

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2023-2024



## WHO AM I?

My name is Erin Braun and I am a SEAC parent representative for Pleasant Ridge! My son, Hudson, is in Kindergarten and has Autism. I also have a 3 year old, Marlowe, at Northstar Preschool in Saline.

I am passionate about advocating for the special needs community, sharing knowledge and resources I have gained along the way, and connecting with families on similar pathways. Together with my husband Brett, we started a special needs ministry at our church offering 1 to 1 support and parent connection. I am also an entrepreneur, former New Yorker, and own a custom art and design company that serves the event industry worldwide.

Please feel free to contact me with questions regarding special education and resources. I can't wait to meet and connect!

## CONTACT INFO

Phone: (419) 349-3596  
E-mail: erinleighbraun@gmail.com

## WHAT IS SEAC

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- Educate and inform SAS parents, staff, and administration as well as the community
- Advise and recommend the processes and standards for the delivery of services
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## SEAC MEET, GREET AND COLLABORATE

**JANUARY 25, 2024**

**6:30 – 8:00 PM**

Please join us for a meeting with the SEAC (special education advisory committee) members on Thursday January 25, 2024 630-8pm in the Board of Education room, Liberty building. The evening will start with an introduction of committee members and the district PAC reps. We will be meeting parents and discussing the special education programs at Saline Area Schools and collaborating on ways to improve student and parent experience and engagement.

## POTTY TRAINING WORKSHOP WITH EXPERT

**FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

**9:30 – 11:00 AM**

Learn essential elements to creating a successful potty training learning plan for a child at home or at school with our special guest **JUDY COUCOUVANIS**. Author of **THE POTTY JOURNEY**.

Judy Coucouvanis, a clinical consultant / nurse practitioner with the U of M Department of Psychiatry, uses a no-nonsense, often humorous approach to toilet training. Judy will share strategies that have produced remarkable results for parents of children with developmental disabilities. Judy has successfully toilet trained 100% of the individuals (from ages 2-70) with whom she used this approach!

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My name is Misty Kluck. My daughter, Tessa, is in fifth grade at Heritage. She has Down syndrome, autism and apraxia of speech. I am an entrepreneur and special education advocate.

I spend most of my time volunteering my services to other parents of children with special needs by sharing resources and knowledge. I am also the founder of the Work and Play Special Needs Resource Center.

Please feel free to contact me with questions regarding special education and resources.

## CONTACT INFO

Phone: (734) 780-6795  
E-mail: doright8016@yahoo.com

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## WHO ARE WE?

Meet Tara and Carol, your SEAC parent representatives for Harvest Elementary School! Tara has 2 daughters in the Saline School District; 3 daughters total (1 in different district). Tara's oldest daughter Michaiah is in 7th grade and has Autism and ADHD. Alexis is in 2nd grade and has Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) and Autism. Outside of school, Tara is also an advocate and fundraiser for an incredible non-profit, Friendship Circle. Friendship Circle's goal is to provide every individual with special needs, adult or child, with the support, friendship, and inclusion that they deserve.

Carol's oldest son, Lucas is in 3rd grade has ADHD and a speech delay. Noah is in 2nd grade and has Autism and a speech delay. Carol's desire is to bridge the gap between school and parents within the community in bringing opportunities for parent support and playdates. Tara and Carol are passionate in their roles as both mom and special education advocates and would love to share any knowledge or experience we've gained to help families navigate similar pathways.

Please feel free to contact us with questions regarding special education and resources or if you'd like to partner and connect. We look forward to hearing from you!

## CONTACT INFO

Tara Hayes-Johnson (Tara Hayes)  
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Email: [tarhayes@gmail.com](mailto:tarhayes@gmail.com)

Carol Allard  
Phone: (734)529-7784  
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## WHO AM I?

My name is Daisy Scharmen. My son Gabe is a freshman in the high school. He is in the life skills program. Gabe has autism and apraxia. I am the mother of twin boys, married 23 years and a small business owner.

I am also one of the Saline Area Schools Representatives for the WISD Parent Advisory Committee. I want to advocate for my son and other kids in the district. My hope is to help create a space where parents can come together to collaborate and share in order to help cultivate a supportive and caring environment for all kids with special needs in Saline Area Schools.

## CONTACT INFO

Daisy Scharmen  
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## WHO AM I?

My name is Kelly Van Singel. I am mom to two young adult daughters living with autism. One is a senior in the life skills program at Saline High School and the other is in the Saline Young Adult Program. I am also an at-large representative to the WISD Parent Advisory Committee. My passion areas include parent mentoring and coaching in assistive technology, special education and literacy for those with complex communication needs.

## CONTACT INFO

Kelly Van Singel  
Cell / Text: 734.646.5287  
Email: kellyvansingel@yahoo.com

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## WHO AM I?

My name is Rachel Zhou and I work full-time as a software engineer. I have twin boys, David and Rick, who attended the ECSE program at Liberty since they were 2.5 years old. David who has ASD/ADHD/CVI is currently attending Harvest as a Kindergartener, while Rick is in a private school. My family went through a long journey to support my boys, including seeking different types of interventions in-state and out-of-state, as well as educational placement since they graduated from NICU. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about ECSE or/and the transitions to Kindergarten/Y5 programs.

## CONTACT INFO

Rachel Zhou  
Call / Text: 336-987-5165  
Email: ciao.zyq@gmail.com

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## WHO AM I?

HELLO WOODLAND MEADOWS! MY NAME IS STEPHANIE RIEGLE AND I AM YOUR DISTRICT SEAC REP. MY SON, KENNY, IS 9 YEARS OLD. KENNY HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM, ADHD, APRAXIA OF SPEECH, AND WEARS AFO LEG BRACES TO HELP WITH LOW MUSCLE TONE AND OVERPRONATION OF BOTH FEET AND ANKLES. I SPLIT MY TIME WORKING AT SALINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROOM MOM FOR KENNYS CLASS, ALONG WITH VOLUNTEERING IN THE SALINE DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY. I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING FAMILIES AND BEING A RESOURCE FOR THOSE IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY.

## CONTACT INFO

Stephanie Riegler  
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email:  
stephanieriegler@gmail.com

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Hello, Saline area School Families! My name is Shannon Hennessey and I work with Daisie Scharmen as one of the high school representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee. I have two children at Saline High School, Lily and Ally Hennessey. Lily is a senior and Ally is a sophomore. Ally is legally blind as a result of a brain tumor. Ally has received services through Saline Area Schools, the WISD and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons in the State of Michigan. I am married to my husband, Ed and we both work at U of M.

I enjoy learning and sharing about resources we have available in our community for those students with special needs. In my role at U of M, my office oversees testing accommodations for students with disabilities in the School of Kinesiology. My passion area is working with those with invisible disabilities and those with childhood onset chronic health conditions. I am an advocate for all students in our special education program and am here as a resource. Please never hesitate to reach out.

## CONTACT INFO

Shannon Hennessey  
Call/Text: 618-567-9791  
Email: shannon.hennessey@gmail.com

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(SALINE MIDDLE SCHOOL REP.)

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## WHO AM I?

My name is Jim Joaquin. My son, Jensen, is in sixth grade at Saline Middle School. He has an Individualized Education Program (IEP). We've experienced IEP's in multiple states and are always learning more about the process.

My time is split across family, being a financial controller, volunteering and fitness. I enjoy sharing knowledge and helping others. We've asked a lot of questions and encourage you to allow me to be a resource. Your questions are welcomed!

Please feel free to use the contact info. below regarding special education and resources.

## CONTACT INFO

Phone: (330) 418-8620

Email: joaquin@prodigy.net