



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New and Familiar Faces Join the District in New Roles

Familiar faces, Marti Escalante, Sandy Toy, Jason Crouch, Stephanie Wehmeier, Rhesa Barber, and April Johnson, along with new hire Taria Booker, have been selected to fill new roles in the district.



The new Assistant Director of Special Education for Montgomery County Schools is a familiar face; **Marti Escalante**. She has served in different roles throughout her career in Montgomery County Schools, which include speech pathologist, special education team leader, and preschool coordinator. Mrs. Escalante will work with Abby McCormick, Director of Special Education, in providing leadership of district special education services and programs, preschool, and 504 Plans.

A veteran with Montgomery County Schools Transportation who has a broad range of work experience – including 13 years behind the wheel of a bus, four of those as a driver trainer – is the district’s new Assistant Director of Transportation, **Sandy Toy**. With student safety as her top priority, Ms. Toy has helped implement routing modifications during the COVID-19 pandemic, and helped streamline operations and improve the transportation department. She has a deep understanding of the department’s work. Her long term commitment to the district made her the perfect candidate for this position.



Jason Crouch will now serve as the district’s Technology Specialist/Chief Information Officer. He is no stranger to Montgomery County Schools, as he served in the technology department for the last 14 years. Mr. Crouch will manage all of the district’s technology hardware and software applications and is responsible for leading the roll-out of the district’s internet filtering software and implementation of 500+ IP office phones.

Taria Booker is new to the district and will be the first ever Multi-Tiered System Support (MTSS) Coordinator. This new position is responsible for providing guidance to district and school staff in positive behavioral interventions and response to intervention, support families' and students' social emotional needs, and serve as a liaison for community mental health agencies and foster care families/agencies. Ms. Booker brings a breadth of experience and commitment to serving children and families who have needs based on their socio-economic situation and social/emotional issues from working as a child protective service worker and senior social worker for the past 19 years.



Stephanie Wehmeier, an accomplished educator with 14 years' experience developing and implementing technology-related initiatives as a teacher and coordinator, has been selected as the new Technology Integration Specialist. She has been a member of the Mapleton Elementary family since 2008, teaching second, third, and fourth grades. Her educational and background experiences have allowed her to hit the ground running. She has already proven to be a tremendous asset in this role.

Rhesa Barber has taken the helm of operations for nutrition as she has been hired as the Operations Coordinator. Ms. Barber has been with the district for nine years. She previously worked at Montgomery County High School as the food service manager. Ms. Barber said her goal is to provide high standards of customer service, delicious meals and nutritional education to the students of Montgomery County Schools. She continues her work with the nutrition department that is known for putting its students and staff first.



After seven years as the secretary for the nutrition office, **April Johnson** is now the Administration Coordinator. In addition to overseeing nutrition purchases and billing, Ms. Johnson assists Sandy Jones, Director of School Nutrition, with the program's budget, maintain all training and professional development records for staff, and assist in district wide site visits to observe operations, monitor compliance with USDA program regulations and food safety standards.