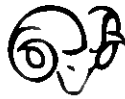


**West Hempstead School District Pupil
Personnel Services Department**



**Bridget Karis
Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

**Gina Callesano
Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

Good Evening, I am Bridget Karis, the Director of PPS and this is Gina Callesano the Assistant Director of PPS. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to present this evening on the West Hempstead Pupil Personnel Department and share with you the amazing programs and services we have.

Full Continuum of Services



Bridget

Over the last two years, the PPS department has been working to provide the students of West Hempstead a full continuum of special education services. Currently, we have Consultant Teacher, Resource Room, Integrated Co-teaching, and Special Classes in each of our five buildings, as well as the support of related services providers such as psychologists, social workers, speech language therapists, occupational therapists and physical therapists. We also provide Resource Room, counseling and related services to our students at HANC and St. Thomas.

Our continuum of services has allowed the district to provide students the opportunity to learn in their home buildings, alongside same aged peers, in a setting that is appropriate for their individual learning needs.

Expansion of 8:1:2 Program



Bridget

During the 2018-2019 school year, Cornwell Avenue welcomed a class of 8 further expanding our continuum of services. The addition of this class allowed the district to serve students with severe disabilities ages 5-12. This school year, we further expanded our 8:1:2 program by adding a class at the middle school. Students in the class of 8 learn functional academics and life skills. By the 2022 school year, we will have a class of 8 at all levels serving students ages 5-21.

Expansion of CDOS Program

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Basic Algebra	Algebra 1	Algebra 2 (regents)	Business/Consumer Math	Business/Consumer Math	Business/Consumer Math
English 1	English 2	English 3 (regents)	English for Business and Career	English for Business and Career	English for Business and Career
Global 1	Global 2 (regents)	US History	US History (Regents)	Participation in Government/Economics	Career Portfolio
Living Environment 1	Living Environment 2 (regents)	Health Science 1	Health Science 2	Language for Living/Business Comp	CDOS 2
Health/Living Environment 1 Lab	Living Environment Lab/ PE	PE/ English Plus	PE/Reading/ Elective	CDOS 2	CDOS 2
PE/Freshman Seminar (reading)	Language for the Community	Math Plus/Career Exploration-Community	CDOS 1- PAES Lab	CDOS 2	CDOS 2
Art/Music	Electives	CDOS 1- PAES Lab	CDOS 1	CDOS 2	CDOS 2
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch

Bridget

In the 2018-2019 school year, a 12:1:1 program was added at the high school level to address the needs of students working towards a high school diploma and/or a Career Development and Occupational Studies credential. This four to six year program allows students to access regents level course work while also preparing for a CDOS credential. During the first two years of the program, students will focus primarily on earning their academic credits. In subsequent years more electives will be added that address the requirements for the CDOS Credential. Courses such as Language in the community and CDOS classes provide students with the resources necessary to complete a Commencement Level Career Plan, an Employability Profile and 2 units of study in CTE Coursework and/or Work-Based Learning (WBL). These courses will total 216 hours in which 54 of are Work Based Learning hours. All of which are necessary for a CDOS credential.

PAES Lab

Practical Assessment Exploration System

5 MAJOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS

CONSUMER/SERVICE
BUSINESS/MARKETING
PROCESSING/PRODUCTION
CONSTRUCTION/INDUSTRIAL
COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY



Bridget

As you just saw at our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, we added a PAES Lab to further support the needs of our students in the class of 8 at the middle school and the class of 12 at the high school level. PAES, Practical Assessment Exploration System, is a simulated work environment that incorporates a hands on curriculum that addresses: Training in basic career and life skills, Functional Assessment of those skills, Career and Work Exploration that provides transferable knowledge and Work Behavior Development with real soft skill assessment, training and work exploration. The PAES Lab has a wide variety of options for students of various levels and will support students as they embark on real work based learning opportunities within their own community.

