

Please return registration by

April 1st, 2021

Activity Kits will be mailed prior to

April 17, 2021



Message from our Superintendent Paul Olson

What do we all need more than ever? We need to stay connected and engaged! The NDVS/SB Family Weekend is the perfect opportunity to meet, greet and share. The time will come soon again when we gather in person, but don't let this unique virtual event slip away. Sure, we have all been over-zoomed, but this is really going to be worth your time and attention. Our little community of families do need each other more than ever and we need you to make this a great learning and sharing experience for all! See you there.



Our Mission

Our mission is to empower families so that they may access information on topics relating to their child's visual impairment, develop an awareness of services and resources available on a regional and national level and become more effective advocates for their child.

What is Family Weekend?

This is an opportunity for families who have a child with vision loss (including those with additional disabilities) to listen to informational speakers, and to meet other families from across North Dakota and staff from North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind.

What is the North Dakota School for the Blind Family Team?

Inspired by the National Association for Parents (and families) of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI), the Family Team's goal is to assist in connecting families who have children with vision loss across the state of North Dakota. We help to provide emotional support, advocate for the education and independence for children who are blind and visually impaired, and provide informational opportunities for families who have children with visual impairments or blindness.



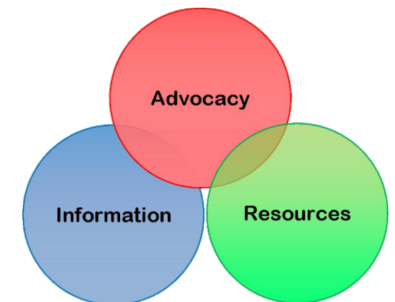
NDVS/SB is a Division of the ND Department of Public Instruction
Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent

ND Vision Services/School for the Blind does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sex (wages) or genetics in its programs and activities. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, please contact: Tami Purcell, Business Manager, ND Vision Services/School for the Blind, 500 Stanford Road, Grand Forks, ND 58203, (701) 795-2707.

North Dakota Vision Services/
School for the Blind presents



VIRTUAL FAMILY WEEKEND
April 17, 2021



Family Fun in 2021 - Virtual

Zoom Meeting on
Saturday, April 17, 2021

- 8:45-9:15

"Family Interaction Time"

Imani & DJenne Morris

- 9:15-10:00

"Sibling Perspective"

Imani Sojourner Morris

- 10:00-11:00

"I Can See Clearer Now"

Djenne-amal Morris

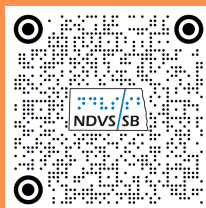
- 11:00-12:00

"What's So Special about Dads?"

Dr. Holly Pederson

Zoom links will be sent out by email one week prior. For your convenience we have a QR Code below where you can also find Zoom links and other Family Weekend information.

QR CODE



For Additional Information Please

Contact: Lanna Slaby
Phone # 701-253-3012
Email: lslaby@nd.gov

Family Weekend Presenters

Imani Morris

Imani Sojourner Morris, the daughter of Djenne, was born and raised in Boston, MA. She is the proud older sister of Malik (24) and Zakiya (18). She has always taken joy in the close relationship with her brother, Malik, who is only 13 months younger than her and has CHARGE syndrome.

For most of his life, she acted as one of his primary caretakers and interpreter. After moving to Texas to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and Spanish, she currently resides in Austin, Texas. Imani is very passionate about learning about different cultures and finding links that connect us all as humans. She has held positions working with refugees at the IRC and children who are impacted by immigration at Youth Rise Texas.

She has a strong desire to help others, and continues to do so in her current role as a nanny. She was named after Sojourner Truth and considers it an honor to continue her namesakes' fight for equality for minorities and women. She loves to travel, and has done mission work in several different countries.

Imani welcomes opportunities to share about her role as a sister, daughter and individual who has a brother with special needs. Imani loves telling her story through writing and is practicing being extroverted by speaking in public.



Djenne-amal Morris

Djenne-amal Morris brings passion and real life experience to her role as a parent/professional trainer, facilitator and motivational speaker whose view of the world is not as it is, but as it could be. As a mother of a son who is Deaf-Plus, she strives to build an atmosphere of support and empowerment for families of children with special needs and the professionals who serve them. Djenne provides speeches, workshops, trainings and individual coaching and mentoring both nationally and internationally. Djenne currently works as a Parent Educator at BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Raleigh, NC. Djenne proudly serves as the President of the Board of Directors of Hands & Voices HQ, and Family Faculty Advisor for the NC UNC-Chapel Hill LEND program. Visitors are welcome to her website:

www.TodaywithDjenne.com. Djenne is an avid reader and published author: *The Art of Collaboration: Lessons from Families of Children with Disabilities*.

Dr. Holly Pedersen

Dr. Holly Pedersen is the department chair of special education at Minot State University. Prior to this, Holly was a service provider for the School for the Deaf for nine years, specializing in parent-infant and outreach services. For the past 8 years, she has been working on the topic of fathers' involvement with their children who have hearing loss, and other disabilities. Come hear Holly and co-presenter/experienced father Cory Maclver talk about "What's So Special about Dads?" and learn how fathers who have positive relationships with their children can impact communication, achievement, stronger motivation, cognitive competence and better social skills.

