



Dear New BOCES Families,

August 30, 2020

We are writing to introduce our Southern Westchester BOCES SEPTA. It is a Special Education Parent Teacher Association with goals like PTAs in regular school districts. We place an emphasis on topics surrounding special education and the life of families with children who have special needs.

First and foremost, in these difficult times, we hope that your families are keeping well and staying safe. We know that parents are struggling to balance work and taking care of their children who are at home, while keeping everybody's worries under control. The uncertainties of the upcoming school year do not make it easier. If our SEPTA can be of any help to you by creating a bridge between the school and your family, please let us know.

Our organization is a group of parents, educators and BOCES administrators that hosts several events during the school year to support parents and caregivers, and also to entertain children with special needs.

We offer a variety of informative workshops for our families, ranging from an introduction to area providers of special needs services (recreation and respite, for example) to transition workshops that explore topics like legal planning for the special needs child, eligibility for services and OPWDD certification for the Front Door. These are important topics that every BOCES family will have to tackle.

As the school year will progress, we will evaluate if these workshops can be in-person but for now, we are planning for them to be remote.

For the past many years we hosted our annual Holiday Celebration, a fun event for our children filled with fun, crafts, singing, dancing, and gifts. This year, we will have to see if the situation will improve enough to be able to celebrate together.

We would like to invite all BOCES families to become members of our SEPTA. It is an organization for you. It is nice to find out that no family is in it alone. Many of us went through the same issues already and might have some helpful information for you. We are also always looking for parents to become a part of the SEPTA planning team. Please let us know if you are interested and send us your name and contact information with your membership form.

For the SEPTA Executive Board,

Anne Marie Cellante, Phyllis Rizzi, Jessica Walker, Linda Christiansen, and Marcela Stern



Membership Drive, Member Form 2020-2021

Dear BOCES Families, Staff and Friends,

We are excited to start planning our eleventh year! To all new BOCES families, WELCOME! SEPTA's goal is to connect parents and caregivers with one another; help them become more informed about resources that are available; and talk about new, ever-changing rules and laws that are important for our community. We want to create a platform that invites all interested parties to come and share their knowledge and experience so that we can learn from one another. We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you!

SEPTA Executive Board

MEMBER FORM 2020-21 New _____ Renewal _____ Donation _____

Dues are \$10 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #s: _____

Email: _____

Parent ___ Teacher ___ Specialist ___ Other: _____

Paid: Cash _____ Check # _____ *make out to: SWBOCES SEPTA

**Return the Membership form with the dues in person or mail to: SWBOCES SEPTA,
c/o Phyllis Rizzi, Tappan Hill School, 50 Ichabod Lane, Tarrytown, NY 10591
phone: (914)366-2560**

Southern Westchester BOCES SEPTA
Membership Survey

In order to help us make informed choices for programming, please provide us with the following information:

I would like to attend programs with topics such as:

_____ Learning Disabilities

_____ Anxiety

_____ Social Skills/Social Emotional Learning

_____ ADD/ADHD

_____ Speech, Language/OT,PT

_____ Autism Spectrum Disorders

_____ Transition Planning/Eligibility/OPWDD/Self-Direction

_____ Guardianship/ Special needs Estate planning

_____ Behavioral management

_____ Other _____

Do you have a child/grandchild attending one of SWBOCES programs?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, which program and where? _____

Age(s) _____

Your preference for workshops is: Day _____ Night _____

Please tell us what your expectations are and what you would like your SEPTA to focus on: _____

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