

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. South Brunswick is committed to being a “dyslexia friendly district” with the ability to embrace and support the strengths and talents of our students with dyslexia.

1 in 5 people may have indicators of dyslexia. On October 15th, you may see educators wearing red shirts to bring attention to the 1 in 5 statistic. This year, however, October 15th is a Sunday, so we will wear these October 16th!

Some history:

In September of 2014, NJ passed three laws related to dyslexia. In short, the law requires two hours of mandated training related to dyslexia for appropriate school personnel; screening for any child who shows indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities early - by the end of the first semester of second grade with further comprehensive assessment and interventions to follow; and finally, dyslexia is now identified in the New Jersey Special Education Code of Law under the classification category of Specific Learning Disability.

Currently, research shows that approximately 1 in 5 students may struggle in reading and writing. Early intervention can greatly increase success for such students.

Those who are dyslexic may experience difficulty with: learning letters and their sounds, decoding words, reading comprehension, written expression, grammar/mechanics, spelling, and rapid word retrieval.

Strengths for these students may include: verbal communication, visual arts, computer science, design, drama, electronics, mathematics, mechanics, music and/or sports.

If dyslexia runs in your family or you have concerns about dyslexia and your child, reach out to your child's teacher or administrator.

Our district is very proud of our commitment to being a dyslexia friendly district. A few years ago, our teachers created this video to showcase our commitment to supporting students with dyslexia and other learning differences. You can see the video here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/oB_Cpni_wZZynNkp2RoRUVTBSWGM/view?usp=sharing

In addition, our district was featured in New Jersey Family magazine (August 2017) in an article entitled, "Help! My Child Has Dyslexia"

<http://www.njfamily.com/Help-My-Child-Has-Dyslexia/>

If you are looking for some resources about Dyslexia for yourself or your child, here are some good places to start:

Overcoming Dyslexia by Sally Shaywitz (Book)

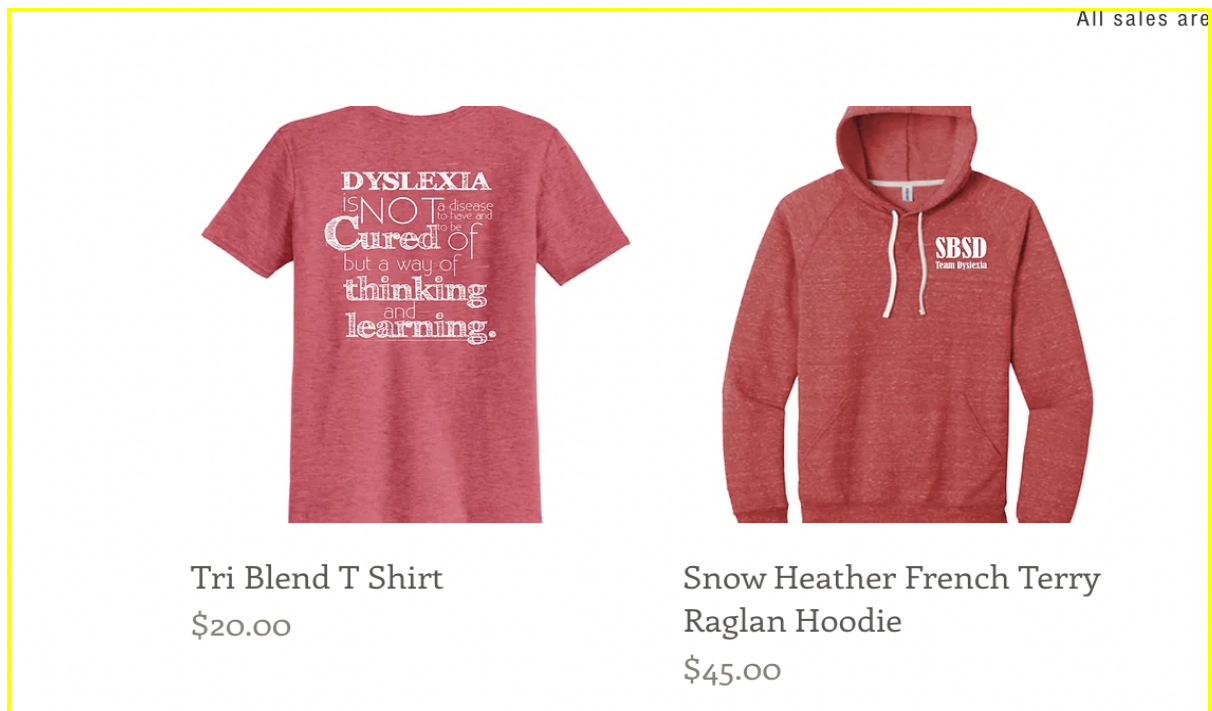
The Gift of Dyslexia by Ronald Davis

On Social Media follow:

- Decoding Dyslexia NJ
- Dyslexia Advantage
- International Dyslexia Association
- Made By Dyslexia
- Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

Helpful Websites:

- <https://dyslexiaida.org/>



In addition, NJ has 2 hours of mandated annual training about dyslexia. Our Team Dyslexia (core team and representatives in all of the schools) will be rolling this out as appropriate this fall and spring. Stay tuned!

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