MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



JOCELYN WATSON

Jocelyn Watson, Resource Teacher for Special Education at Takoma Park Middle School in Montgomery County Public Schools, MD. This is my 16th year with the county and 19th year working in education.

Increasing the comfort and knowledge of technology for the teachers I supervise is one of the most pressing needs at this time. There are varying levels of strengths and deficiency in the use of platforms like ZOOM and Canva. As a department, we share best practices and effective tool utilization to support the needs of our students with disabilities. I also attend many zoom sessions and provide feedback to teachers highlighting accessibility gaps.

One of our biggest challenges has been providing access to our non-verbal physically challenged student. Through trial and error we are finally engaging in successful virtual sessions. With this particular student, parental support has been key with learning and managing technical difficulties. Access to audio/visual books has been great through the use of Bookshare and YouTube to provide accommodated materials.

Another challenge we faced dealt the organization of tasks, zoom session times and teacher office hours for our students. This obviously proved to have a larger impact on our students with executive functioning needs. We have now linked all of the students google classrooms to their google calendars. This way every assignment and due date is visible on one platform.