



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Special Education

P.O. Box 240 Ware, Mass. 01082-0240

Tel. 413-967-7261

Fax. 413-967-9580

August 1, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) focuses on improving communication and parent participation. The PAC developed the *Parent Summer Update* as a way to provide important information to students' new teachers. Please complete and return this form by August 19th.

For the 2011-2012 year, the PAC is hoping to increase attendance at PAC meetings by providing speakers on topics of interest as well as informal opportunities for parents to dialogue. The PAC meets the third Wednesday of the month, except February and April, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The first meeting is on September 21, 2011, in the Ware Junior Senior High School Conference Room. The topic for this meeting is *Parents, Students and Schools as Partners: Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education*. Topics for future meetings will be posted on the district's website.

Please join us as often as you can. If you need child care at the meeting, please contact me or Joanne Paquin at 967-7261 a week in advance.

Also enclosed is the ***Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards*** that is sent to parents/guardians annually. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Joanne Paquin at 967-7261.

I hope you will enjoy the rest of the summer. We look forward to working with you in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

Mary Birks
Director of Special Education

Enclosures



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Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

2011-2012 Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
September 21, 2011	Parents as Partners	WJSHS
October 19, 2011	Understanding IEP's	SMK
November 16, 2011	The Evaluation Process	SMK
December 21, 2011	Bullying Prevention	WMS
January 18, 2012	Transition / Turning 22	WJSHS
March 21, 2012	Assistive Technology	WMS
May 16, 2012	Sensory Integration	SMK
June 20, 2012	Social Thinking	WMS

Updates will be posted on the district's web calendar.

If you will need child care at the meeting, please call Joanne Paquin at 967-7261 a week in advance.



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Parent Summer Update

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

The best way to reach me/us is: _____

Here's what you need to know about my/our child:

My/Our child's strengths are:

My/Our child's challenges are:

Here's what you can do to help my/our child:

Please tell us what your child did this summer, e.g. camp, trips, jobs, major life changes, how they spent their time.

Please return by August 19, 2011. A return envelope is enclosed.