SPECIAL EDUCATION TODAY

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New staff introductions:

We want to introduce Sara Jo Soldovieri, the manager of Inclusive Education Programming at the National Down Syndrome Society. Originally from Wisconsin, she earned her bachelor's degree in inclusive elementary and special education, and masters in inclusive secondary special education from Syracuse University. Her passion for inclusive education comes from her friendship formed with her best friend Cathy, who happens to have Down syndrome, whom she met after her school growing up went to a full inclusion model. She has taught first through fifth grade, making inclusion a reality for all her students. She has since left the classroom and works both nationally and internationally on best inclusive educational practices.
Assistive Technology Training:

As the use of technology continues to develop around us, we are finding many tools and resources that can support the needs of our students. In the new year, we six of our staff members will be attending three days of assistive technology training to build the capacity to perform in district assistive technology evaluations. By attending this training we will provide our students with the current options in assistive technology that can expand beyond our special education department. We will also be able to control the timely manner in which these evaluations can be completed. By strengthening our in-house capabilities, our methods will become more standardized, our toolbox will continue to expand and ultimately we will build a Hastings team of experts.

The training consists of:

- Two days of the training will take place at a central location. Participants will practice new skills with case studies, and discussion.
- The morning of day three consists of the two groups (participants are split into two groups) conducting AT assessments on two students that the district has selected. The two teams will have time at the end of day two to prepare for their assessments. The teams will typically spend about 1.5 hours observing and interviewing teachers/therapists. One month after training, six months of mentoring will begin, which includes a monthly Skype meeting to discuss and walk the teams through the next steps in the A/T cycle. The mentoring also includes participants being able to reach out to the trainer when they need advice or assistance with any students on their caseload in regards to assistive technology.
Annual Reviews

Beginning in February 2018, our annual review season will be in full swing! Once you have received your invitation notice, please let your designated Administrative Assistant (Beth Haberman, Theresa Terry or Alexine Hollocou) know if the scheduled date/time does not work for you.

In an effort to streamline our Reevaluation CSE meetings, we are asking for the providers/evaluators to reach out to the parents/guardians in advance of the CSE meeting to share the report and review the results.

If you have a question and are not sure who to contact, please feel free to connect with us through the following link. This link is also available on our website.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BKeS9kI1kGu7HBvenuD2yUuzYle_dXDmaExJpreVD9U/edit?ts=59bc1c1a

Contact Information

Beth Haberman
Classified students in grades 9th through 12th, students are in out of district placements, or parentally placed, and special transportation needs.
habermanb@hohschools.org

Theresa Terry
Classified students in grades 5th through 8th and assistive technology needs.
terryt@hohschools.org

Alexine Hollocou
CPSE students and classified students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade.
hollocoua@hohschools.org
Professional Development:

We are continuing with our Integrated Co-Teacher professional development through Goldmansour & Rutherford. In addition to our monthly Coaching Days, we held two training days in the Fall for Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School and have added another one to our calendar scheduled for January 3, 2018. This training focuses on UDL (Universal Design for Learning) with the following goals:

• To define and understand instructional barriers and how to provide access for all learners using differentiated supports
• To build inclusive, barrier-free, co-planned lesson planning techniques in order to provide access for the whole class, as well as individualized learning needs and goals of students.
• To build collaboration between co-teachers and teacher skills when planning

On November 1, 2018, our two Behavior Therapists worked with our K-12 Teacher Aides and Teacher Assistants focused on Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans.

On January 29, 2019, Tesfa and Laura will be attending the Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The CEC 2019 Annual Convention & Expo is the most prominent special education professional development event of the year. There will be over 600 sessions, convention workshops, social events, prize drawings, hundreds of exhibitors, all designed to provide us with the information we need to support your children.

For more information

Cecconvention.org
Dr. Lauren Katzman

We had the pleasure of having Dr. Lauren Katzman attend our Board of Education meeting on December 3, 2018. We have attached two links from Dr. Katzman's presentation; please feel free to take a look. The special education department is extremely excited to continue to build on the recommendations Dr. Katzman outlined while continuing to ensure that all of our work is focused on improving the whole child.

Copy and video of the presentation are available at:


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5QsmCXXqe4&feature=youtu.be
**Important Dates**

**Late Start:**
- January 11, 2019

**Community Conversations:**
- February 25, 2018 - Hastings High School (6:30pm)
- March 7, 2019 - Farragut Middle School (6:30pm)
- March 21, 2018 - Hillside (6:30pm)

**SEPTA:**
- Annual Review Parent Education Night Tuesday, January 22 @ 7pm location TBD
- Trivia Night Fundraiser Saturday, February 9 @ 7pm at Southside Club
- New Date for SEPTA Carnival! Sunday, June 2 @ 12-3pm at Hillside Elementary

**Hastings Education Foundation**
- Spring fundraising event Friday, May 10, 2019

As we reach the half way mark of the year we want to keep everyone up to date with a few important upcoming dates. We hope that everyone has a safe and restful break!

Laura and Tesfa