



January, 2012

Dear Families,

As your sons and daughters settle back into their school routines we are busy finalizing details for Transition Weekend. This event is scheduled to take place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 10th through 12th.

Transition Weekend 2012 will be held at a **new location**, the *Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis*, 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA 02601. We have reserved a block of rooms and will utilize their facilities for meetings, seminars and social events. We believe that this format will be convenient for all and create a concentrated sense of purpose and community. In order to receive a preferred rate, you must identify your affiliation with Riverview School Room Block and contact the hotel directly by January 30, 2012 at 866-828-8259.

We call the event "Transition Weekend" because the seminars and discussion groups are focused upon issues regarding the various transitions from school through all of the passages of life. Participation is limited to parents of Riverview juniors, seniors, and GROW students, as well as the parents of other students who will turn 17 this year. This ensures that the weekend maintains the focus that has made it so productive in the past. In addition to interesting panelists and speakers, we have also built opportunities into the schedule for parents to network with each other.

As in past years, all dormitory and housing facilities will be in full operation so there is no need to reserve rooms for your children, unless you wish to have them join you Friday and/or Saturday evening. Please be aware however, that there is no supervision in the hotel for students. Therefore, we **strongly** encourage all students to participate in their normal Saturday activities, which include **Saturday School for both GROW & Secondary School students**.

Transportation will be provided for your children to meet you at the hotel both Friday and Saturday evenings. The dance is the only portion of the weekend intended for student participation. We will also provide transportation on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. back to campus for students who spend Friday night at the hotel.

The weekend should not be viewed as mandatory, even though your kids will tell you that you are the ONLY parent who is not coming. It is an informational weekend and parent/staff conferences will not be conducted. The weekend provides a concentrated time for you to garner extensive information about your child's transition options. We are pleased that past Transition Weekends have been very well attended.

Registration and the first presentations will be held Friday afternoon, followed by parent networking and a reception.

Friday and Saturday evening are wonderful opportunities to dine on your own with your children. We invite you to rejoin us in the **Bass River Room** at the Resort and Conference Center at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday for a "*Valentines*" Dance. An informal parent social/network gathering will be held at the same time in the **Cape Cod Room**.

Please complete and return the enclosed response form along with a check for \$125.00 per individual or \$250.00 per family, in the envelope provided. * This amount will cover the following:

- Friday evening seminar and reception
- Saturday "Healthy Start" breakfast and lunch buffet
- All Saturday seminars
- Social/Networking Gathering at the hotel (cash bar)

If you have any questions about the weekend, please contact Diane Hufnagle in the Advancement Office at 508-888-0489 x212.

We look forward to a productive weekend.



Maureen B. Brenner
Head of School

Enclosures

* Financial assistance is available

Transition Weekend Schedule
February 10th - 12th, 2012

(Schedule subject to change)

NEW VENUE: Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA
02601 (866) 828-8259

In order to facilitate identification by both fellow participants and hotel staff, please wear your nametags at all times Friday & Saturday.

Please note: Students should NOT accompany parents to seminars on Friday or Saturday.

FRIDAY

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Special Presentation /Art Exhibit

Eisenberg Art Gallery Presents: “Real Simple”

~Riverview Lund Auditorium~

(Optional)

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis

~Upstairs Foyer~

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Now What?

Maureen Brenner, Head of School

~Bass River Room~

5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

What are YOU Thinking About?

Networking and Sharing for Families by Dorms

Cocktails and Hors D’oeuvres

~Bass River Room~

6:45 p.m.

Students Arrive

Dinner – on your own

SATURDAY

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet

(If you choose to order your own breakfast off the menu, please allow yourself extra time.)

~Bogeys & Mulligans~

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Conference Sessions Kick-off

~Bass River Room~

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Perspectives on Adult Living

Alumni Parents Panel Discussion

{Siblings encouraged to attend}

~Bass River Room~

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

<p><i>Where Do I Begin?</i> (For families who have yet to apply for any benefits or those who have children under the age of 18)</p> <p>Mike Weiner <i>~Hyannis East/West Room~</i></p>	<p><i>Preserving Government Benefits and Planning for a Secure Financial Future through Proper Estate Planning</i></p> <p>Frederick M. Misilo, Jr. Esq. <i>~Cape Cod Room~</i> {Siblings age 14+ encouraged to attend}</p>
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11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

