

# Better Hearing & Speech Spirit Week

## May 16-20!

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, a time to raise awareness of speech, language, and/or hearing impairments, and acceptance of students with these impairments. This includes students with speech sound delays, language delays, fluency disorders (stuttering), voice disorders, and those who use augmentative and alternative technology. In honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month, let's dress up and have some fun!

Monday: A Speech Therapist diagnoses and treats disorders that affect the entire communication system, including the brain, mouth, voice box (larynx), and sometimes lungs. **Dress as your favorite career (ex: teacher, police officer, scientist, etc.)!**

Tuesday: There are 32 different R sounds, which makes the /r/ sound a very tricky sound to learn and teach. Much of the sound is produced hidden away behind the teeth. **Let's practice those "aaaaarrrrrr" sounds and dress up like a Pirate or wear your Pittsburgh Pirate shirts!**

Wednesday: Sitting in front of a speaker at a rock concert can expose you to 120 decibels, which will damage your hearing in only 7.5 minutes. You can protect your hearing at a concert by wearing earplugs or headphones. **Dress up as a Rock Star or wear your favorite rock band shirt!**

Thursday: Many famous people overcame speech and language disorders including Thomas Jefferson, Marilyn Monroe, Ed Sheeran, Shaquille O'Neal, Bryan Rust, and Tiger Woods. **Dress up as a famous person!**

Friday: Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a motor speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to communicate effectively. Children with CAS know what they want to say, but the brain does not send the message correctly telling the mouth muscles to move and produce the speech sounds. **Let's wear the color blue to raise awareness and acceptance of CAS!**

For more information on speech/language/hearing impairments, visit [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org).