Real World Applications



Bridget

In addition to academics, students are applying the skills they learn in the classroom and PAES Lab to the school community. At the middle school, students in Ms. Byrne's class have a Coffee Cart that is available for teachers and staff. The coffee cart provides students an opportunity to work on their communication and money skills while providing a much appreciated service to the staff. As you can see the students love their new ram aprons, thanks to Mr. Rehman.

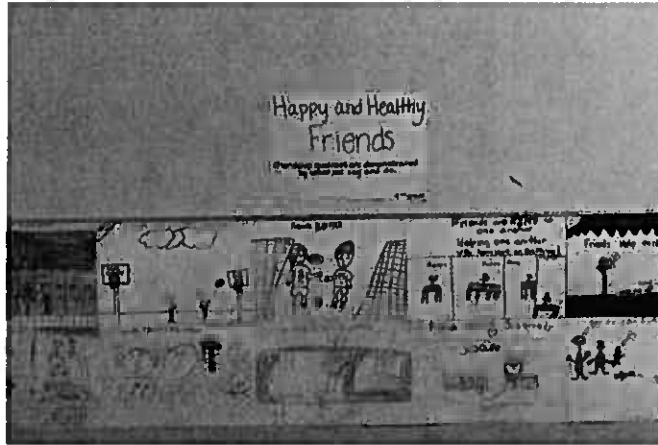
Real World Applications



Bridget

At the high school, the students in Ms. Dempsey's class provided a Holiday Greeting Card service for staff. The students stuffed, labeled and stamped holiday cards. For Valentine's Day they will be making and selling dog biscuits to raise money for the local animal shelter. These opportunities provide students with skill development in the areas of work, communication, money, and community awareness.

Social Emotional Learning and Mental Wellness



Bridget

Throughout the district, our PPS staff works with students individually, in small groups as well as pushing into classrooms for large group lessons. Building level PPS staff is comprised of school psychologist, social worker and school counselors. Students in West Hempstead participate in various social emotional and mental wellness programs at all grade levels. At the elementary and middle school, programs such as Zones of Regulation, Mindfulness, Too Good For Drugs, Social Explorers, Red Ribbon Week and the Beautiful Me program are used to support students with making friends, having a positive self image and understanding social pressures. At the high school level, the PPS staff works in conjunction with classroom teachers to provide push-in opportunities on topics such as decision making, boundary setting, stigma, compassion, and self-advocacy. These concepts are taught through the content area in ELA and Health through the use of literature and character study to further support student understanding of these important topics and allow for more in depth discussions.

Community Experiences



Bridget

Understanding the world outside of school is a key component of a comprehensive education. Students in our special classes grades k-12 engage in learning opportunities that allow them to take the skills learned in the classroom and apply them in real-world settings. These activities can be academic and social in nature. This year, students learned proper animal care from the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter. Have gone shopping for Thanksgiving items to donate to the food pantry, explored animal life at Halls Pond, participated in leisure activities such as swimming and bowling and practiced their math and communication skills at McDonalds.

Special Olympics and NYS Empire Games



Bridget

Last year, Ms. Byrne's class was provided an opportunity to participate in the Special Olympics for bowling. The students practiced several times throughout the school year at Rockville Center Lanes in preparation for the culminating Special Olympics Bowling event held on June 1st where two of our students took first place in their respective age divisions. Building upon this success, the students in both Ms. Byrne's and Ms. Dempsey's class participated in the Rolling Thunder Bowling Tournament last week and will be heading back to the Special Olympics once again this spring.

Students also participated in the New York State Games for the Physically Challenged- Empire Games in May of 2019. This track and field event provided students an opportunity to run the 40-meter dash as well as partake in other field events such as the distance ball kick and the distance Pin throw. The students are looking forward to returning to the games this May and hope to bring more West Hempstead athletes with them.

Integrated Co-Teaching



Gina

Gloria Wilson, staff developer from Hofstra University has partnered with West Hempstead administrators and teachers to increase positive outcomes for our Integrated Co-Teaching programs.

Elementary and secondary teams have dug into the various co-teaching models such as parallel teaching, station teaching and team teaching. Their work has centered around designing differentiated lessons that are aligned with the Next Generation Learning Standards. The goal is for all lessons to meet the needs of ALL students.

