

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

Spring Newsletter 2019

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Celebrations in Professional Development

We have already engaged in hundreds of hours of professional development! Please find some of the topics below:

- Assistive Technologies
- Building Positive Relationships
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Co-Teaching
- Teaching to Strengths
- Design Loop
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- Differentiated Instruction
- Enhancing Student Engagement
- Executive Functioning in the Classroom
- Mindfulness
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Questioning Strategies
- Reading and Writing Strategies
- Social-Emotional Learning
- STEAM in the Classroom
- Transition to Life
- Trauma Attuned Classroom
- Vocational Programs
- ...and much, much more!

Kindness Matters~

We are often asked to describe our anti-bullying efforts in school. The answer is simple... we teach kindness. The skills required to be kind are, in fact, the most essential tools we can give our students when teaching them to be upstanding, non-bullying human beings. In his book, "Bullying Hurts", Lester Laminack defines five levels for teaching students the skills necessary for kindness:

⇒ **Level 1 - We Have So Much in Common**

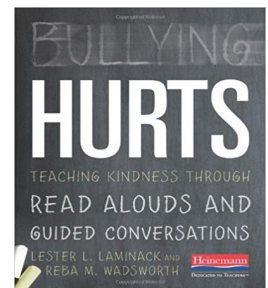
⇒ **Level 2 - There Are Ways In Which We are Different- Not Less Than Others, Not Better Than Others, Just Different**

⇒ **Level 3 - Thinking, Feeling, Acting**

⇒ **Level 4 - When Others are Not Thoughtful, Caring, and Kind**

⇒ **Level 5 - An Opportunity to Explore the Actions of Others, Reflect On Our Own Feelings, and Redirect Our Behaviors Toward Fellow Human Beings**

Our six elementary schools and Mt. Pleasant Middle School use this curriculum as their starting point for teaching kindness through children's literature. The levels are taught in large community events where students gather to consider selected text. As classes, they discuss, debate, and have decision making opportunities throughout the month. There are supplemental texts to assist the conversation. Each school is required by the Anti-Bullying Laws in NJ to have an Anti-Bullying Specialist (ABS). These are the individuals who coordinate the work towards building kindness skills at the appropriate developmental ages. You can find your school's ABS on the district and school website. Our schools spend a great deal of time in groups and with individual students building kindness skills through conversation, school counseling lessons, and of course, special events.



**Thoughts for you
to consider...**



Soon you will find a section on the district "Discover" called **#KindnessMatter@LivSchools**. This will be dedicated to sharing tools for developing these essential skills across each of the developmental stages for children, resources for assisting teachers and families, and examples of kindness in action in our learning community. The hope is that you will learn a bit about how we are working towards building essential skills in our students that will guide them to lead with kindness as they approach each stage in life. If you want to find up to date strategies and reflections about kindness, please follow me at **#KindnessMatter@LivSchools~ Lisa Steiger**



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

11 Foxcroft Drive - Livingston, New Jersey 07039

PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

MAY 2019

May 8th

Mindfulness Parent Night: Tools for Parents for
Parents of Sixth Grade Students

6:00—7:30 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Middle School Auditorium

May 9th

Managing Expectations of the Junior Year for
Parents of Students with a Disability, Class of 2021

6:00—7:00 p.m.

Livingston High School Media Center

May 9th

Overview of the Junior Year

All Parents, Class of 2021

7:00—9:00 p.m.

Livingston High School Auditorium

May 16th

PRIDE Parent Workshop

The Transition from PRIDE to Kindergarten

6:00—7:00 p.m.

Burnet Hill Elementary School



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PARENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

JUNE 2019

June 6th

Senior Awards and Scholarship Program

7:00—10:00 p.m.

Livingston High School Auditorium

June 13th

5th to 6th Grade Transition Night for

Parents of Students with a Disability

6:30—7:15 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Middle School Media Center

June 13th

5th to 6th Grade Transition Night for

All Parents

7:30 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Middle School Auditorium