

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 2015

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PERSONNEL UPDATES – There were several new hires this year within the Special Services Department. This allowed us to develop some collaborative models of hiring where we gathered stakeholders from various perspectives across the district to assist with the hiring process. In the end we believe to have secured a number of staff from diverse backgrounds

New Hires:

Gabriella Gentilello: West End – Self-Contained Upper Elementary MD

Ms. Gentilello returns to the district after traveling a very winding road. She was a one-to-one aide at Walnut Street School from September 2012 through June 2013. Ms. Gentilello discovered her true passion of teaching and nurturing special education children during her time at Woodbury Schools. Ms. Gentilello returned to school to earn a Teacher of Disabilities Certificate and worked full time at GCSSSD Bankbridge Campus as an aide in a Multiply Disabled classroom at the same time. She brings to us vast experience and an enthusiastic approach to the newly developed upper elementary MD self-contained classroom.

Stacey Augustine: West End – Social Worker

Ms. Augustine has worked with the Egg Harbor Township school district for the past several years as a School Social Worker. During that time she has honed her craft and developed a professional identity of a collaborative model to address student's individual needs. Her perspective mirrors our view here at Woodbury and we are excited for her to lead the collaborative service approach for our special needs students at the West End Memorial School.

Gina Garrison: Evergreen – Resource Center Upper Elementary

Ms. Garrison is joining the Evergreen team as a newer educator with a host of ideas and enthusiasm to bring to the team. She is excited to be part of a team that will allow her to grow professionally while she contributes to the learning environment of our students through her knowledge of innovative instructional methods. We look forward to her being an integral part of the upper elementary inclusion team at Evergreen Avenue.

Andrea DiSalvo: High School Inclusion

Ms. DiSalvo actually started her educational career in New Jersey here at the Woodbury Public Schools. She began as an Instructional Assistant in the Senior High where she learned our model of inclusion and was a strong player supporting that initiative in its early stages of development. She then transitioned for several years to the Clementon Public School as a full time special education teacher. During the time she continued to grow her skills in the area of inclusion using a collaborative team approach to serving students with special needs. She is excited to re-join the Woodbury team and is poised to hit the ground running with her knowledge of our programming coupled with the skills and knowledge she gleaned from her time in Clementon.

Michael Young: Junior High Self-Contained LD

The district was fortunate to secure Michael's instructional services towards the tail end of the summer due to an unexpected staff retirement. Upon meeting Michael his passion for working with special education students coupled with his experiences and creative ideas for Self-Contained programming made him a standout candidate for the position. Already in the short time he has been here he has integrated himself with the Self-Contained Junior High team and has already begun making a difference in our schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ELEMENTARY SELF-CONTAINED SHIFT

As we continue to evolve as a department we are always looking for ways to utilize our fiscal resources in a capacity that maximizes services and student learning. As a result we re-aligned our self-contained programming this year across Evergreen and Wet End Memorial schools in an effort to provide improved instruction and related services for our students. These programmatic shifts impacted students in both the Self-Contained Learning Disabled and Multiply Disabled classrooms. The chart below indicates the programmatic structure in placement from 2014-15 as compared to 2015-16.

2014-2015	2015-2016
Evergreen – Self-Contained MD – K-2 nd	Evergreen – Self-Contained LD – K-1 st
Evergreen – Self-Contained LD – K-2 nd	Evergreen – Self-Contained LD – 2 nd - 3 rd
Evergreen – Self-Contained LD – 3 rd -5 th	Evergreen – Self-Contained LD – 4 th -5 th
West End – Self-Contained LD – 3 rd – 5 th	West End – Self -Contained MD – K – 2 nd
West End – Self-Contained MD – 3 rd -5 th	West End – Self-Contained MD – 3 rd -5 th

As a result of the above mentioned re-alignment of courses this has enabled us to:

- Decrease the grade span in our Self-Contained LD classrooms from 3 grade levels to 2 grade levels thus increasing targeted academic instruction for our students
- Provide for better vertical articulation between the MD and LD classes respectively in terms of curriculum and instruction materials, pacing and sequence
- Allow for more cohesive and robust related services in terms of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy
- Increase the use of the newly created Sensory Room at West End through housing both MD programs there
- Implementation of specialized instructional software in both MD classrooms, using parallel technology and professional development support

APPENDIX A: SPECIAL EDUCATION/CASE MANAGERS TEACHING STAFF DISTRICT WIDE

* = *New Staff Member*, ** = *Shifted Staff Assignment*

District Wide Staff

- Ms. Sadeara White, Interim position for Mrs. Sharon Cardwell: Case Manager – 6th grade & Out of District Students
- Dr. Denise Dreger: Case Manager – 7th – 9th grade
- Mrs. Tanya Ripley :Case Manager – 10th – 12th grade
- Mrs. Stacey Henry :Case Manager – Evergreen Avenue & Walnut Street
- Ms. Crystal Ramirez :Case Manager – Evergreen Avenue & High School
- Ms. Tricia Bevelheimer – Physical Therapist
- *Ms. Stacey Augustine: Case Manager - West End
- Ms. Jen Stell: Occupational Therapist

Evergreen Avenue School

- **Ms. Lauren Stankiewicz: Self-Contained LD K-1
- **Ms. Colleen DiRienzo: Self-Contained LD 2-3
- **Ms. Kylie Pringle: Self-Contained LD 345
- *Ms. Gina Garrison : Resource Center 1-5
- Mrs. Caroline Polsenberg: Resource Center 1-5
- Mrs. Susan Kudless: 3 year Old Self Contained Pre-School
- Mrs. Shelia Lenoff: Speech and Language Specialist K-5
- Ms. Jamie Ott: Speech and Language Specialist Pre-School Disabled

Walnut Street School

- Kristin Corley: ½ time Pull Out Resource Center and ICS Walnut
- Ms. Jamie Ott: Speech and Language Specialist

West End School

- Ms. Maria Gassner: Self-Contained MD K-2nd
- Mrs. Gabriella Gentilello: Self-Contained MD 3rd-5th
- Mr. Jake Lessman: Resource Center & ICS Grades 3-5
- Ms. Sherryl Sprock: Resource Center & ICS Grades K-2
- Ms. Amber Weaver: Speech and Language Specialist

Woodbury Junior-Senior High School

- Mr. Marc Cannuli: High School In Class Support History
- *Andrea DiSalvo: High School In Class Support Science
- Mrs. Sherri Davis: High School Resource Center English
- Mr. Marcus Berg: High School Replacement Math
- Mrs. Lynette Lewis: 6th-12th grade In-class Support Program
- Mrs. Terri Stebich: 7th & 8th grade Resource Center Math and Literacy
- Mrs. Tracy Weist: 6th & 7th Resource Center English
- Mrs. Thilana Chandler: 9th – 12th Multiply Disability Self-Contained
- Ms. Jackie Rosario : 8th grade Self-Contained
- *Mr. Michael Young: 7th grade Self-Contained
- Ms. Jackie Breshock: 6th-8th – Self Contained – Emotional Support
- Mr. Dan O’Leary: 6th grade Self-Contained
- Mrs. Anne Evans: 6th grade In Class Support