

Pulse!

Delivering News from Westampton Special Services

Special points of interest:

- Introducing Rachel Soler from Interactive Kids! She'll be in district 1-2 days per week providing support and consultation.
- New Co-Teaching Initiative is underway for grades K-5.
- It was a successful summer for ESY.



Welcome Back!

By: Jean Zitter, MSW, LCSW

I would like to begin this year's newsletter by expressing my gratitude to the outstanding staff who has worked so diligently with our special needs students. Their efforts often go under recognized and I wanted to be sure it was the first acknowledgement in the 2019-2020 edition of Pulse! That being said I am very excited about some of the changes in programming for this year. In maintaining compliance with Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), specifically, the education of students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Westampton has implemented a co-teach initiative for grades K-5. We have one co-teaching class for each grade from Kindergarten to 5th grade. This is quite the commitment from the Board of Education, Administration and staff in support of a movement to more inclusive programs for our special needs students.

We've also created an additional self-contained classroom at our Intermediate school to meet student need. Our preschool program continues to grow and evolve as we offer integrated, self-contained half-day, and self-contained full-day programs. Another change this year is the increase of behavior services for our district. Recently, we have begun working with Interactive Kids in Marlton, NJ. Rachel Soler from Interactive Kids has been assigned to Westampton and will be in our district one to two days per week for consult and support purposes. We are excited to have her!

Shifting to our other programs, I thought it might be informative to share some actual data from our programs as most decisions in Special Services are data driven and to provide some perspective. This past summer we again ran our ESY (extended school year) program housed at Holly Hills Elementary School.

- ⇒ We had 38 students initially eligible to attend and 30 actually attended.
- ⇒ We had 6 special education teaching staff positions.
- ⇒ We had 11 paraprofessionals.
- ⇒ We also had 1 nurse on staff.

The ESY students had the opportunity to start working on their goals for the 2019-2020 school year. Progress notes were completed at the end of ESY and sent home to parents. All in all, it was a very successful and productive summer. I would like to thank our summer staff who worked diligently with our students in the Extended School Year Program.

Are you Ready for the 2019-2020 School year?

I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce our Child Study Team staff and their case management assignments for this school year.

Felicia Miller, Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant (LDT/C), case manages at Holly Hills School and her case management includes: Preschool Disabled Self-Contained Classrooms (half-day); K/1 and 2/3 Self-Contained Language/ Learning Disabled Classrooms; 2nd grade Pull out Resource Replacement Classroom; and Kindergarten through 2nd grade Co-Teach Classrooms.

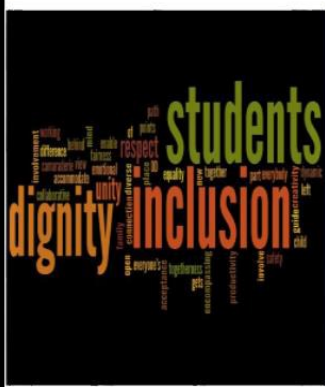
Lisa Bungarden, School Social Worker, case manages at both Holly Hills and Westampton Intermediate School. Her case management Holly Hills includes: Self-contained Preschool (full-day) Classroom, K/1 and 2/3 Self-Contained Autism Programs, 3rd grade Pull Out Resource Replacement, and 3rd grade Co-Teach Classroom. Ms. Bungarden's case management at Westampton Intermediate School includes: 4/5 Self-Contained Language / Learning Disabled Classroom, 4th and 5th grade Pull Out Resource Replacement Classroom, and 4th and 5th grade Co-Teach Classrooms.

Ryan Gentek, School Psychologist, case manages the Preschool integrated classrooms at Holly Hills School and all programs at Westampton Middle School for grades 6 through 8. Mr. Gentek also case manages all of our out of district students.

Jacqueline Hammell and Brooke Gordon, Speech Pathologists, provide services at Holly Hills School and **Krysta Knauss, Speech Pathologist**, provides services at Westampton Intermediate and Westampton Middle Schools.

Christina Stewart, Occupational Therapist, and **Elizabeth Stanewick, Physical Therapist**, are housed at Holly Hills but provide services district-wide.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your case manager or the Special Ser-



Upcoming Events:

September 12, 2019:

Holly Hills Back to School Night

September 18, 2019:

Westampton Middle School
Back to School Night

September 19, 2019

Westampton Intermediate
School Back to School Night

Next Issue:

October 7, 2019



Relax and have a great year!