



Expert Speaker Dr. Christa Bialka:

Date: Thursday, February 21st

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Valley Forge Middle School

105 Walker Road

Wayne, PA 19087



Inclusion 101: What does inclusion really mean?

All people regardless of their disability or the challenges they face have a right to be included and to participate fully in their classrooms and school communities. But what does it really mean to create an inclusive school or classroom? What does such a school look and feel like? And what do parents need to know to ensure their children are getting access to an inclusive education?

Dr. Christa S. Bialka will join BUILD to lead a discussion on the basics of inclusive education. She'll offer an overview of what inclusion is and isn't. (Hint: It's a belief system and not just a set of strategies.) She'll also discuss some of the research that shows why inclusion benefits all students. And she will help dispel some of the myths around who can and cannot be included in their school communities.

Come join the discussion with BUILD as we learn about inclusion and how parents can help our school district to accept, support, value and celebrate the natural differences of individual students in our school communities.

Dr. Christa S. Bialka is the Assistant Professor of Special Education in the Department of Education and Counseling at Villanova University. Dr. Bialka received her M.Ed. in Moderate Special Needs Education from Boston College and her Ed.D. in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Bialka's work has recently been published in Teacher Education and Special Education, the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education, Disability & Society, Issues in Teacher Education, the Journal of Experiential Education, Action in Teacher Education, The Journal of College and Character, and the International Journal of Inclusive Education. Prior to earning her Doctorate, Dr. Bialka taught English and Special Education in the Boston area.

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