Township of Ocean Schools

Township of Ocean School District

Department of Special Services

www.oceanschools.org

Department of Special Services

MEET OUR TEAM



Director of Special Services
Kelly McHale



Director of Preschool
Kristin Vona



Supervisor of Special Education K-5
Erin Leahy



Supervisor of Special Education 6-12
Jessica Olson

Commitment to Inclusion

- Administrators immersed in inclusive practices
- PD framed around supporting all learners
- Focus on calm & connection in classrooms
- Data-driven decisions for student outcomes





Department of Special Services

Professional Development: Creating Calming Environments and Building Connections

- Create a calm, sensory-friendly environment
- Build strong, trusting relationships
- Use supportive, student-centered communication tailored to individual needs
- Decrease behavioral challenges
- Promote success in the least restrictive environment (LRE) through these strategies



Preschool

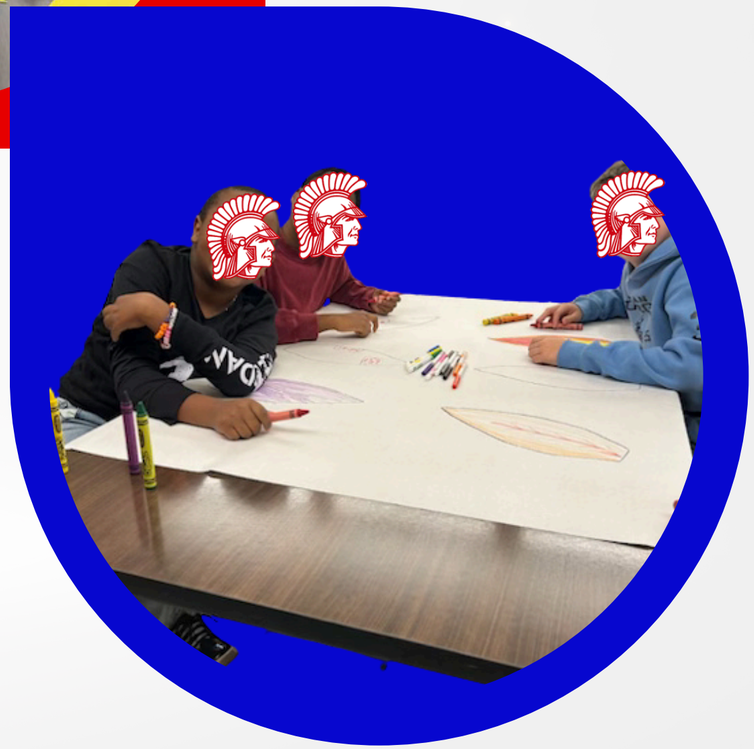
- **Thematic Activities**
  Shared activities across all preschool classrooms will follow common themes, allowing all students to explore the same topics and engage in shared learning experiences.
- **PSD to PEA Transition Supports**
  Procedures that support students in transitioning successfully to their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
- **Preschool Podcasts**
  An engaging new way to share trainings and important information with families, covering topics like potty-training, home and school routines, Social-Emotional Learning, and more.





SPARTAN BUDDIES





- Inclusive program that pairs students to support one another during special area classes
- Encourages collaboration, acceptance, and social connection
- Provides students with skills to engage and support peers with special needs
- Continues Wayside's commitment to ensuring ALL students learn and succeed together
- Expanding to OTES

Department of Special Services

Unified Club





- **Part of the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program run by Special Olympics New Jersey.**
- **Goal: To build socially inclusive school communities where students of all abilities participate, lead, and belong.**
- **Unified Club brings together students of different abilities in a supportive, collaborative environment.**

SPARTANS UNIFIED CLUB

Department of Special Services

Unified Club Continued



TOIS:

- Partnerships with Student Council & HOPE Club
- Interview Peer Models and Pair with Students
- October - Student Meet & Greet
- November - Garden Club inclusion
- December - Indoor Relay Activities

OTHS:

- Inclusive track/relay events

Inclusion in Action

Whitney Houston Challenge



OTHS Lunch & Learn



Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)

- Collaborate with SEPAG to enhance family–district communication and support
- Co-plan a January Meet & Greet to engage families, share initiatives, and gather feedback
- Provide a parent-driven forum for input on special education programs, services, and system needs

Special
Education
Parent
Advisory
Group



Special Educators Leading the Way









Special Educators Leading the Way







More great things to come....