in Middletown.

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PreK and KPA Certified Staff

Session Title:

The Power of Language

Audience:

PreK and KPA Certified Staff

Facilitator(s):

Angela Caputo

Location:

Bielefield School, Library Media Center

Description:

Educators will explore strategies to strengthen children's language and vocabulary development through shared learning and collaborative activities. Participants will plan classroom applications and connect their learning to CT ELDS standards or CT DOTS progressions.

******Participants should bring their 1:1 device, a read-aloud book from their classroom library containing at least 50 words, and copies of the CT DOTS progressions and CT ELDS standards.***

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K-5 Special Education Teachers

Session Title:
SPIRE Training
Audience:
Elementary Special Education Staff
Facilitator(s):
SPIRE Trainers
Location:
Moody School Library
Description:
Teachers will develop the knowledge and instructional skills necessary to implement SPIRE, a structured literacy program, with fidelity to support students who experience difficulty with reading. Professional development will focus on understanding the characteristics of struggling readers, the research and pedagogy underlying SPIRE, and its alignment with the components of a structured literacy approach.

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6-12 Special Education Teachers

Session Title:
SPIRE Training
Audience:
Secondary Special Education Staff
Facilitator(s):
SPIRE Trainers
Location:
MHS Library Media Center
Description:
Teachers will develop the knowledge and instructional skills necessary to implement SPIRE, a structured literacy program, with fidelity to support students who experience difficulty with reading. Professional development will focus on understanding the characteristics of struggling readers, the research and pedagogy underlying SPIRE, and its alignment with the components of a structured literacy approach.

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K-12 ICM Teachers, Speech & Language Pathologists, and Occupational Therapists

Session Title:

Understanding Complex Behaviors and their Functions

Audience: ICM Teacher, SLPs, OTs

K-12 ICM Teachers, Speech & Language Pathologists, and Occupational Therapists

Facilitator(s): Cara Capelli-Davey (CCSN)

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Location: Farm Hill Library

Farm Hill Library

Description: ICM and service providers will learn and dive deeper into understanding complex behaviors and their functions.

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K-5 RISE Tier 3 Social Workers

Session Title:
In the Zone: Connecting Regulation, Intervention & Data
Audience:
K-5 RISE Tier 3 Social Workers
Facilitator(s):
Sherie Chapman, LCSW, RISE Tier 3 Coordinator
Location:
Snow Elementary School, Tier 3 Intervention Classroom
Description:
Participants will continue their Zones of Regulation training and explore how to integrate regulation strategies into individualized Tier 3 interventions. The session will also focus on Direct Behavior Rating (DBR), consistent data collection practices, and using student progress data to inform intervention planning and monitor outcomes.

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Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Wesley, Bielefield, Snow, Spencer, and Farm Hill

Session 1
Session Title:
Behavior Support Essentials: Ready to Support Training
Audience:
Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Wesley, Bielefield, Snow, Spencer, and Farm Hill
Facilitator(s):
Candace O'Sullivan- Behavioral Health Advocacy & Support LLC
Location:
Spencer Cafeteria
Description:
Practical foundational behavioral training for paraprofessionals supporting students with behavioral needs across grade levels. BAS provides common knowledge and strategies so district teams can concentrate follow-up training on individual students, behavior intervention plans, and local procedures.

Session 2
Session Title:
Functions of Behavior
Audience:
Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Wesley, Bielefield, Snow, Spencer, and Farm Hill
Facilitator(s):

Seth Phostole and Lynn Durham

Location:

Spencer Cafeteria

Description:

Staff will be able to understand the basic functions of behavior and their roles in supporting students.

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Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Moody, Lawrence, Macdonough, MHS, and Beman

Session 1
Session Title:
Functions of Behavior
Audience:
Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Moody, Lawrence, Macdonough, MHS, and Beman
Facilitator(s):
Seth Phostole and Lynn Durham
Location:
Lawrence Library
Description:
Staff will be able to understand the basic functions of behavior and their roles in supporting students.

Session 2
Session Title:
Behavior Support Essentials: Ready to Support Training
Audience:
Resource & ICM Paraeducators, Instructional Aides, RBTs, and BTs from Moody, Lawrence, Macdonough, MHS, and Beman
Facilitator(s):
Candace O'Sullivan- Behavioral Health Advocacy & Support LLC

Location:

Lawrence Library

Description:

Practical foundational behavioral training for paraprofessionals supporting students with behavioral needs across grade levels. BAS provides common knowledge and strategies so district teams can concentrate follow-up training on individual students, behavior intervention plans, and local procedures.

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K-12 Social Workers, School Psychologists, School Counselors, BCBAs, and Legacy Staff

Session Title:
Attendance Strategies and Self Care
Audience:
K-12 Social Workers, School Psychologists, School Counselors, BCBAs, and Legacy Staff
Facilitator(s):
Dr. Mahri Wrightington
Location:
MHS Cafeteria
Description:
Part 1: When Students Won't Come to School: Building Effective Tier 3 Attendance Plans Explore strategies for identifying attendance barriers and developing individualized Tier 3 plans to support students with significant attendance challenges. *Part 2: Redefining Self-Care: A Deeper Approach to Preventing Burnout and Boosting Emotional Wellness Examine ways to prevent burnout, strengthen emotional wellness, and build sustainable self-care practices.*

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