



FAMILY FOCUS

September-October 2025

**Allegany County
FAMILY SUPPORT
NETWORK
PRESCHOOL
PARTNERS**

Fort Hill High School
500 Greenway Ave., #142B
Cumberland, MD 21502

Phone: 240-920-6829

Email:

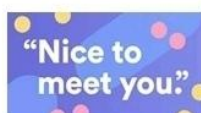
shannon.watkins@acpsmd.org



**Like us on
FACEBOOK!**
ACPS Family Support Services



A Note From Your Coordinator:



Summertime is an especially wonderful time to enjoy with your children. I hope you enjoyed it! But, the fun doesn't have to stop!

We have some very fun and interesting activities planned for your family, and would love to have you attend. These are a great way to meet other families in similar situations as yours, and to learn ways to help

your children be their very best.

Take pleasure in the privilege of being a parent! I wish you a happy Autumn and successful 2025-2026 school year!

Shannon Watkins

Parent Coordinator

240-920-6829

P.S. Don't forget to follow/LIKE us on
FACEBOOK (if not already)!

I am here, if I can help with anything, and if you have any theme ideas for our events, let me know!



"Sneak-A-Peak" Open House

When: Wednesday, September 24, 2025
4:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Where: Ft. Hill High School, Room #142B
(Use the cafeteria entrance in the back.)

What: A fun and free evening for the whole family! There will be activities for the kids, and refreshments will be provided. Parents and caregivers will enjoy connecting with others, and receiving information from us about our program (and any other available resources, upon request). There will also be freebies! (Who doesn't like . . . FREEBIES?)

You DON'T want to miss this! Let's build some GREAT relationships!

So, drop by for a few minutes any time between those hours to: "chat and chew", introduce yourself, and to discuss potential *Family Support* ideas!

Call: 240-920-6829 or e-mail

shannon.watkins@acpsmd.org for more information and to RSVP by September 23rd.

We hope to see you there!

(All children must be accompanied by an adult.)





What's Going On...

"Family-to-Family" Support Group

When: Thursday, October 9, 2025; 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Where: Ft. Hill High School Cafeteria (The cafeteria entrance is in the back.)

What: Join other families to share ideas and to give each another support.



As always, information and resources will also be available. Bring the kids to do a craft (while supplies last). Please register early, if you would like to attend. Refreshments will also be served.

Call: 240-920-6829 or e-mail

shannon.watkins@acpsmd.org for more information and to RSVP by October 8th.

We hope to see you there!

(All children must be accompanied by an adult.)

If you feel you still aren't quite prepared for the new school year, never fear!
Here are some helpful hints:

Establish consistent sleep and meal routines, organize school supplies, and create designated homework spaces. Communicate with teachers, take advantage of school communication platforms, and set clear after-school expectations. Prioritize emotional well-being by encouraging open conversations about anxiety and fears, ensuring a strong connection with a trusted school staff member, and acknowledging your child's efforts and feelings. Participate in activities of all kinds, whenever possible.

YOU'VE GOT THIS!



SPECIAL EDUCATION CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SECAC)



SECAC meetings are held four times per year. This committee provides a forum for parents of children with disabilities, school staff, area agency representatives, and business partners to advise the Allegany County Public School System concerning the needs of students with disabilities. With parents and the community's input, the SECAC can be a very powerful advocate for the continuing quality of education of our special needs population.

The SECAC welcomes more parents to join!
Participation in the meeting is virtual and voluntary.

If interested, please email:
Tonya Detrick-Grove, ACPS Special Education, at:
tonya.detrick-grove@acpsmd.org, or call her at:
301-759-2051 an hour before on the day of the meeting.

(Minutes from these meetings, should you ever have to miss, are always emailed before the next meeting. Once you've been added to this list, you don't have to request an invitation each time.)

The 2025-2026 meeting dates are:

9/15 (noon) 12/8 (1pm) 3/9 (1pm) 6/8 (1pm)