



# Fall 2021 “LUNCH & LEARN”

October 14 & 28 2021 ■ November 4 & 18, 2021 ■ December 2 & 16 2021  
■ 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

This Fall 2021 “Lunch and Learn” series is a collection of Live and rebroadcasted Lunch and Learns. The live Lunch and Learns will be followed by a short Q&A period. For the rebroadcasted Lunch and Learns questions can be asked via email!!

## October 14, 2021 ■ ***Understanding and Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders***

This is a rebroadcasted Lunch and Learn

During this webcast, you will learn the co-occurring conditions often associated with ASD, characteristics, and how to get the support you need as well as things that you can do at home or school to make sure that your concerns are documented.

**Presenters:** Staci Carr, Ph.D. & Carol Schall, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, Autism Center for Excellence

## October 28, 2021 ■ ***Involving Students at the Elementary Level in the IEP Process Through Goal Setting***

Dr. Michele Sandy will discuss the importance in teaching goal setting to students at a young age and how to include them in the IEP process.

**Presenter:** Dr. Sandy received her Doctorate of Education in Administrative Leadership from Shenandoah University in 2020. Dr. Sandy has been employed for 30 years with Frederick County Public Schools. She has served in many roles from teacher to school administrator. In 2015 she became the director where she is currently serving to ensure a fair and equitable education to any student in Frederick County Public Schools who has special abilities.

## November 4, 2021 ■ ***Teachers as Instructional Leaders: Building Exemplary Teacher Paraprofessional Teams***

This is a rebroadcasted Lunch and Learn

Especially now, relationships are extremely important, the teacher-paraprofessional relationship can help during these challenging times of COVID uncertainty. The content of this webcast includes strategies for establishing positive working relationships through planning, organization and communication with others who help with instruction.

**Presenter:** Paige Carter, Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020 in Special Education and Disability Policy. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and currently the Director of Special Education at Caroline County Public Schools in Virginia.

November 18, 2021 ■ ***Understanding Autism as an Information Processing Disorder***

This is a rebroadcast  
Lunch and Learn

In this webcast, Dr. Beurkens will review the current research on processing in ASD in order to lay a foundation for understanding the types of strategies that are helpful to address these deficits.

**Presenters:** Nicole Beurkens, Ph.D., founder and director of the Horizons Developmental Resource Center in Caledonia, Michigan, is a licensed clinical psychologist with a doctorate in clinical psychology and a master's degree in special education. She holds a professional teaching certificate and has been certified in many specialized therapies for autism, ADHD, and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Dr. Beurkens has authored numerous articles, research studies, and books, and writes a popular newsletter for thousands of subscribers each week. With a background in child development, classroom teaching, family-based therapy, and research, Dr. Beurkens is an award-winning therapist, consultant, and speaker for families and professionals throughout the United States and abroad. You can find more of her strategies for parents and professionals, and sign up to receive her newsletter at [www.DrBeurkens.com](http://www.DrBeurkens.com).

December 2, 2021 ■ ***Identifying Disparities and Implementing Support for Black Autistic Students and Their Families***

In this lunch and learn, participants will learn about disparities in diagnoses and access to services for Black autistic youth and their families. Then participants will identify and discuss strategies that practitioners can employ to facilitate more positive outcomes in their own settings.

**Presenter:** Dr. Jamie Pearson, a former behavioral interventionist and autism program consultant, is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the Department of Teacher Education and Learning Sciences at North Carolina State University. Dr. Pearson earned her PhD in Special Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she developed FACES, a parent advocacy program designed to support Black families of children with autism. Her research interests include: (a) disparities in autism identification, service access, and service utilization, (b) the impact of parent-advocacy and empowerment training on child and family outcomes, and (c) strategies to promote effective partnerships between educators and historically marginalized communities.

December 16, 2021 ■ ***Strategies to Improve Processing in Students with ASD***

This is a rebroadcast  
Lunch and Learn

In this webcast, Dr. Beurkens will provide specific communication, interaction, and environment strategies that can be implemented immediately to improve processing, thinking, and problem solving for this population.

**Presenters:** Nicole Beurkens, Ph.D.

**Zoom Registration Information:**

<https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/lunchandlearn.cfm>



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