****

**May 8, 2020**

VASP Spring Conference featuring:

 **Dr. Steven Feifer, DEd, NCSP, ABSNP**

The Neuropsychology of Stress and Trauma

The Neuropsychology of Written Language

Doubletree Hilton, Charlottesville Virginia

Registration opens February 11, 2020 – vaspweb.org



Program Descriptions

**The Neuropsychology of Stress and Trauma:**

**How to Develop a “Trauma Informed” School**

This presentation will explore the neural underpinnings of stress, trauma, and emotional dysfunction in children and its relative impact upon learning. Environmental deprivation, poverty, childhood abuse, witnessing violence, and parental neglect can impact both cognitive and social-emotional development in children. There will be a discussion on five steps that schools can take to become *“trauma-informed”,* in order to better meet the diverse needs of all learners. Schools can enhance emotional wellness through early prevention efforts, appropriate assessment and screening techniques, and an improved school climate to foster emotional growth for all children. Targeted assessment strategies, specific classroom accommodations, and key coping strategies will be presented for at-risk students.

Learning Objectives:

(1) Discuss the prevalence of trauma and stress for school aged children, as well as the various sources from which trauma can occur.

(2) Explore key brain regions that are impacted when students experience trauma, and the subsequent effect on academic and social skills’ development.

(3) Review five essential steps toward the development of a *“trauma informed”* school.

(4) Review various trauma screening tools and specific assessment techniques in order to conduct a *“trauma-informed”* evaluation.

(5) Discuss specific classroom accommodations along with school-wide interventions, and key coping strategies to induce a more positive school climate for all students.

The Neuropsychology of Written Language Disorder:

An Introduction to the FAW

This presentation will explore the neuropsychological underpinnings of the written language process. For years, educators have struggled to cultivate more effective writing skills in their students, as well as remediate written language disorders. The ability to generate and produce written language requires multiple linguistic skills involving both phonological and orthographical functioning (the elementary components of language), efficient word retrieval skills, executive functioning skills to organize and plan our inner thoughts and ideas, and working memory to hold our thoughts in mind long enough for effective motor skills output. A breakdown in these fundamental cognitive, linguistic, or motoric processes can result in various subtypes of written language disorders.

Learning Objectives:

(1) Discuss national trends in written language, and explore gender differences in writing performances between boys and girls.

(2) Discuss the neural architecture responsible for written language development in children and learn key brain regions responsible for the organization and production of writing skills.

(3) Discuss three specific subtypes of writing disorders, with particular emphasis on how*“frontal lobe”* processes such as working memory and executive functioning impact each subtype.

(4) Introduce the *Feifer Assessment of Writing* as a more effective diagnostic tool to determine subtypes of dysgraphia in children, as well as to provide targeted intervention strategies.

**ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

**Fees (includes meals)**

VASP Members/Retired Members - $100

Non-Members - $200

VASP Student Members - $40

**Hotel**

Doubletree by Hilton is offering a special group discount of $131 per night for VASP. Call 1-800-222-8733 and ask for “VA Academy of School Psychologists group rate”. Or use this link to reserve your room online:

https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CHOSHDT-SCP-20200507/index.jhtml?WT.mc\_id=POG

Reserve your room by **04/09/2020** to guarantee the special rate.

**Meals**

Continental breakfast, morning and afternoon snacks, and a buffet lunch are included in your registration fee. Vegetarian options will be available. For other food accommodations or allergies, contact Kelly Acevedo at kefkd5@gmail.com.

**Weather and Other Cancellation**

In the unlikely event there is a cancellation, we will send a notice to the email address listed in your registration.

**Refunds**

VASP registration fees are refundable if requests are received by May 3, 2020 at vaspweb.org or by contacting us via email. After that date, a $50 processing fee will be deducted for the refund. VASP is not responsible for hotel fees or cancellations.

**Accessibility**

The Doubletree by Hilton is ADA compliant. For special needs, please email Sarah Nevill at: snevill@culpeperschools.org.

**Continuing Education Credit**

VASP is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) to offer 6 hours of NASP-approved professional development for school psychologists that attend the conference in it’s entirety. VASP maintains responsibility for the programs it offers.

**Vendors**

Tables will be available for vendors or for school systems that would like to recruit school psychologists. Contact Sarah Nevill (email below) for pricing and details.

**SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**

7:00pm-9:00pm VASP Board Meeting - All VASP Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

**Friday May 8, 2020**

7:30am-8:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30am-11:30am Morning Session

11:45-12:45 Buffet Lunch

1:00-4:00 Afternoon Session

**Questions?**

Email us! Sarah Nevill, snevill@culpeperschools.org or Kelly Acevedo, kefkd5@gmail.com.