LUNCH

~Bass River Room~

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

<p><i>Consent Issues, Guardianship, & Less Intrusive Alternatives to Guardianship</i></p> <p>Frederick M. Misilo, Jr. Esq. <i>~Cape Cod Room~</i></p>	<p><i>The Road Forward: DDS and Chapter 688 Transitional Services For Massachusetts Families</i></p> <p>Victor Hernandez <i>~Hyannis West Room~</i></p>	<p><i>Where Do I Go From Here?</i> (For families who have already done the basics; such as applied for benefits)</p> <p>Mike Weiner <i>~Hyannis East Room~</i></p>
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1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

SIBLINGS ONLY (Age 14+)

Sibling Issues in Early Adulthood

Facilitator Amy Carroll

~Barnstable 1~

SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

2:30 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.
Supporting Healthy Sexuality
Debra Roffman
~Bass River Room~

4:00 p.m.
Students Arrive

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Déjà View Chorus
~Hyannis East/West Room~

Dinner – on your own

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
“Valentines Dance”
Dance

Enjoy camaraderie, conversation, and dancing! Parents and students.
~Bass River Room~

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Parents Social

Parents are welcome to attend an informal wine and cheese social/networking gathering.
~Hyannis East/West Room~

SUNDAY

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Breakfast – On your own

The Resort and Conference Center offers a full breakfast menu at
~Bogeys & Mulligans~

Enjoy the day with your family on beautiful Cape Cod!

Parent Panelist Contact Information

1. Tom & Jean Haley jeanhaley@prllc.org & thaley46@hotmail.com
2. Robin Goland & John Birkhoff rsg2@columbia.edu & jdbmd1@mac.com
3. Philip & Janie Rogoff jmrogoff@gmail.com
4. Richard & Eileen DeFilippis rfde@yahoo.com & eileen1breast@yahoo.com
5. Stephen & Suzanne Kokkins skokkins1@comcast.net

Presenter Contact Information

1. Fred Misilo – (508) 459-8059 fmisilo@ftwlaw.com
(Admin Assistant Wilma - wvallejos@ftwlaw.com)
2. Victor Hernandez - (617) 624-7785 victor.hernandez@state.ma.us
3. Mike Weiner (781) 762-1291 michaelwweiner@financialguide.com
4. Deborah Roffman dmroffman@gmail.com
5. Amy Carroll (508) 888-0489 x 381 acarroll@riverviewschool.org

Biographies of Presenters

Victor Hernandez, Field Operations Mass. Department of Developmental Services

Position Title: Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Victor currently holds the position of Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the largest state agency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Responsibilities include:

- a) Statewide coordinator for MA Ch 688, the state law governing the transition services for those leaving special education
- b) Legislative Liaison for DDS – primary contact with state legislators for budget development and constituent concerns.
- c) Communications Liaison- the primary contact with public media inquiries in coordination with the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- d) DDS Chief of Staff responsibilities including the field operation duties with the 4 regions and 23 area offices of DDS.

Victor has also served as the DDS Assistant Area Director for the Merrimack Valley Area Office and previously had managerial roles in residential schools and residences for multi-handicapped children and adults.

Presentation Title: The Road Forward: DDS and Chapter 688 Transitional Services

Topics to be Discussed: Transition, Chapter 688, DDS Adult Eligibility, DDS Prioritization for Services, DDS Transition Coordinator, Individual Transition Plan, DDS Funded Supports

(617) 624-7785 Victor.Hernandez@state.ma.us

Michael W. Weiner, Special Needs Financial Advisor at Commonwealth Financial Group.

Offices in Wellesley and Boston

With over twenty years of combined personal and professional experience, Michael is a financial advisor who specializes in creating comprehensive financial plans for families of children and adults with special needs. He is a registered investment advisor, and licensed insurance agent.

Michael's approach in working with our families is to create a comprehensive plan that not only addresses the current and futures needs of our children, but also how to integrate those supports into our retirement plans and financial goals. He is well versed in the programs that can provide supports/benefits/subsidies for our families whether they are federal or state sponsored.

An emphasis is placed on working with our families to create affordable residential opportunities and vocational opportunities for our children.

Michael currently serves as the Treasurer for the Federation for Children with Special Needs Board of Directors. He also volunteers at the Gateways program in Newton to tutor children with special needs who are preparing for their Bar Mitzvah.

