

Chaperones
SAVE \$95
off one-day
registration!

NEW THIS YEAR:
Open to younger students!
Designed for students in **grades 5-12**

2019 MAKING CONNECTIONS!



OVERVIEW

The tween/teen years are a time of testing limits, forging independence, facing obstacles and developing identity. Children of these ages become acutely aware of themselves and their differences, and it can present obstacles to fitting in and being comfortable in their own skin. A hearing loss impacts life on multiple levels: socially, emotionally, physically and psychologically; therefore, it's more important than ever that a support system is in place to help these children with hearing loss become healthy, successful and well-adjusted adults.

Making Connections! is a full-day program dedicated to helping teens (and now tweens!) with hearing loss in grades 5-12 build social and self-advocacy skills in a safe and nurturing environment. Making Connections! provides students with the opportunity to be surrounded by people who have expertise in the field of educating those who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as their own personal experiences and stories to share. All activities are created with the intent of building individual confidence, peer interactions, fostering emotional and social independence and most of all, having fun!

This year, students will have a unique opportunity to meet and hear from Kathy Buckley. Kathy is a two-time keynote speaker at this conference and has also previously participated in the Making Connections! program. Participants will be inspired by her humor and real-life stories. Kathy is not to be missed! Participants will also have the opportunity to watch the film, *The Listening Project*, co-directed and produced by Dr. Jane Madell, one of this year's two-time presenters, and filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky. The film interviews 15 young adults whose hearing loss was identified by Dr. Madell when they were babies. The Making Connections! crew will then have a chance to tell their stories. And to top things off, a representative from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) will be in attendance to speak with the older children about the opportunities that would be afforded to them by attending NTID.

Friday, October 25, 2019

Registration begins at 7:45 AM

Program: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lunch is included!

A day for students to make new friends and meet comedienne Kathy Buckley,

America's first comedienne with hearing loss, a five-time American Comedy Award Nominee as Best Stand-Up Female Comedienne and the winner of countless other awards for her work. She is an author, humanitarian and one of the country's leading motivational speakers.



Two Clarke teachers of the deaf, including one with hearing loss, serve as excellent role models as they guide students through a day of fun, adventure and learning!

"My daughter was nervous as first, but once she met [Making Connections! Co-coordinators] Emily and Mike and saw the other students with hearing aids and cochlear implants, her fears subsided almost instantly. At the end of the day, she had a huge smile on her face and had numerous friends she wanted to keep in contact with."

—Parent of a first-time Making Connections! student

"I enjoyed meeting new people and I learned ways to feel more confident."

—A Making Connections! participant's response when asked what her favorite part of the day was and what she learned from the experience

Thank you to this year's Student Track Sponsor

RIT | National Technical Institute for the Deaf



Sponsored by

Clarke Mainstream Services

REGISTER EARLY!

Enrollment is limited to **30 students...**

don't miss out!

MEET the Staff of MAKING CONNECTIONS!



Emily Snow, MED

CO-COORDINATOR & FACILITATOR OF
MAKING CONNECTIONS!

Emily is an itinerant teacher of the deaf in her ninth year of teaching. She has worked with a wide range of students spanning from preschool to high school at the Weingarten Children's Center in Redwood City,

California, and currently at Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Emily is a facilitator of the Clarke Buddies Program, a weekend meet-up designed to connect students ages 8-18 with hearing loss to build strong social connections and cultivate self-esteem in a safe environment. Emily is also a counselor at Clarke's Summer Camp, where she leads groups of students on hikes, camping trips and social bonding exercises while encouraging students to go out of their comfort zones to try new things.

Emily grew up in Duxbury, Massachusetts and has always had a passion for working with young children. She received her bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and graduated from Smith College with her master's in Education of the Deaf. After graduating from Smith, Emily accepted a position as a preschool teacher of the deaf in Redwood City, California and lived there for three years before moving closer to home to work at Clarke Northampton in 2014. Emily is an avid dancer and loves to travel, practice yoga, garden and explore nature. She is a believer that positivity is contagious and that confidence is the key to a successful, well-rounded life.



Michael Marchetti, MED

CO-COORDINATOR & FACILITATOR OF
MAKING CONNECTIONS!

This is Michael's fourth year as a co-coordinator and facilitator for Making Connections! student track. Born and raised in the Berkshire Mountains of Western Massachusetts, he brings 37 years of personal and professional

experience in deafness and education of those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Michael was born with a mild progressive sensorineural hearing loss that developed into a profound loss by the age of 25. It was then that he received his first cochlear implant.

Michael is currently in his fifth year as a teacher of the deaf in Mainstream Services at Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech. He spent previous years as a teacher of the deaf/special education teacher at schools throughout Western Massachusetts and also four years teaching Deaf Cultural Studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts. He received his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Literature from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in Secondary Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

When not teaching, Michael can be found spending time with his wife and two sons. Bilaterally implanted, he volunteers his time as an ambassador for Cochlear Americas. Michael also enjoys playing guitar, hiking the many trails of Western Massachusetts, camping, fishing and cooking on an open fire.

Register Early! Enrollment is limited to 30 students.

1. Find a chaperone—all students under the age of 18 need a chaperone on-site.
2. Register online at clarkeschools.org/conference or complete this registration form and complete steps 3 and 4 below.
3. Send \$65 registration fee (includes student lunch & activities).
4. Chaperones: Please include your email address.

Registration Form for STUDENTS in Grades 5-12

STUDENT NAME _____

GRADE AGE SCHOOL _____

HOME PHONE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

Does student have any food allergies? No Yes

If yes, explain _____

ADULT CHAPERONE (Must be completed):

I, _____, (adult chaperone) agree to accompany and assume responsibility for _____ (student participant) throughout our entire stay at the conference.

RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT _____

CHAPERONE'S EMAIL _____

CHAPERONE'S PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

Chaperones: Consider attending our concurrent conference for professionals and parents. Visit _____ to register today!

PAYMENT OPTIONS (All * items are required.)

Check (Payable to Clarke School for Hearing and Speech)

PO from school - PO No.*: _____

(PO must accompany registration form.)

Credit Card* (Circle one):

VISA

Master Card

Discover

American Express

CREDIT CARD NUMBER* _____

EXPIRATION DATE* _____

3-4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE* _____

NAME ON CARD* _____

SIGNATURE* _____

Send registration form with payment/Purchase Order to: Clarke Mainstream Services, 45 Round Hill Road, Northampton, MA 01060 or FAX to: 413.586.6654

Youth participants must:

- Be accompanied to the conference site by a chaperone (parent or a school representative)
- Stay with the leaders of "Making Connections!" for the entire day

Adults who chaperone youth must:

- Supervise youth before and after the "Making Connections!" Program
- Be available at all times during the conference

Chaperones may attend Friday workshops at the discounted registration fee of \$115 (1 chaperone per student). Please register at clarkeschools.org/conference or complete the conference registration form and submit with payment.



Clarke Mainstream Services

clarkeschools.org/conference

413.587.7313

email: fallconference@clarkeschools.org

