

**Welcome  
Special Education  
Information  
Session**



**Rocky Run Middle School**

**September 7, 2023**

**5:30–6 pm**

# Who's Who

- **Mr. Peter Kownacki, Principal**
- **Mr. Thomas DeRusso, Assistant Principal, 8th Grade and Special Education**
- **Ms. Johnelle Sweet, Assistant Principal, 7th Grade**
- **Melissa Witt, Special Education Department Chair**

# Case Managers

## 7th Grade

**Barb Barnhart, English and Literacy**

**Helen Bowden, Math and Strategies for Success**

**Sara Harrington, Science**

**Kristen Schopp, History and Strategies for  
Success**

## 8th Grade

**Katherine Bolton, Civics**

**Elisa Edara, English and Literacy**

**Sara Harrington, Science**

**Erik Hayes, Pre Algebra**

# Too Many People...

## Who do I contact with questions and/or concerns?

I have a question about an assignment in class:

*Contact the teacher directly.*

I have a question about my child's IEP

*Contact your child's case manager*

I would like to schedule an IEP meeting or discuss  
something sensitive in nature:

*Contact Melissa Witt*

I have a question about my child's schedule

*Contact your child's counselor*

# Special Education Procedures

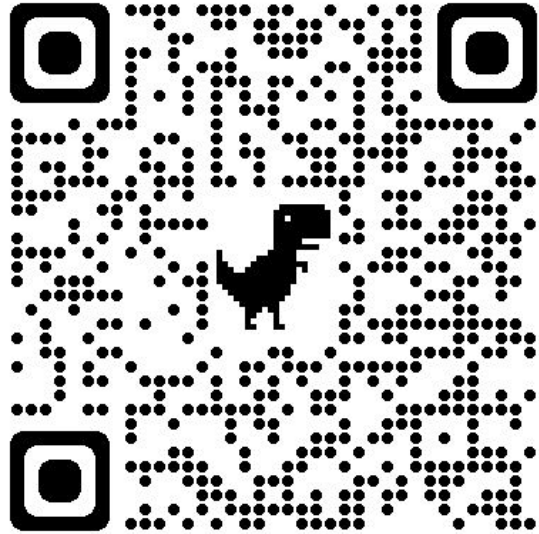
**Melissa Witt- Dept. Chair**  
[mfwitt@fcps.edu](mailto:mfwitt@fcps.edu)

**Kelly Brown- Office Assistant**  
[klbrown@fcps.edu](mailto:klbrown@fcps.edu)

**Office Phone: 703-802-7709**

- We will continue to hold annual IEP meetings before your child's due date. This includes transition to high school meetings which will be held in late winter, early spring
- Reevaluation meetings will also be held if your child is due to have this process started this year.
- Mrs. Kelly Brown is the IA who works in the sped office. She will be contacting you to set up meetings. Please respond to her as soon as you can so we can get meetings on the calendar.

# Organization Tips



[How to Set up a Parent SiS Parent Vue Account](#)

Contact Emily Texdahl

Help your child color code their schedule and/or map

Help your child set up a paper or virtual calendar

Make sure you sign the digital access form

# Behavior Resources

Mary Wescott-Social Worker  
[MEWescott@fcps.edu](mailto:MEWescott@fcps.edu)

Esther Bae (7th grade counselor, Platinum Team)  
[eybae@fcps.edu](mailto:eybae@fcps.edu)

Halissa Jacobson (8th grade counselor, Tigers Eye)  
[hdjacobson@fcps.edu](mailto:hdjacobson@fcps.edu)

[Minimizing Distractions](#)

[Breaking Down Tasks](#)

[Parent Resource Center](#)

**Ideas for giving your child a  
break**



**DO THE BEST  
YOU CAN  
UNTIL YOU  
KNOW BETTER.  
THEN WHEN YOU  
KNOW BETTER,  
DO BETTER.**

*maya angelou*