Most importantly, Michael is the proud father of Zack who attended Riverview and GROW for seven wonderful years. Along with his wife, Susan, they have recently transitioned Zack into his own apartment in Brookline. Zack is currently working five days per week, and is successfully building on the foundation that the Riverview School was instrumental in providing for him.

Michael can be reached at 617-312-5115, or via e mail at MichaelWWeiner@financialguide.com

Frederick M. Misilo, Jr., Esq., Special Needs & Elder Law Practice Group Leader at Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, P.C.

Offices in Framingham, Hyannis & Worcester

Frederick M. Misilo, Jr.

P: 508-459-8059 | E: fmisilo@fletchertilton.com

Frederick M. Misilo, Jr., is an Officer of the firm and Chairperson of the Elder Law and Special Needs Practice Group. He also serves on the firm's Management Committee. His practice includes elder law, special needs planning, estate planning, estate and trust administration, guardianship, and DDS advocacy.

With over twenty-five years as an attorney, Frederick Misilo is a frequent lecturer on estate planning, special needs planning and elder law. He also serves as Past President of the Arc of Massachusetts, Inc., an organization that enhances the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy of supports and services based in their communities. He also serves on the Legal Advocacy Committee and the Policy and Positions Committee of the Arc of the United States. He is a member of the National and Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and a member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners. He is Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative for Human Services, Inc., a well-respected human service agency with over thirty years of experience providing residential services, independent living supports, and guardianship services for individuals with cognitive disabilities and other related developmental disabilities. He is the immediate past chairperson of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. He has received the designation of a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) certification from the Institute of Certified Bankers of the American Bankers Association.

Attorney Misilo is the 2011 recipient of the Joseph Andrade Award for Leadership from the Arc of Massachusetts, Inc., and the 2010 Arc Angel of the Year Award from the Arc of Cape Cod, Inc. Attorney Misilo is also the recipient of the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding Service (2005), the Good Neighbor Award by Holden Democratic Town Committee in recognition of volunteer service to the citizens of Holden (2005), the Champion for Independence Award by Easter Seals (2004), Certificate of Appreciation by the Equal Justice Committee (2003), the Outstanding Board Service Award by Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. (1998-2005), the Certificate of Recognition for Service to the United Way Campaign Cabinet (1998) and the Outstanding Young Leaders Award by the Greater Worcester Jaycees (1991).

Attorney Misilo has also recently worked with the producer and is featured on the PBS documentary “Autism: Coming of Age.” This documentary is of interest to those concerned about the challenges faced by individuals with autism and their families. View the documentary online.

Attorney Misilo recently spoke with Mindy Todd on WCAI’s The Point. Attorney Misilo discussed the importance of special needs trusts and options for personal, financial and health care decision making as children with developmental disabilities come of age. Listen to the discussion here.

Attorney Misilo is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Rhode Island. He holds a law degree from Suffolk University Law School, a Master’s Degree in Education (Administration, Planning and Social Policy concentration) from Harvard University, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

His past positions have included serving as Deputy Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (formerly the Department of Mental Retardation) and Executive Director of Harbor Area Community Services, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts. He has served on numerous elected and appointed boards and commissions, including the Holden Board of Selectmen from 1989 to 1998.

Attorney Misilo's administrative assistant is Wilma Vallejos, (508) 459-8079.

The Guaranty Building

370 Main Street, 12th Floor | Worcester, MA 01608

508-459-8000 | 508-791-1201 (fax)

The Meadows

161 Worcester Road, 5th Floor | Framingham, MA 01701

508-532-3500 | 508-820-1520 (fax)

Cape Cod

171 Main Street | Hyannis, MA 02601

508-815-2500 | 508-791-1201 (fax)

Deborah Roffman, Master Teacher dmroffman@gmail.com

Deborah Roffman is a master teacher who is a constant learner. Her most important teachers are her students. What she has learned about young people and what they think, wonder, worry, and feel about sexuality could fill several volumes. From the day she first entered a classroom in 1971 she has spent her time outside the classroom continuously speaking, writing, and passing on her knowledge about young people and their needs to parents, teachers, counselors and the general public. What drives her is a single vision: that one day it will be families and schools—not media, merchandisers, entertainers, peers, and popular culture—who become the primary, as in *first and most important*, resources for young people about a topic so essential to life, health, and happiness.

