

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

Fall Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Celebrations in Professional Development!

This year our department has been engaged in hours of meaningful learning opportunities. Below you can find a list of what we have been considering as a department.

- ◇ Technology (Assistive, Adaptive, Augmented)
- ◇ Autism
- ◇ ADHD in the Classroom
- ◇ Positive Behavior Supports
- ◇ Mindset
- ◇ Crisis Prevention Institute
- ◇ Reading Strategies
- ◇ Social Emotional Health and Well-being
- ◇ Grief
- ◇ Mindfulness
- ◇ Inclusion
- ◇ Co-Teaching
- ◇ Positive Social Interactions
- ◇ Peer Buddies
- ◇ Foundational skills for our Teaching Assistants
- ◇ Crisis prevention
- ◇ First Aid
- ◇ Literacy and Dyslexia
- ◇ Legal Training
- ◇ IEP Writing
- ◇ Section 504
- ◇ ...and much much more

IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Did you know that each year our freshman participate in a **Learning Styles Inventory** as part of their work to better understand themselves as learners. This year was scheduled for November 16 and 17th. All freshman parents were notified via email.

Do you have a student with educational disabilities who will be transitioning to college in the next few years. Please see our presentation **Transition to Post-Secondary Education** - *All of our programs are post on-line via the guidance website - <http://www.livingston.org/Page/17597>

If your child has an IEP or a IAP, and is a high school student planning to transition to college, be sure that you have applied to College Boards for accommodations. Additionally, if your child is planning to take the ACT, you will need to apply separately for that test. Be sure to see your school counselor directly for information regarding the process as soon as possible.

Counseling Department Newsletter - <http://www.livingston.org/Domain/1011>

Welcome!



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Department of Student Services. We are supported by many wonderful professionals including Learning Disability Teacher-Consultants, Social Workers, Psychologists, Nurses, School Counselors, Student Assistance Counselors, Teachers, Behavior Specialists, Behaviorists, Teaching Assistants, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists...

In addition, our department is supported by our incredibly knowledgeable and student-centered supervisors Mr. Todd Mitchell, RPT and Dr. Blair Rosenthal, Ph.D. and our Director of Guidance, Mrs. Tina Renga. And finally me. I am fortunate to be in my sixteenth school year in Livingston. I have had the pleasure of working as the LDT-C for LHS; Pre-K-12 Supervisor of Special Education; and Principal of Burnet Hill Elementary School during my career in Livingston.

This year the Supervisors' of Special Education and Director of Guidance are focusing on building the professional toolkits of our staff members. To that end, you can see the many professional development opportunities that have been afforded to our staff.

40th Anniversary of IDEA

November 2015 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Education For All Handicapped Children's Act (Public Law 94-142) later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This historic legislation guaranteed that ALL children regardless of their disability would be entitled to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

In 1975, the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children's Act (Public Law 94-142) guaranteed access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment to each child with a disability in every State and locality across the country. Subsequent amendments, as currently reflected in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), have led to an increased emphasis on access to the general education curriculum, the provision of services for young children birth to five, transition planning, and accountability for the achievement and performance of students with disabilities.

During the last 40 years, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has supported and overseen the development of a national infrastructure of supports that are making a difference for millions of children with disabilities, as well as their non-disabled friends and classmates in schools across the country. Many of the educational approaches, techniques, and practices employed by our nation's best teachers are the direct result of Federal investments in rigorous educational research, training, and technical assistance. Today, due largely to the provision of IDEA-supported programs and services, over 6 million infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities are achieving at levels that would not have been imagined in previous decades. During this time, we have moved from access to the school house to inclusion, equity, and opportunity for all children and youth.

Should you ever have concerns about your child's education, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, principal, school counselor, case manager, or one of us.