



Collaborative Action *for* Family Engagement

Learning at Home



Photo by Kindel

Media, Pexels

Happy New Year! Start the year off strong with new resources from your January CAFE Newsletter.

This month CAFE is featuring the next session of Corner CAFE: **Fostering Positive, Respectful and Empathetic Relationships** on January 23, 2023 9:30-11:00 am.

What is CAFE?

Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) is a program of MAEC serving Maryland and Pennsylvania. We engage in high-impact, culturally responsive family

engagement. By building partnerships among schools, families, and community organizations, we improve all students' development and academic achievement.

New from CAFE



Introducing Rita Perez, Program Manager

Rita is a Senior Educational Equity Specialist with MAEC's Center for Education Equity (CEE) and has joined CAFE as Program Manager. In her role as the Program Manager for CAFE, she provides staff management, budget oversight, and liaisons with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Read on to learn more about Rita!

What does education equity mean to you?

To me, educational equity means that students are in an environment that provides the people, resources, structures, and policies where they can safely learn and grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

Who is an advocate or activist that you admire, and why?

Paulo Freire. His book “Pedagogy of the Oppressed” really helped me understand that education was a means to building a critical consciousness that would enable people to create change in their lives. He believed education meant freedom and, in turn, justice.



Corner CAFE

A Community of Practice for MD and PA family engagement practitioners

Fostering Positive, Respectful and Empathetic Relationships

January 23, 2023 9:30-11:00 am

If proactive and positive family engagement is one of your New Year's resolutions, we have you covered! Join the Corner CAFE on January 23rd at 9:30 am (ET) for our next session: Fostering Positive, Respectful, and Empathetic Relationships. We will be joined by two restorative practitioners and family community coordinators from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as we explore using restorative practices to build community relationships. Participants will learn how to enhance their ability to foster positive, respectful, and empathetic relationships with families by using the tenants of restorative practices.

Upcoming sessions:

- February 13, 1-2:30 pm
 - March 13, 9:30-11 am
 - April 17, 1-2:30 pm
 - May 8, 9:30-11 am
 - June 12, 1-2:30 pm
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Join us at the **Corner CAFE!** The Corner CAFE is an interstate Community of Practice that brings together practitioners dedicated to bolstering family engagement practices in our districts, schools, and communities in Maryland and Pennsylvania. We will meet monthly over the course of eight months to promote best practices and resources and tackle challenges practitioners face around family engagement.

Register for the Corner CAFE

Resources for Our Families

You Are an Advocate!



Photo by August de Richelieu,

Pexels

You are your child's best advocate. Need strategies to help you along the way? Check out the resources below.

[How to Talk so Kids Can Learn: At Home and in School](#) (Book)

Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish with Lisa Nyberg and Rosalyn Anstine Templeton

This breakthrough book demonstrates how parents and teachers can join forces to inspire kids to be self-directed, self-disciplined, and responsive to the wonders of learning.

[Top 10 Things Parents Can Do to Help Kids Get the Best Education](#)

EducationCorner.com

How can parents best set their kids up for success? Here are 10 tips ranging from study skills to praise and encouragement.

Financial Literacy is a Family Matter!



Photo by Cottonbro Studios, Pexels

It's important that children understand the value and importance of money at a young age. Check out these resources on how to share financial literacy with your children:

[Financial Literacy for Kids](#)

InCharge.org

Lesson plans for preschool through 6th grade including lessons on saving money, budgeting, comparison shopping & more!

[Financial Literacy for Kids](#) (YouTube Playlist)

EasyPeasyFinance

Videos covering the ins and outs of financial literacy for kids!

Mindfulness Corner



Photo by Pavel Danilyuk, Pexels

It's essential as a family to find peace during stressful times. These techniques build on skills to create more serenity at home.

Mindfulness at Mealtime: Tips for Bringing Presence & Kindness into Daily Family Life

MindfulSchools.org

Find activities and tips for bringing mindfulness to the heart of family life--the dinner table. These tips are gleaned from parenting experience as well as more than ten years of developing and teaching mindfulness to families (the IMCW Family Mindfulness Program)

Mindfulness activity for children, teenagers, and parents

RaisingChildren.net.au

Mindfulness is focusing your complete attention on what’s happening right now. It’s also letting your thoughts and worries come and go without judgment. When you encourage children to be mindful, it can help them develop skills to deal with the stress of study, work and play as they get older.

Are you on Twitter? Follow us [@CAFE_MAEC](#) for the latest CAFE news!



MAEC's [Collaborative Action for Family Engagement](#) (CAFE) program is funded by the US Department of Education under Title IV, part E of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). CAFE is one of twelve statewide family engagement centers.

MAEC is committed to the sharing of information regarding issues of equity in education. The contents of this guide were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Statewide Family Engagement Centers program. However, the contents of this guide do not necessarily represent the policy or views of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Department of Education or federal government, generally.

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