

MDE announces lottery for special needs scholarship program applications

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced plans Tuesday for a lottery on July 6 to award approximately 8 Education Scholarship Accounts (ESA) for the 2018-19 school year.

Established by the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act of 2015, the ESA program provides scholarships to parents of students with disabilities who want to remove their child from a public school to seek educational services elsewhere. ESA recipients are eligible to be reimbursed up to \$6,740 in 2018-19 for the cost of private educational services.

The law provides for approximately 411 ESA accounts for the 2018-19 school year. As of June 26, approximately 403 ESAs have been awarded to students returning from the 2017-18 school year.

Therefore, approximately 8 additional ESAs are available for 2018-19. The number of available ESAs is subject to change as the MDE continues to receive certification data from current ESA participants.

All eligible applications received for the 2018-19 school year that have not

yet been awarded will be included in the lottery. Only complete, eligible applications received by July 3 will qualify for the lottery.

There are currently approximately 188 applications on the waiting list for 2018-19. The law requires the MDE to hold a lottery to award ESAs when the demand exceeds the supply.


To participate in the ESA program:

- The applicant must be a Mississippi resident;
- The student must have had an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) within five years of the date of application; and
- The parent must sign an agreement to adhere to the rules of participation.

Parents who are accepted into the program will be reimbursed quarterly after submission of a reimbursement request with proper documentation of expenses incurred.

Funds can also be paid quarterly directly to an educational service provider if approved by the parent.

For more information, visit www.mdek12.org/OSE/ESA or call the MDE Office of Special Education at 601-359-3498.



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Q: We have a boy, 6, and a girl, 9, who fight constantly about everything under the sun. My husband and I have a good marriage. We hardly ever have a serious disagreement about anything, so it's hard for us to understand what has led to our kids' inability to get along. In any case, their fighting has become very draining, especially to me because I homeschool and am with the children much more than is my husband. When they fight, I generally try to figure out which of them was in the wrong and make him or her apologize. My husband thinks that's not helping. I just think it's good practice. What do you think?

A: A much wiser man than I once said, "Forced apologies are morally meaningless." Obviously, the shoe fits. In your situation, does the child who apologizes truly think he or she was in the wrong? No. When siblings have conflict, each of them thinks he/she has been the victim of some insult or offense from the other. It takes much more maturity and wisdom than is possessed by 6- and 9-year-old children to see things from another person's point of view. Is

the apology, therefore, sincere? No. I suppose an argument could be made that it is "good practice," but that's idealistic thinking. The fact is that these forced apologies are probably making matters worse.

What has led to your children's inability to get along is their innate self-centeredness. You and your husband have obviously modeled what a properly loving relationship looks (and sounds) like. But as I've pointed out many times in this column and elsewhere, parenting is not deterministic. That is the Freudian myth. As parents of prior generations understood, "every child has a mind of his own." Good parenting does not guarantee a good outcome (and vice versa). Neither of your children are interested in a good relationship. They each want their own way. You and your husband want a good relationship. Each of you is willing to sacrifice self-interest to that end. It will be more than a few years before your kids are able to do the same - with one another or anyone else.

When parents "referee" sibling conflicts, things al-



The Lexington Farmer's Market is off to a great start, open every Friday, 7 a.m. to noon, in the Lexington Multi-Purpose Building. Pictured above, Mary Kohn (at left), from Tchula negotiates the price of fresh garden greens with vendor Christopher J. Cobbins (at right) with John's Farms out of Acona. Other vendors present were selling, collards, peas, squash, green tomatoes, corn, green onions, cabbage, eggs, okra and cucumber.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

Opinion: News publications to feel effects of newsprint tariffs

Mississippi's old-line newspaper publishers most definitely would be distraught of today's media world as pointed out in Mac Gordon's recent guest column (Sunday, June 17) in the Clarion Ledger. They would be further distraught about proposed tariffs on Canadian newsprint that may be disastrous for newspapers across Mississippi — especially the local community ones located in small towns across the state. The ones your friends and neighbors edit and publish. The ones many communities have depended on for generations and will be especially hit hard. Frankly, some newspapers could fold! Others will be forced into further cutbacks.

For sake of clarity this tariff is not as a result of the President's recently imposed Canadian aluminum and steel tariffs but instead the result of a complaint filed by a New York hedge fund-owned newsprint mill in Washington state last year. And while Trump may have not have initiated this tariff, any effort by his administration to intercede is highly unlikely.

For a little background

ways go from bad to worse. Concerning any given conflict situation, the sibling identified as the villain seeks to "even the score," and the sibling identified as the victim seeks to make yet another score. Mind you, the role of victim is addictive. It seeks constant satisfaction. Under the circumstances, the villain-victim paradigm is akin to a snowball rolling downhill and eventually be-

coming an avalanche. For this reason, I nearly always recommend that parents not engage in trying to determine who did "it," who did what to whom, who said what, who looked at the other sibling a certain way, etc. Hold both children equally accountable for disrupting the peace of the household. The first disruption of any given day earns both kids an hour in their respective

market. Increased prices in Canada means price increases everywhere else including that produced here in Mississippi. But increased prices means less is produced because less is used. Simple supply and demand economics means the tighter the supply the higher the price!

Some Mississippi community newspaper publishers over the past few weeks are reporting 30 percent price increase notices for printing costs. And printing costs are usually the second largest cost for a newspaper publisher.

In the past a publisher might raise a subscription price by a few cents or raise advertising rates by a percent or two to cover such cost increases. However, with today's digital/social media world, publishers can no longer pass those costs along, so they just have to absorb those costs. Very few if any community publishers can afford to do so these days.

There is pending legislation in Washington to further review the Canadian tariff situation with U. S. Senator Roger Wicker being a co-sponsor. Similar legislation is being introduced in the

House, but so far none of our congressional delegation has signed on. The Mississippi Economic Council has voiced concerns in Washington, DC.

On July 17 the Department of Commerce will hold hearings to determine the fate of the Canadian newsprint tariffs. We are grateful to Sen. Wicker for his commitment to testify at those hearings.

The outcome of the hearings will impact each and every community in Mississippi, and it may not be positive. Those old-line newspaper publishers would be distraught as are their successors today. Hopefully readers will now also be distraught.

Newspapers regardless of their size are not only watchdogs and historians for the local communities they serve, they too are economic engines that help communities thrive and prosper through the commerce they create via advertng of local good and services.

Bill Jacobs is the former owner, editor and publisher of the Brookhaven Daily Leader and the Prentiss Headlight. He serves on the board of directors of the National Newspaper Association Foundation where he is the Treasurer. He is a past president of the Mississippi Press Association.

rooms (or separate rooms if they share space). That's the warning shot. The second infraction earns them confinement for the remainder of the day - without electronic entertainment of any sort - and early bedtime.

In my experience, consistent enforcement of this consequence-based program will begin to show good results within a couple of weeks and cure within a

couple of months (albeit occasional enforcement may still be necessary for up to six months). The key is dispassion on your part. The emotional consequences of the problem must belong to the children, and to the children alone.

That, in fact, is a universal disciplinary principle.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.