It is within the independent school community—settings where exciting and creative new ideas thought up on Monday can be in place by Wednesday—that she has found her professional home since 1975. Currently teaching grades 4-12, inclusive, in several independent schools in the Baltimore area, she finds herself constantly in the position of teaching about development while watching it unfold in front of her. A veteran of the fledgling sexuality education movement

in the 1970's, she was one of the handful of early pioneers whose "see one, teach one, train the next person" determination established this important field.

Ms. Roffman is in constant demand as a presenter and workshop leader across the United States and has provided training and consultation for hundreds of public and private schools and youth serving organizations. Her earlier books have become "must reads" and even required reading for parents and faculties at many schools. Parents find her books and articles life altering and describe her influence on their family life profound. Ms. Roffman's cutting edge commentaries in the Washington Post (focused primarily on parenting issues) are hugely popular, one of them holding the all-time record for the most online hits of any single opinion piece published in the paper's Sunday *Outlook* section. Reporters regularly seek out her counsel and expertise, and her work has been featured in most of the nation's major newspapers, including the Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Washington Times. Recently she was quoted, and her books cited, in both the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal on the same day. (In a somewhat more dubious honor, hers was the "quote of the day" in the New York Times on 9/11.) In 2005, she served as the lead expert in a US News and World Report cover story on teen sexuality, and she frequently lends her expertise to articles in major parenting magazines.

Especially since the publication of *Sex and Sensibility* Ms. Roffman has enjoyed stellar relationships with other media. She has been interviewed on Nightline by Ted Koppel, by Bryant Gumble and other interviewers on the CBS Early Show, and has also appeared on the O'Reilly Factor. In 2003, she was the featured expert—and helped shape—a highly acclaimed segment on teen sexuality with John Stossel for 20/20. Her radio credits include multiple appearances on the Diane Rehm Show and Talk of the Nation, and she also appears (it runs several times a year) in the acclaimed HBO documentary for parents entitled, "Middle School Confessions." She has provided background for a variety of stories on ABC News, and for 60 Minutes.

Among her professional peers, Ms. Roffman is viewed as an articulate and powerful advocate for children and a revered and singularly effective spokeswoman for her field. In 2003, former Surgeon General David Satcher appointed her (the only educator on the panel) to serve on the National Advisory Council for Sexual Health (Center for Primary Care, Morehouse College of Medicine). She presented a keynote address, as she does at many national and regional health and education conferences, at the NAC's national symposium in Washington, DC in 2004 on changing the national dialogue around sexuality and sexuality education. She contributes regularly to professional journals, serves as an editor for the American Journal of Sexuality Education, and is the former Associate Editor for Education of the Journal of Sexuality Education and Therapy.

What is perhaps most remarkable about Ms. Roffman's work is her ability to speak the language of common ground around topics often fraught with controversy and conflict. With uncommon good sense and unshakable commitment to core, universal values, hers is the voice that most often cuts through the rhetoric, the politics, and the false polarities that keep adults focused on their needs and interests, rather than squarely on children. She also understands that *the issue at stake is parenting, not politics*. The proof lies in her wide appeal to parents of all political stripes, religions, and backgrounds, and the national recognition she has received from such seemingly diverse groups as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (the coveted Mary Lee Tatum Apple Award) and the National Federation of Republican Women (Favorite Teacher Award).

Deborah and her husband, David, were high school sweethearts and have been married for 40 years. They live in Baltimore, Maryland, and have two grown sons.

Amy Carroll Assistant Director of Programs & Day Student Liaison at the Riverview School, Inc. and Sibling

acarroll@riverviewschool.org

Amy Carroll is the Assistant Director of Programs, Day Student Residential Liaison and GROW Residential Summer Program Director at the Riverview School, Inc. She also serves on the school's Health and Wellness, Leadership, and Transition Weekend Committees and has facilitated Riverview School's Sibling Issues Group during Transition Weekend since 2002.

Amy came to the Riverview School in 1999 as a dormitory coordinator and has worked in the roles of Residential Supervisor and Residential Program Coordinator, prior to the role of Assistant Director of Programs. Her previous professional experience is with working with at-risk adolescents and young adults with learning challenges in residential settings at the Latham Centers in Brewster, MA and the Key Program in Wareham, MA.

Amy's life-long personal experience of growing up with her older sister with special needs has inspired her, since a child, to work with individuals with special needs and their families.

