The Visual System and Classroom Skills

- **Visual Perception** = The brain’s ability to interpret visual information
- **Visual Motor** = The ability to coordinate vision with the movements of the body
- **Ocular Motor** = The ability to control the movements of the eyes so visual information can be transmitted to the brain

**Reading**
- Reading requires numerous foundational skills. Visual perceptual skills are needed to interpret and identify letters, understand letter orientation, and provide meaning to letter sequences. Visual skills are needed to focus on the letters, while ocular motor skills are required to accurately move the eyes to the desire location.

**Handwriting**
- Good visual skills are important in the development of hand skills needed in the classroom, including handwriting. The eyes "drive" the hand via visual perceptual and visual motor feedback, especially when first learning how to do a motor task. Foundational visual motor skills are required for students to copy shapes and write letters and numbers. Ocular motor skills are needed for a student's eyes to move separately from their head to allow their eyes to guide their hand while writing and to look up at the board or at their paper to copy text. Visual perception provides feedback to students about letter placement on the line, word spacing, and the ability to discriminate between different letters.

Because of the highly visual nature of school, children with impairment or immaturity in one or multiple components of the visual system can have difficulties. Please see the following link for a detailed resources that describes the connection between vision and learning and what types of things might be seen in the classroom if visual issues are present.

http://www.sbac.edu/~werned/DATA/VISUAMOTOR%20&%20PERCEPTION/TVC_CL_Charts3B.pdf

References:
