

Envision the Possibilities - March 2018

Newsletter of the Assistive Technology Department, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

SHEILA MIGUEL JAN 30, 2018 03:48PM



Welcome back to Envision the Possibilities...

This monthly newsletter is designed for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Assistive Technology Contacts (ATCs), district ESE staff, teachers, therapists, and support staff. We will keep you up-to-date with assistive technology news, tips, apps, professional development (PD) and more. PLEASE feel free to share the link to this newsletter - <https://padlet.com/smiguel/h6t7focrct7r>

Speaking of PD.....please check My Learning Plan for information and registration for these PD titles:

Technology in the Inclusive Classroom - 3/23/18 - JRE Lee Education Center, Room 4, computer lab: Bring your questions, curiosity, and enthusiasm and you will leave with a virtual toolbox filled with virtual tools to support struggling learners! It will highlight current materials, electronic tools, online resources and digital devices to support students with disabilities in accessing their educational curriculum. Register through My Learning Plan, Rachele Dodard, instructor.

AT Deeper Dive - 3/23/18 - Norwood Elementary School - You may know that the ATIP - Assistive Technology Assessment and Implementation Plan - is the guiding document in this district for assistive technology assessment. BUT, did you know that it is filled with dozens of free downloadable resources to support student learning? Come to take a "Deeper Dive" into AT assessment using no tech, low tech and mid/high tech tools and resources with us! Register through My Learning Plan, Sheila Miguel, instructor.

MEET YOUR DISTRICT LATS - Zachary Urra, B.Sc., I.T

As the newest member of the LATS Team, Zachary Urra provides support with AT equipment, training and student support. With his background in information technology he is the perfect team member to handle equipment set up, programming, inventory, ordering, delivery and technical training.



Tips 4 ATIPs - What do you know about the "60 school day timeline?"

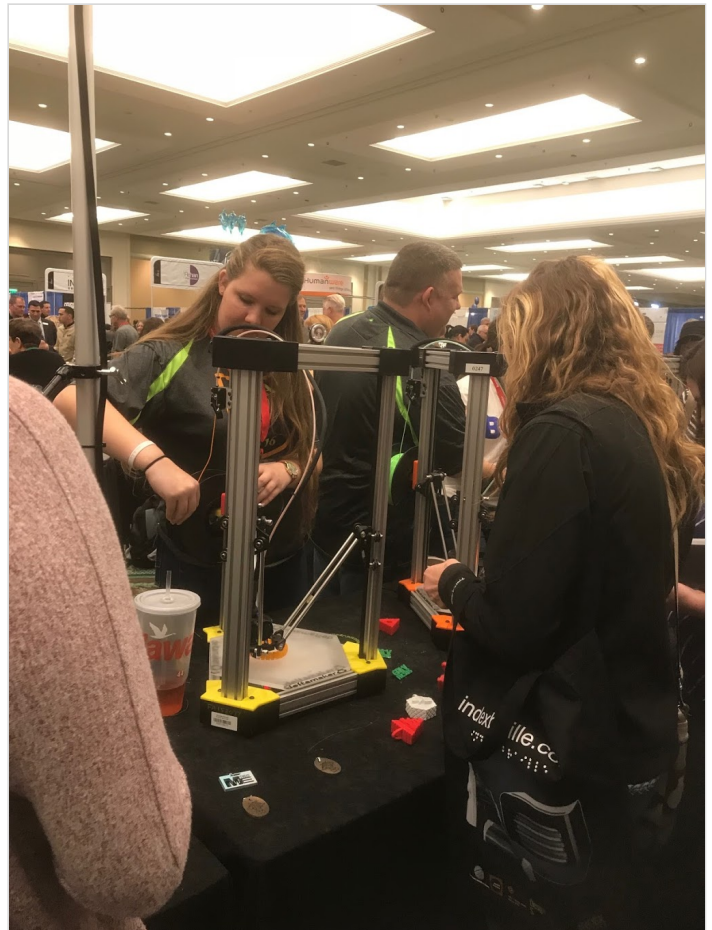
Did you know that **Section 1003.575, Florida Statutes**, states that "an assistive technology evaluation must be completed within 60 school days? The 60-school day timeline begins when the IEP team makes the recommendation for such an evaluation. During an IEP team meeting, if the IEP team recommends an assistive technology evaluation, then the parent would be asked to sign consent to conduct the evaluation procedures." In our district we mark the day the parental consent for AT assessment is signed as "Day 1". The 60-school day timeline does not include weekends, school holidays or district designated teacher planning days. Please note, however, that no adjustments to the 60-school day timeline can be made due to student absence(s). For more information, please contact Sheila Miguel, Dept. Chair for AT - smiguel@dadeschools.net

There's an App for That!

This month's app is Learning Ally. Learning Ally is an online application/service that provides school districts with free access to audio books for students who are identified as blind or visually impaired, who have an orthopedic impairment, students who have an IEP or Section 504 Plan, and general education students who are reading below grade level. Please refer to M-DCPS Weekly Briefing ID #22592, "Opportunity for Free Access to Learning Ally Audiobook Platform" for more information.



Building plastic switches using a 3-D printer



Adapting a Power Wheels vehicle for use by an adaptive switch

ATIA Conference

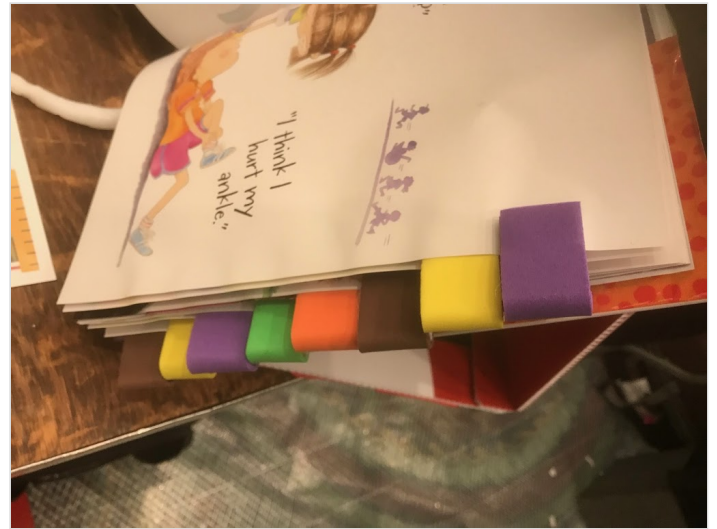
The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) annual conference was held in Orlando February 1-3. The conference features educational sessions, demonstrations, and an extensive vendor hall highlighting the latest assistive technology tools, devices and software. The standout event of this year's conference was an AT Maker Fair. Students and teachers created and displayed AT tools and materials in the exhibit hall. Crafted tools included: 3-D printed adaptive switches, modified toy cars, low tech book page turners, plastic easels and book holders made of recycled cardboard!



Adapting battery operated toys for switch access.



This book has been adapted for easy page turning with "chubby" tabs



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See you next time :)