Augmentative Alternative Communication Devices



Gina

Research supports that Augmentative Alternative Communication Device systems increase communication and language development while decreasing negative behaviors. West Hempstead staff has been working with staff developer Christine Baudin to facilitate communication for students with significant disabilities by using unaided and aided AAC systems. The use of these systems allow students maximum access to learning. While our students use iPad apps including

Pro lo quo

Touch Chat

Snap + Core First and

The Picture Exchange System to facilitate communication, language development is always our primary goal for all students.

Seeing Stars



Gina

As we know, reading is the building block to academic and lifelong success. Recognizing that our students with disabilities may need a different, more systematic approach to reading we provided one of our special education teachers professional development in the Seeing Stars reading program. Seeing Stars is a symbol imagery for phonemic awareness, sight words, and spelling program. This program uses symbol imagery strategies such as air writing, finger writing and "taking a picture" in your mind as a basis for orthographic awareness, phonemic awareness, word attack, word recognition, spelling, and contextual reading fluency. This multimodality approach to reading is engaging, has a proven success record and our students love it.

Building an Inclusive Culture



Gina

Building a community where everyone feels valued and respected is a primary focus of West Hempstead. The PPS department is fortunate that as our programs continue to grow and expand our opportunities for our students continue to grow and expand. Students in Ms. Dempsey's class hosted a holiday door decorating contest at the high school, students in Ms. Byrne and Ms. Dempsey's classes welcomed guests and handed out programs at our secondary holiday concerts, students in Ms. Sarro's class at Cornwell Avenue made apple sauce and went on a scavenger hunt with Ms. McGuire's class and students at George Washington worked with students in Ms. Byrne's class during the buddies club. These opportunities foster an understanding of differences, what it means to be kind and how to be a positive member of the larger community.

Crisis Prevention Intervention

- Verbal De-escalation

- Nonverbal Communication



- Verbal Communication



- Decision making
- Physical disengagement

Gina

Nonviolent crisis intervention equips staff to effectively prevent and manage challenging behaviors. Since October the PPS department has certified and recertified 64 staff members from K-12 in Crisis Prevention Intervention. The training included nonverbal communication, verbal de-escalation, physical disengagement, and postvention support strategies. The Department looks forward to continuing the CPI training districtwide.

NYS Certifications

Limited Extension: Complete ONE of the following

- Pass the HOUSSE Rubric
- Pass the content specialty test in the subject area
- Complete 9 hours of coursework in the subject area

***Only good for 5 years with one renewal beyond that**

SOCE

- Considered Highly Qualified in a subject area by passing the HOUSSE rubric for that subject area
- Complete the following workshops: Child Abuse, School Violence, DASA & Autism
- Complete Fingerprint clearance

Bridget

By June of 2020, all Special Education teachers who teach a special class in grades 7-12 will need to have a content certification in addition their special education certification. Teachers may apply for the Limited Extension or a Statement of Continued Eligibility in their desired content area. The district and teachers are actively working toward these options in order to ensure that our students are working with highly qualified teachers at all levels of education.

Looking Forward to the Future



- Continue to expand opportunities for students in the CDOS program
- Continue to explore opportunities to support students in the area of mental health and wellness
- Continue to assess, redesign and evaluate the ICT models to raise student academic success
- Expand the 8:1:2 Program to high school for the 2022

Bridget

Looking forward to next school year we will be adding a Career Exploration and CDOS 1 course to the 12:1:1 Program at the HS. This will allow students an opportunity to build their employability profile, explore potential careers and gain experience working at jobs within the building. This will lead to greater expansion the following year for students to be working in jobs within the community.

We will continue to explore opportunities to support students in the area of mental health and wellness through partnerships with outside agencies. Growth and change go hand in hand. As the needs of students grow and change our programs such as ICT will continue to grow and change to ensure student success.

By the 2022-2023 school year we will have classes of 8 in all five buildings serving students with severe disabilities ages 5-21.

West Hempstead School District
Pupil Personnel Services
Department



Questions?

#RamPride

#RamFam