

Transition Information for Students with Disabilities at WTPS



Monday, March 18, 2024
7 pm

Mrs. Samantha Bagarozza
Supervisor of Special Education, PK-5
Principal of Wall Primary

Dr. Nancy Samaha
Supervisor of Special Education, 6-12

Special Services Department in Wall Township

- Assistant Superintendent of Special Services
 - **Kelly Bond**
- 2 Special Education Supervisors:
 - **Samantha Bagarozza, Grades PK-5**
 - **Dr. Nancy Samaha, Grades 6-12**
- 92 Teachers & 97 Instructional Paraprofessionals
- 17 Child Study Team members (LDT-C, Psychologist, Social Worker)
- 2 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA)
- 9 Speech Therapists
- 2 Occupational Therapists (OT)
- Specialists including: Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Transition Coordinator, and Special Education Reading Specialist
- Contracted OTs & PTs



Where do we educate our students?



- General Education
- In-Class Resource
- Pull-Out Resource
- Self-Contained Classes
- Out-of-District

Our Current Special Education Programs

Wall Primary School

- Preschool Disabled
- Integrated Preschool

Allenwood Elementary School

- K-1 Emotional Regulation Impairments (ERI)
- 2-4 Emotional Regulation Impairments (ERI)
- K-2 Multiple Disabilities (MD)
- 3-5 Multiple Disabilities (MD)

Old Mill Elementary School

- K-1 Learning and/or Language Disabilities (LLD)
- 2nd Learning and/or Language Disabilities (LLD)
- 3-4 Learning and/or Language Disabilities (LLD)

Wall Intermediate School

- 6-8 Emotional Regulation Impairments (ERI)
- 6-8 Multiple Disabilities (MD)
- 6-8 Learning and/or Language Disabilities (LLD)

Wall High School

- Multiple Disabilities (MD)
- Learning and/or Language Disabilities (LLD)
- Work Based Learning (WBL)



The Importance of Transition

- Transition programs are helpful for both students and parents.
- Change is good, but it's important to be prepared for it!
- Stay positive when discussing it with your child, even if it's hard for you to see them growing up!
- Be sure to get to know your child's new case manager in their new school.
- Please know that we are all working toward the same goal - making sure your child's needs are being met and that they are able to reach their potential.



Transition from Wall Primary to Elementary School

- **March 18, 2024** - Sign up for the Summer Knights Academy (SKA) opens. This is a general education STEAM program taking place at Central School from June 24th to July 18th from 9:30 to 1:30. All PK-4 students currently at Primary were invited to attend in Round 1. [Summer Knights 2024 Parent Letter](#)
- **June 2024** - Preschool students attending Wall Primary will take a field trip during their school day to visit the elementary school they will be attending the following year. Students will get to see a kindergarten classroom and tour the building.
- **August 2024** - Kindergarten Orientation at each of the elementary schools.



Transition from Elementary to Wall Intermediate

For the Students



- **April 23 & 24, 2024** - The WIS Principal and Counselor visit each elementary school to meet with the entire 5th grade for a Q&A about the expectations of WIS.



- **May 28 & 30, 2024** - 5th grade students will take a field trip to WIS during the school day to learn about WIS and participate in a Q&A panel with the National Junior Honor Society Members. Guided tours will be given.



- **September 2024** - Welcome to 6th Grade Pizza Party - This is an opportunity for incoming 6th graders to attend a pizza party before the first day of school. It will be from 4:15 to 6 pm and students will rotate between locker practice, schedule scavenger hunt and pizza.



Transition from Elementary to Wall Intermediate

For the Students



- Scheduled visits will begin during second semester for students who will be transitioning to WIS self-contained special education programs.
 - Transportation and paraprofessional support provided.
 - Students will attend some WIS classes, tour the building, and meet some of the WIS students and faculty.
 - Participation in a field trip with WIS students. Possible destinations:
 - Field of Dreams
 - Barlow's Farm
- Child Study Team (CST) members across both schools have articulation meetings leading up to the transition and select teachers observe elementary/WIS programs, as needed.
- ESY - Students transitioning to WIS who are recommended to attend ESY will do so at WIS

Transition from Elementary to Wall Intermediate

For the Parents



- **March 28, 2024 - 5th to 6th Grade Parent Information Night - 7PM**
WIS Auditorium: An overview of WIS, this presentation highlights the major differences between the elementary level and the middle school level.

- **Spring 2024- Annual Review Meetings-** A CST member from WIS will be invited to attend.

