

Hello! My name is Fran Gardner, and I'm your Middle and High School Parent Mentor! I helped start the Parent Mentor program in Olentangy Schools in Spring 2013 and was the Preschool and Elementary Parent Mentor from August 2013 through July 2019.

I have three children who are or will be Olentangy "Lifers". My children all have very unique learning needs. My oldest daughter is a gifted learner who pushes herself to achieve at the highest level. My son is on the Autism Spectrum and started me on the journey of special education in the Olentangy Preschool when he was 3 years old. My youngest daughter has ADHD and we find that a Section 504 plan provides the accommodations she needs to be successful in school.

I have over 16 years of experience navigating the disabilities world as a parent managing County, School District, and Local Services. I have developed great relationships along the way with amazing providers, teachers, specialists, researchers and parents to light the way. I am grateful for the support I've received and hope my experience can be helpful to you.

IEPs and 504s aren't what we first envision for our kids, but it doesn't have to be confusing, lonely, or unfair. I look forward to listening to your unique situation, supporting and empowering you, and learning alongside you. I welcome your advice about how to best support you - trainings, attending meetings, local activity lists, parent meet ups, parent/staff relationship building, etc.

Please email, call, or text me so that we can journey together in helping our kids flourish!

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