



My name is Robyn Laub and I am the Occupational Therapist here at Pace Brantley School. I am also the Coordinator of Student Services as well as the classroom instructor for our Empowering Pace program.

We came back to school in August to a "new normal". Students all across the country entered uncharted territory with worries and fears about the changes in their schools. At Pace Brantley, just like at all other schools, new protocols are in place for the safety of our students and staff. Our students are adjusting beautifully!

As a therapist and classroom instructor, one thing that concerned me was how our students would be able to express themselves through body language as well as how they would be able to read the facial expressions of others under a mask. Children with special needs often have difficulties with this anyway, not to mention when masks are involved! Teaching children to look at others' eyes to get information about how they may be feeling is a valuable skill for all students to learn!

Attached you will find a simple yet fun activity you can do with your child.

- First, identify how the "person" feels based on the eyes.
- Do the same with the mouth.
- Match the eyes and mouths and don't forget to add a nose!
- Have fun with this activity- color the faces and decorate as much as your child prefers
- Practice identifying how you/your child feels while wearing masks. It's a great skill, even for adults!

For more information on this topic or on Empowering Pace, contact:

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