Amy has a Bachelor's degree in Child Development and Psychology from Colby-Sawyer College and a Master's degree in Professional Counseling Psychology from Lesley University.

TRANSITION WEEKEND 2012 REGISTRATION/RESPONSE FORM

Student & Dorm Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is \$125.00 for individual, \$250.00 for family, as registration for the 2012 Transition Weekend at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, (New Venue) February 10-11, 2012.

I/We will pay by: ___check (*payable to Riverview School, Inc.*) ___Visa ___ MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

(Please Print Name)

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR CHILD:

- My/our child should be transported to the Resort and Conference Center on Friday (6:45 PM), February 10
- My/Our child will be staying with me/us overnight on Friday.
- My/Our child should be picked up on Saturday (8 AM) at the Resort and Conference Center & transported back to School.
- My/Our child should be transported to the Resort and Conference Center on Saturday (4:00 PM), February 11.
- My/Our child will be staying with me/us overnight on Saturday.

Will Siblings Attend Sibling Group? (Recommended for siblings ages 14 and older.) Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30. If so, please list their names and ages:

Listed below are suggested Sibling Issues. Please check those issues that would be of interest to your children:

- How will I take care of my brother/sister as our parents age?
- How are major family decisions regarding the LD sibling made--Are plans for the future outlined?
- What are my legal/guardianship responsibilities for my sibling?
- How do I deal with their medical/health issues later in life?
- Where do I find adequate resources for my brother/sister?
- What if there are differences of opinion among siblings? How are they resolved?
- How do I cope with feelings of "Why him/her, not me?"-Anger, guilt, jealousy?
- What is the impact of a learning disabled sibling on my major life decisions, i.e. choosing a mate, etc.
- What if I don't want to/don't feel capable of handling a learning disabled sibling for the rest of my life?
- Please list any other concerns you may have which you would like to see addressed:

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 18, 2012
Mail to the Advancement Office or Fax: 508-833-7005

Directions:
Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis
35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA 02601 (866) 828-8259

From Riverview School

1. Head east on Massachusetts 6A E toward Hammond Rd 5.1 mi
2. Turn right onto MA-132 S 2.4 mi
3. Slight right onto Bearses Way 1.7 mi
4. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Bassett Ln 0.2 mi
5. Turn right onto North St 0.4 mi
6. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Scudder Ave.

From Route 6 East

1. Take Exit 6 towards Hyannis
2. Turn onto MA-132 S 1.9 mi
3. Slight right onto Bearses Way 1.7 mi
4. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Bassett Ln 0.2 mi
5. Turn right onto North St 0.4 mi
6. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Scudder Ave.

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL
STUDENT SAFETY PROCEDURES

1. Riverview policy prohibits any Riverview student, either current or Alumni, to transport any Riverview student in their car.
2. If parents take their students off campus during the student's classroom time, students must be signed out either at James Center or GROW Administration Office.
3. When students are off campus with their parents, even at a Riverview sponsored event, parents should assume all responsibility for their child.

Your cooperation and adherence to the above
“Student Safety Procedures” is greatly
appreciated.

IMPORTANT
Health Care Center
MEDICATIONS

To: Riverview Parents
From: Health Care Center
Date: February 2012
Re: Medications during Transition Weekend

If you choose to take your student off campus, please remember to pick up any medications in the dorm and/or HCC. Controlled substances must be signed out by a nurse and you, the parent/guardian, in the Health Care Center.

Parents will be responsible for dispensing medications to their son/daughter while off campus.

Upon leaving for the weekend, please return the medications to the Health Care Center. If you have a controlled substance, you and a nurse will sign the medication in.

Thank you very much and please do not hesitate to call the Health Care Center @ 508-833-7000, ext. 265/266 if you have any questions or concerns.

ENJOY YOUR WEEKEND!

EXTENDED POOL HOURS!
Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis
Please note that the Pool Hours have been
extended for Riverview School!
Friday, February 10, 2012
Open until 10:00 p.m.
And
Saturday, February 11, 2012
Open until 11:00 p.m.
Enjoy and Be Safe!!

Reminder to
Secondary School/GROW Parents
Saturday, February 11th
is a scheduled Saturday School.
Transportation will be provided from the
Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis
back to the Riverview campus on
Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. for those
Riverview students who spend Friday night
at the hotel.
Please meet the Residential Staff in the
lobby of the hotel promptly at 8:00 a.m.