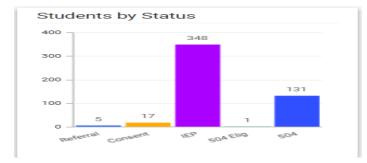


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# February, 2024

#### **Special Education Demographics:**

 According to the home page of our IEP platform (Edplan), 348 Students are receiving Special Education as of 01/30/2023. As usual, there is some flexing of numbers as students are exited and entered.



#### **Staff Openings:**

- We are currently in the process of hiring one certified position that was not previously filled for the 2023/24 school year assigned to Carberry Elementary.
- We are preparing to open up a hiring pool for Certified Special Education Teachers for the 2024/25 school year in preparation of any opening we may have.

#### **Department Projects:**

- The end of January closed out our General Supervision File Review for the 2023/24 school year with successful completion and designated as showing compliance.
  - We did have two procedural areas to tighten up including clarification of when a Written Notice is sent during secondary re-evaluations with no further assessment needed, and adding more description to our impact statements for IEP goals.
  - Always a good review and learning experience as we work with our Sesta Coordinators to improve our practices.
- February 2, 2024 Professional Development will allow for:
  - Special Education Teachers and Paras join their General Education colleagues in curriculum training,
  - Provide time for training in collaboration for modification and accommodations,\
  - Time for teams to focus on specific support training for Paraprofessionals,
  - Zoom collaborations for School Psychs and a SESTA Behavioral Coordinator for a strategy discussion for crisis plan and significant behavioral plans.
  - Specific building and team focus on SESTA training.

#### Staff Highlights:

We have incredible staff working in our special education programs and classrooms. Each month we would like to highlight a couple of them.



## Amber Morgan, SpEd Teacher (Extended Resource) at Carberry Elementary

#### • How long have you been with ESD?

I am in my 9th year as an Emmett School District employee. I worked for 7 years as a special education para at the middle school, and for the last 2 years, I have taught Tier 3+ special education at Carberry for grades 3rd-5th!

#### • Why did you pursue the career you have today?

Honestly, I started with the district to have a similar schedule as my kids, and I had always loved working with students, especially those with special needs. Once I was working in the classroom, I loved it! I worked for an amazing teacher, Stacie Rekow, who encouraged me to become a special education teacher, and here I am 6 years later finishing my Master's in Special Education.

#### • What is your favorite part of your job?

Helping my students learn new skills! I love all the little accomplishments we get to see every day, as well as the big celebrations we get to have when we meet goals!

#### • Tell us about your family.

I have been married to my husband (high school sweetheart) for 20 years, and we have 3 amazing kids! My oldest Kaylyn just graduated from Emmett High School in May, and she plans on enrolling in school this fall to become a special education teacher! She volunteers in my classroom as much as possible, and I am grateful for her. My middle daughter Emma is a senior and will graduate from Emmett High School in May. She wants to follow in her dad's footsteps and become a certified welder, eventually taking over his business! My son Trayl is in his last year at Emmett Middle School and keeps us busy going to his sporting events. He currently plays football, wrestles, and is getting ready for basketball season in January! We live on a 4th generation cattle ranch in Sweet ID which takes up most of our free time.

#### • Describe an interesting hobby or pastime that you have.

I haven't had much time for a hobby since I started school, but I do have a highland cow named Merida who I love and is trained to come to her name! She is the cutest, most spoiled cow ever!

# • What's something surprising that not many people know about you?

I do not like my food to touch, and I have rules as to what foods I let touch and what foods can not!

## • When did you first know that you wanted to pursue a career in this field?

During my first year working as a para, I realized that teaching was what I was meant to do!

• What's something that you've always wanted to try or learn? I would like to learn how to play the guitar or mandolin someday!



# Ivy Snow, SpEd Teacher (Extended Resource) at Carberry Elementary

## · How long have you been with ESD?

I started working in the district as a para in 1993 at the middle school. I earned my BA in 2012

# • Tell us about your Job (Who, What, Where, How)?

I am a special education teacher at Carberry Elementary School. I love working with the students on my caseload -Kindergarten through Second Grade. Each of these students faces challenges and struggles to have success with many of the skills that most of us take for granted.

# • Why did you pursue the career you have today?

When I started as a para in 1993, I quickly realized that I wanted to stay in the Education field. Teaching and working with students felt natural and has always been very rewarding and fulfilling for me.

# · What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of this job is that I get to be present, and witness celebrations in learning and personal growth and development. Student success comes in all shapes and sizes, celebrations big and small are the best.

## • Tell us about your family.

I have been married to a very patient man for 42 years. We have 4 sons (married to lovely ladies) and 8 grandchildren (with one on the way- ETA January). I adore them all.

## • Describe an interesting hobby or pastime that you have.

A favorite hobby is food preservation. I love gardening, canning, and freeze-drying foods for long-term storage. I especially enjoy teaching these skills to the younger generation:) What's something that you've always wanted to try or learn?

I would love to travel and visit as many places as possible before I die. I would also like to learn a second language (Spanish)