Transition from Wall Intermediate to Wall High School

For the Students



- **March, 2024** - WHS counselor will visit 8th graders at WIS to choose electives and finalize course requests. WHS teachers created videos to showcase electives. [Elective Videos](#)
- **August 28, 2024** - **Freshmen Orientation 10-11:30 AM**
Incoming 9th graders are invited to attend a welcome session at WHS to find their lockers, follow their schedules and meet counselors and administrators. They will also learn about clubs and activities from the WHS staff and students.
- **Summer 2024** - Special Meet & Greet and Tours can be arranged



Transition from Wall Intermediate to Wall High School

For the Students



- Regular visits during second semester for students who will be transitioning to WHS self-contained special education programs
 - Transportation and paraprofessional support provided
 - Students will attend some WHS classes
 - Participation in select field trips with WHS students. Possible destinations include:
 - Ocean County Library & Capone's Restaurant
 - Belmar/Manasquan Train Station and Esposito's Pizza
 - Field of Dreams
 - ShopRite
- WHS and WIS CST members have articulation meetings leading up to the transition and select teachers observe WIS and WHS programs, as needed.
- ESY - This year all secondary ESY programs will take place at WIS. Those transitioning to WHS will attend classes with HS students and teachers at WIS.



Transition from Wall Intermediate to Wall High School

For the Parents



- **Transition Resources on WTPS webpage:** Select WHS, Academics, [8th to 9th Transition Resources](#)
- **December 13, 2023 - Parent Coffee Hour:** Parents learn all WHS has to offer
- **January 11, 2024 - Academic Night:** Meeting with parents of incoming 9th graders with WHS administrators, counselors, supervisors and other WHS staff members to discuss in detail the many different academic programs at WHS
[Academic Night Presentation](#)
- **Spring 2024 - Annual Review Meetings:** CST member from WHS and counselor will be invited to attend



High School Transitional Programs



Monmouth County Vocational School Program

Career Center - Shared Time Program

[Career Center website](#)

- 5 day prevocational evaluation
 - CST submits application for this evaluation **as early as 8th grade**
- Admitted students attend Career Exploration Program. Students attend AM vocational program and rotate to 4 different vocational areas throughout the school year.
- Vocational Training in specific area (typically in the PM) that will hopefully lead to further education or entry-level employment
 - Auto Services, Baking, Building Services, Building Trades, Food Service, Health Occupations, Horticulture Floral, Horticulture Landscaping, Marketing, Materials Handling, Skills Discovery, Supermarket Careers



High School Transitional Programs



Wall High School Program

The purpose of our transition programs here in Wall Township is to work with our students to support them in acquiring skills in the following areas:

- Living independently
- Employment
- Recreation and leisure time
- Continuing education

We do this through a variety of programs and experiences including ***life skills classes, community based instruction, in house work experiences, and work based experiences.***

Life Skills Classes:

- Units of study include: Career Exploration and Preparation, Communication, Independent and Daily Living Skills, and Nutrition and Cooking
 - *Ex:* Students prepare and sell breakfast sandwiches and fruit cups to staff members monthly

Community Based Instruction

- Instruction that occurs in the community - teaches students functional skills in their natural environment through repeated experiences
 - *Ex:* shopping, bank, library, restaurants, train station
- District wide program

High School Transitional Programs



Wall High Job Coaching Program

In House Work Experiences

- Students who need to further their work-preparedness skills in-house participate in programs developed within the school system. These placements provide the opportunity for students to practice good work habits and apply appropriate behaviors, while also developing the necessary soft skills that are required for gainful employment.
- Office assistance - copying and shredding
- Teacher assistants at primary or elementary level
- Lunch and playground help at elementary schools
- Assist with district mail runs

Work Based Experiences

- Formerly called Structured Learning Experiences
- Include paid, non-paid, and volunteer work.
- Experiences may take place in retail, day-care, food banks (for ages 18-21), colleges, and rehabilitation facilities.
- Past duties have included: bagging groceries, bussing tables, greeting customers, assisting managers, returning stretchers and wheelchairs to holding areas, and delivering mail.
- Students are matched up with positions in which they have an interest and that address growth needs and transition goals.

Unified Sports and Other Inclusive Activities

Grant awarded from SONJ for WHS and WIS inclusive activities

- Polar Express - Parents Night Out 12/2022 and 12/2023
 - BIG SUCCESS!!
- Unified Sports
 - Kickball - WHS Spring 2023, 2024, WIS Spring 2024
 - Flag Football - WHS Fall 2023
- Wall Social Club (Unified Club)
 - Students in our self-contained classes attend some trips with peer partners. They also meet regularly during lunch to play games and collaborate on fund raising activities.
 - Hosted district events including Harvest Hullabaloo at AW and Welcome to Summer at HS



Extended School Year (ESY) – Summer 2024

Primary (Entering 3 & 4 year olds)

- 4 week program from June 24th to July 18th
- 2 hour sessions from 8 - 10 and 10-12
- 4 hour session from 8-12
- Located at Allenwood Elementary

Intermediate (Entering 6-8)

- 4 week program from June 24th to July 18th
- 6 week program from June 24th to August 1st
- Hours: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Located at Wall Intermediate



Elementary (Entering K-5)

- 4 week program from June 24th to July 18th
- 6 week program from June 24th to August 1st
- Hours: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Located at Allenwood Elementary

High School (Entering 9-12)

- 4 week program from June 24th to July 18th
- 6 week program from June 24th to August 1st
- Hours: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Located at Wall Intermediate this year

Please note: None of the ESY programs run on Fridays and students are off on July 4th.



Transitioning to a new school can be an exciting time and we look forward to supporting you and your child in this process.



Questions



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