



## Speaker Series Event

We are thrilled to announce the next event in our Speaker Series...

### **The Homework Battle: Understanding the breakdown and supporting your child's independence**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
6:00 - 7:15 PM**

By: Heather Ahern & Phil Newman, Next Step Academics

Virtual Event via Zoom

Children with complex learning profiles often struggle with independent work, and homework can be where that struggle is the most obvious. During independent work like homework, social-emotional needs can impact students' academic skill level. What students have done in class, cannot always be done independently. This creates avoidant behavior, frustration, and even anger. For others it means what takes 10 minutes at school can take an hour at night... with constant check-ins from parents. It can seem impossible for parents and educators to identify the barriers to success when they see it happening. During remote learning, these challenges are amplified. Everything can seem like homework.

We will present on the underlying causes of the daily homework struggle that can result in conflict and heartache. We will share our philosophy and model for helping students develop the skills and metacognition necessary to become successful independent learners. At the end of this presentation, you will better understand the emotional and academic barriers students face when approaching homework as well as some strategies to help students become successful independent learners.

**[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)**

**Meet the Speakers**

**Heather Ahern**, M.Ed. is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and Boston College, and started her career teaching at Landmark High School in Prides Crossing, MA. In addition to teaching in public and private schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, Heather has provided professional development for teachers specific to teaching reading. She has also consulted to struggling schools to facilitate school wide change in literacy practices and outcomes. Currently, she is thrilled to be back in the classroom teaching full time at The Carroll School in Lincoln, MA.



**Phil Newman** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who specializes in the interconnection between social-emotional and behavioral needs as they relate to the learning process. He is a graduate of Wheelock College where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. Phil has worked with children in families in a variety of settings including outpatient day programs and therapeutic residential placements. Phil has provided professional training for educators and parents on understanding the emotional barriers to learning and how to help "stuck" students succeed. Most recently, Phil has spent the last six years at the Carroll School as a guidance counselor supporting students with learning differences such as dyslexia,

ADHD, and executive functioning deficits.

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In addition to their work at the Carroll School, Heather and Phil are co-founders of [Next Step Academics](#).

At Next Step Academics, their multidisciplinary approach guides their understanding of the complex relationship between behavior, social-emotional, and learning needs so that they can foster independent students. They use proven strategies and routines to support the development of executive function skills and the power of the group dynamic to impact initiation and engagement. To meet the needs of students who are challenged by the demands of independent work for a variety of reasons, they take advantage of their regular homework assignments to directly instruct skills, strategies, and routines in a meaningful context.



For more information about us and our program please visit our website: [Next Step Academics](#).

## Upcoming Events

Keep an eye out for more information on our upcoming Speaker Series events...

**April 2021**

(Back again!) Dr. David Stein on the topic of ADHD

**May 2021**

Learning Prep staff members Maureen Austin & Jennifer Jurkiewicz on

# "The Intersection Between Language-Based Disabilities and Social Emotional Challenges"



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