

Beecher Road School

Special Services Updates

November 07, 2024



Is it really November?

It's crazy to think that we are actually in the month of November as the halls are still filled with students wearing shorts, tees and sandals! The Special Services Team 'Inside Out'-did themselves with their Halloween costumes and hilariously accurate depictions of emotions. Very appropriate for Special Services, as our Wellness Team members continue to support students in all grade levels with emotional regulation, coping strategies, friendship groups, individualized counseling support, behavior plans and lunch buddies. A special highlight and thank you to the Wellness Team for spearheading a 'Friendship Group' for grades 4-6 outside of the school day. Last year we tried it out, with much success, and we plan to continue it, hopefully to include a 1st thru 3rd grade group in the future.

Department Updates:

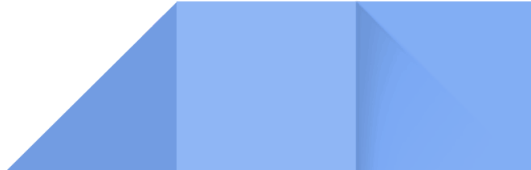
Professional Learning

Teachers have been busy setting new goals for the year under the new teacher evaluation systems. Many of these goals relate to the continued learning we do as educators to support our students. Catering to a diverse group of clientele, we have a variety of programs and supports we are diving into this year. The following is just a hint of the professional learning we have been working on:

- Orton Gillingham Certification
- Unique Learning Systems Curriculum
- Assistive Technology Training and Evaluation
- CARES/ Schoolwide SEL Initiatives related to Responsive Classroom
- Paraeducator training- Best Practices in Education
- Assessments for Reading
- Alternative Communication
- Behavior Intervention Strategie

CT-SEDS

Thank you to all families with your flexibility with CT-SEDS. We've had a few technical issues that have been out of our control and they are being addressed on a case by case basis. A few reminders for you:

- Remember, there is no "login" for CT-SEDS. If there is a document to view or sign, it will come to you via email. We recommend downloading any files to your computer or drive to reference them in the future.
 - Progress reports will be coming to you in December. If you do not receive this at report card time, please contact your special education teacher.
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Spotlight on Staff

Paraeducators

This summer, the state of CT adopted new language around the title of one of our most prized staff member teams, our Paraeducators! They have previously been called Teaching Assistants (TA) and ParaProfessionals (paras or parapro). Moving forward we will be recognizing this change and as always we are so thankful for this brilliant group of educators!

At BRS, we currently have Paraeducators supporting both special and general education programs throughout the building. As a reminder, If you have questions or concerns about your students, please go directly to your student's special education teacher. They work closely with this wonderful group and should be your first line of contact!

Grades Pre K-2:

Nell D'Andrea, Laura Sexton, Suzanne Sugarmann, Alex McDaniel, Jen Cooper, Kate Pagnataro, Patricia Williams, Marion Turiano, Kit Dunbar, Courtney Silva, Tiffany Stewart, Ann Finateri, Eileen Swirsky, Sue Skolnick, Michelle Chaplick, Debbie Laydon, Natalie Messina, Daniela Olofsson, Donna Bartlett, Amy Colonna, Peter Tallardy, Peyton Chaplick, Eliza Murray, Astrid Andrade

Grades 3-6

Magnus Ciarleglio, Shari Foldy, Terri Pinciaro, Chris Fraser, Denise Romaniello, Lauren Kenefick, Rupri Kaur, Abby Tucker, Kasia Komar, Sue Zuk, Melissa Blackwell, Jodi Scalzo, Jen Leslie

We're Hiring!

At this time, we still have 3 vacant paraeducator positions. If you or someone you know would be interested in working with us, please use this [link](#) to our school HR page. In order to be a paraeducator, you must have a minimum of an Associate's equivalent (credits) or pass the parapro assessment. Please email cborcherding@woodbridgeps.org if you need more information.



Upcoming Events

Financial Seminar w/ Michael Beloff

November 12th, 7 PM, Virtual



Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
Connecticut's Resource for Children with Disabilities;
Empowering and Educating Families

For families who may be eligible for

Government benefits and how to access them, as well as, how to plan financially for your child's future.

I have worked with and attended Mr. Beloff's training in the past. Not only is he a CFP, he has undergone this process within his family. He reviews what you can and should do to prepare for the future, and he provides information on where to go and how to access funds. Honestly, this is worth attending even if you aren't sure you will qualify for state support. I HIGHLY recommend this training.

<https://cpacinc.org/events.aspx>

K-3 Literacy Forum

November 12, 2024

6-730 PM in the BRS Cafeteria



Join the Superintendent, Building Principals and Literacy Specialists to learn and ask questions about the new K-3 Literacy Program. Explore the actual materials and resources your children and teachers are using every day to prepare children to gain the skills they will need to live successful engaging lives as they become independent, life-long readers.

Resources and Recommendations

Talking to your child about their disability

As students get older, particularly those in the upper elementary grades, many families begin to ask how to talk to their children about disabilities. This is such a powerful opportunity to discuss all of the *abilities* your children have and where they may need to advocate for support.

The following resources are a place to start. As educators, we encourage students to learn how they learn so that they can become their own biggest advocates. If you start having these conversations, please let your student's team know so that we can support the same conversation at school.

[Respecting Differences, Seattle Children's Hospital.](#)

[Talking to your child about their disability](#)

[How to speak to your child about their disability: Podcast](#)

[Introducing your child to his or her diagnosis of Autism](#)



Giving Thanks

As we approach the holiday season, I'd like to take a minute to express my gratitude to each of you for trusting us with your learner every day. We take pride in working with you to encourage and support your students through creative inquiry, academic growth, and social-emotional wellness. I continue to be incredibly thankful for the absolutely amazing Special Services department we have here at Beecher. The level of dedication, professionalism and care is truly unmatched.

During this fall season, I hope you find time to cuddle up and practice those reading skills, take a walk through the beautiful leaves while you collect acorns, throw the football adding up your yardage and extra points, or take turns mixing ingredients while making a pie. Whatever the activity, there's always an opportunity to sneak in some skill building.

Wishing you all the best during Thanksgiving and Holiday Break!



Carrie Borcharding
Director of Special Services
Woodbridge School District
(203) 389- 2195 x201
cborcharding@woodbridgeps.org



Woodbridge School District

40 Beecher Road
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

