

Starting a New School Year

My 10 year old son, Jalen, is in 5th grade and started a brand new school this year so we thought giving a little presentation was a good idea. Here is what Jalen wrote for his class presentation (I love this kiddo!!):

"Hello. My name is Jalen Ballard. I was born with bilateral Microphthalmia. This means my eyes were small. This made me legally blind which means that I can see, however I can't see as good as you. I cannot see what the whiteboard says. I can see 72 font text up close and colors. However, I can't see class room signs. When I am in a situation where you think I need help, ask me if I Need help, but don't just assume that I do need help.

"I use a system called braille. Braille is a 6-dot system that allows me to read. I also use something called a braille note. This is a computer-like machine that allows me to create documents and print them. I can transfer them to my flash drive if I need to edit it on a computer. This also has a planner that I can use as an assignment book.

"Sometimes, I will need help getting around. When I do, I would use sighted guide. This means that I will hold on to your elbow. You would be 1 step in front of me while I am holding on. If there was something in front of me, we were at a corner that we had to stop at, or we were at the destination, you would tell me to stop, go, turn, etc. Don't be afraid to ask questions."