

NESD Special Education Quarterly

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A message from the Director

Wow, it seems like the year just started and it turns out we are already a quarter in! Time really does fly when you are having fun. I have the distinct honor of working with students and teachers throughout the district, and I continue to be in awe of the amazing things happening throughout the district.

There are a lot of new faces in special education this year. We are excited to welcome Ms. Mackenzie Courtney as our new school psychologist. Mr. Aleks Krastins will also be joining our team as a part-time school psychologist through Intermediate Unit 5. We also have many teachers who may be familiar but are now in new roles within the special education department. Mrs. Cote has left 2nd

grade and is now one of our co-teachers in 5th grade. Mrs. Baumann has moved up from 3rd grade and is now doing amazing things with our middle school life skills program. Mrs. Brown is utilizing her wealth of teaching experience to help us launch an emotional support program at the middle school. We would also like to extend a warm NESD welcome to Julia Schmidt, Amber Hill, Holly Kitchen, and Samantha Szoszorek. These individuals are in various special education roles throughout the district.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our amazing support staff. Without these individuals, our special education would not be anywhere near as effective and impactful. We are always looking for additional individuals to add to our support staff, please let me know if you or someone you know may be a good fit!

As we roll into the 2nd quarter, keep an eye out for many new programs and opportunities. We are working to expand our offerings for parents to learn more about various topics. We are also working hard to bring more opportunities for our high school students to get meaningful work experience.

This year is off to a great start, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!

Until next quarter,

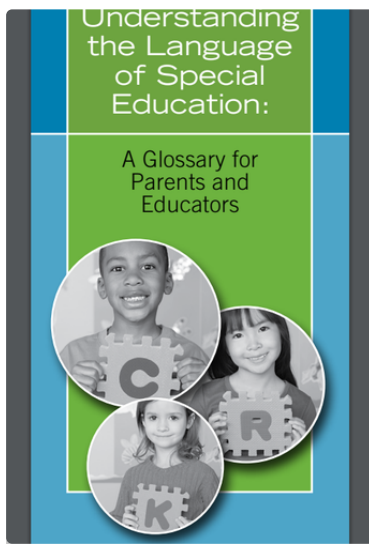
Brianne Hodges
NESD Director of Special Education

Project Picker

NESD and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) are joining forces to offer work opportunities for high school students with disabilities! Project Picker aims to pair with various departments throughout the District to offer paid work experience for students interested in a wide variety of areas. Students will also receive course credit upon successful completion of their placement. Future plans for the program include expanding into local businesses. Set to launch at the beginning of the 2nd semester, eligible Juniors and Seniors have been meeting with OVR representatives throughout the month of November to make sure they are set up and ready to receive OVR support.



A reminder to all Juniors and Seniors with IEPs. OVR offers a wide variety of supports as you transition beyond high school. This can range from tuition assistance, job search support, or help with obtaining necessary tools or uniforms. Forms to begin this process have been sent home to all eligible Juniors and Seniors, but only a handful have been returned. If you are interested in getting set up to receive assistance, please contact Mrs. Shickler.



Featured Parent Resource

[Understanding the Language of Special Education: A Glossary for Parents and Educators](#)

This guide was developed by the Department of Education to give parents and educators in Pennsylvania an understanding of the language of special education so they can more easily participate in educational decision-making. Copies of this document are available in the Special Education office upon request.

Understanding Anxiety - A presentation for students, parents, or community members on November 17. [Click to RSVP.](#)



North East School District Presents

UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

Parent workshop to discuss
concerns, learn about anxiety,
and provide strategies to
address anxiety in students.

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

5:30-6:30 PM

NORTH EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Contact nwelch@nesd1.org or
krihi@nesd1.org for more information



Scan to Sign Up!

Progress Reports

You should be receiving reports of your child's IEP goal progress within the next week. Please take a moment to look through these progress reports and reach out to your child's case manager if there are any questions or concerns. Progress monitoring is one of the activities central to the IEP, and can help to show growth when traditional grades cannot. For more information on how to read the progress reports or ideas for what you can do at home to support your child's goals, please reach out to your child's case manager.



Attention Parents

As you may know, this year North East has been chosen to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Cyclical Monitoring for Continuous Improvement. This process includes the state coming in to make sure that North East continues to follow PDE and federal special education rules and regulations. One very important part of this process is obtaining parent input. You will be receiving a letter from the special education department requesting that you complete a survey. This survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and provides the district with important data to help us continue to improve our programs. The surveys are 100% confidential and do not collect any type of personally identifiable data. If you have questions regarding these surveys, please contact your child's Case Manager or the Director of Special Education.

[Parent Survey](#)

Students 14 years of age or older are also encouraged to complete a student survey. This gives the district additional information related to our current programs. Again, no personal information is collected and the surveys are 100% confidential. For students in special education 14 years of age or older, they can complete the student survey [here](#).

Thank you for assisting us in this process!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Important Dates in the 2nd Quarter

November 11 - School Picture Retakes
November 17 - Understanding Anxiety Presentation
November 17 - School Board meeting
November 23-28 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 8 - High School Chorus Concert
December 15 - Middle School Chorus Concert
December 15 - School Board meeting
December 23- January 1 - No School - Christmas Break
January 16 - No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18 - End of the 2nd Quarter

Parent Resources

- [IEP Clinic for Families](#) - December 8
- [Mission Empower General Parent Trainings](#)
- [Mission Empower Parent Leadership Trainings](#)
- [Parent Guide to Special Education](#)
- [Special Education Process Timelines](#)
- [Procedural Safeguards Notice](#)



Brianne Hodges

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