



# Special Education Today

Fall 2019

"Which of my students are the hardest to reach? What do I need to do so that THEY get this content?" -Shelly Moore

## What to look for in this issue:

- **New Staff Introduction (Pages 2)**
- **New Classroom News (Page 3)**
- **Professional Development (Page 4)**
- **Indicator 12 (Page 5)**
- **Special Education District Committee (Page 6)**
- **School News (Page 7)**
- **Important Dates (Page 8)**
- **Contact Us (Page 9)**



"In special education, there's too much emphasis placed on the deficit and not enough on the strength." - Temple Grandin



Danielle Brennen: 3rd Grade Integrated Co-Teacher  
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Venetta Davies: 4th Grade Integrated Co-Teacher  
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Gabriella Sokol: 4th Grade Integrated Co-Teacher  
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Melissa Vigada: Special Class Teacher Grades 3rd-5th  
[vigadam@hohschools.org](mailto:vigadam@hohschools.org)

Please feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions.





## **New Classroom**

We are happy to announce that we have opened a new classroom in Hillside.

We have expanded our Special Class 8:1:2 from one section into two sections in order to meet the needs of our students.

This has also enabled us to support children from other districts (tuition students) that do not have access to such unique and specialized programs.

8:1:2 Special Class (Communication Class Grades K-2)

8:1:2 Special Class (Communications Class Grades 3-5)

- Eight students
- One special education teacher
- One teacher assistant, and one teaching aide

This class is designed for students with significant academic, communication, and management needs that require increased supervision and individualized academic, and behavioral modifications.

The class fosters the development of skills and support for the individual student in the specialized areas of communication, socialization, sensory-motor processing, behavior management, daily living skills, and academics.





## **Professional Learning**

### **Summer Leadership Institute at Syracuse University:**

Over the summer, Laura, Tesfa and Janet Lyons attended a 3 day conference at the Syracuse Summer Leadership Institute sponsored by Dr. Julie Causton's Inclusive Schooling Initiative.

During the 3 days we were able to hear perspectives from educators, and students about the effective practices for inclusion. We are looking forward to collaborating with Julie Causton's team to further enhance our inclusive practices. For more information about the institute please see the link below:

<https://www.inclusiveschooling.com/events/>

### **Crisis Prevention Intervention:**

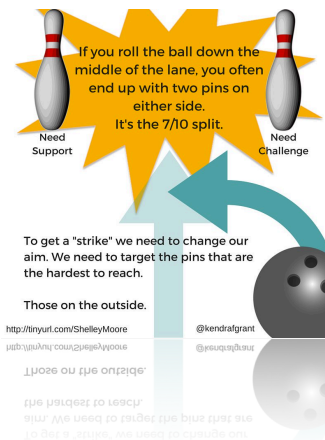
Laura attended a four day intense training through the Crisis Prevention Institute on Nonviolent Crisis Intervention®. "CPI training equips you with skills, confidence, and an effective framework to safely manage & prevent difficult behavior. From children to teens to adults, *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*® training helps you de-escalate tense situations with people of all ages."

(<https://www.crisisprevention.com/What-We-Do/Nonviolent-Crisis-Intervention>)

Laura is now a certified CPI instructor and has already begun to train staff members.

<https://www.crisisprevention.com/>

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart" - Hellen Keller



Shelly Moore video about inclusion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYtUIU8MjIY>



Once you learn to appreciate small victories, there is no need for a finish line." - (Anonymous)

## **Indicator 13**

Each year, school districts are assigned indicators by the New York State Education Department to monitor performance in a variety of areas. This year, the Hastings on Hudson School District was assigned Indicator 13. As a result, the special education department will be working closely with all three schools to incorporate Indicator 13 into our district wide practices as opposed to being a stand alone compliance activity.

*State law and regulations define transition services to mean a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability, designed within a results-oriented process that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities, including, but not limited to, post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated competitive employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. The coordinated set of activities must be based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's strengths, preferences and interests, and must include needed activities in instruction; related services; community experiences; the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. - (<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/reg/b/a/300.43/a>)*

### **Indicator 13 Specifications**

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"Progress is the attraction that  
moves humanity."- Marcus  
Garvey

## **Special Education District Committee**

Our new the Special Education Committee is designed to promote the learning of students with Individualized Education Plans by working together to proactively find ways in which we are a system working towards success of all learners. Our first meeting was held on 10/2/19 with a focus on Indicator 13.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- ◆ December 3, 2019
- ◆ February 24, 2020
- ◆ May 12, 2020



October 29, 2019



"Do not pray for an easy life,  
pray for the strength to endure a  
difficult one." -Bruce Lee

## **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society has begun their peer tutoring sessions for all middle and high school students.

Parents, teachers or students can complete the new online form to request tutoring services.

[New Online Tutor Request Form](#)

## **Just Say Y.E.S.**

If you would like to hire a Hastings High School student, the Youth Employment Service is here to serve you. Just call or email the Director, Jill Iturbe to get started. Jill is available (Room 212) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students are available for: babysitting, after-school childcare, errands, homework supervision, tutoring, student organization, home organization, moving, yardwork, snow removal, computer assistance and instruction, website development, photography, pet care, clerical work, data entry, party aides, kids parties, iPhone help, senior errands, sports assistance and much more.

For more information or to hire a student please call 914-478-6266 or email at [iturbej@hohschools.org](mailto:iturbej@hohschools.org)

Additionally, if you are the parent of a Hastings High School student, please remind them to sign up with the YES Office if they want to be eligible to fill these great job opportunities. All they have to do to get start is go to the YES Office and fill out a current orange YES application form.

## Important Dates

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### SEPTA Corner

- Parent Discussion Group: Mondays, 9:30am at the Hastings Reformed Church. Led by a licensed social worker, this group comes together once a week to discuss parenting challenges.

### 2020

- January 28: SEPTA Annual Review Prep Night 7pm Lloyd Library
- February 8: SEPTA Trivia Night Fundraiser Southside Social & Athletic Club
- March 5th: SEPTA Assistive Technology Night 7pm Lloyd Library
- March 11th: SEPTA FMS Spring Community Conversation 6:30pm Lloyd Library
- March 23rd: SEPTA Hillside Spring Community Conversation 6:30pm Hillside Cafe
- April 16th: SEPTA HHS Spring Community Conversation 7pm Lloyd Library
- May 31st: SEPTA Community Carnival [rain date June 7th]
- June 7th: SEPTA General Meeting and Board Elections 6:30pm Lloyd Library

"You are not alone!"-  
(Anonymous)





## Beth Habermann

Classified students in grades 9th through 12th, students that are in out of district placements or parentally placed and special transportation needs.

[habermanb@hohschools.org](mailto:habermanb@hohschools.org)

## Theresa Terry

Classified students in grades 5th through 8th and assistive technology needs.

[terryt@hohschools.org](mailto:terryt@hohschools.org)

## Alexine Hollocou

CPSE students and classified students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade.

[hollocoua@hohschools.org](mailto:hollocoua@hohschools.org)

### Who Do I Contact?

Case Managers - Each child has been assigned a case manager.

Please contact them with any questions/concerns regarding your child's day to day happenings including the areas of academics and/or behavior. If your child receives any related services (Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling) please feel free to contact the provider directly if you have a question/concern related to this area.

By now, you should have received the names and contact information for your child's case manager and service providers.

If you have a question that doesn't seem to fit into one of the categories above, please feel free to contact us through the following [link](#).

