



# Collingswood Public Schools



*It's Where You Want to Learn*

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**SCOTT A. OSWALD, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**BETH ANN COLEMAN, RSBA**  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

9/3/2020

Dear Collingswood School District Preschool and Elementary Families,

Good afternoon! We hope you are enjoying the last week of summer break. We are writing to update families with our plans to enrich students' social and emotional learning for the 2020-2021 school year at the elementary level in Collingswood. We recognize that students with positive social, emotional, and behavioral functioning are more successful both in school and outside of school. Therefore, it is imperative that we address some key skills in these areas, and our district is committed to promoting students' behavioral and mental health in a variety of ways. The #CollingswoodStrong initiative has allowed the district to better fund these efforts, resulting in more effective and thorough services for students.

Social and emotional learning will follow a multi-tiered systems of support model this year. The tier one level outlines services that all elementary-age students in Collingswood will receive. These include participation in our new social and emotional learning curriculum, written by very talented Collingswood and Oaklyn staff this summer - thank you to Vivian Barnett, Jenn Floyd, Faith Hvisdas, Samantha Markulic, and Kristin O'Lexy. Tier one efforts will also involve consultation between classroom teachers and counseling support staff (including our three new social work interns), classroom-level intervention as appropriate, and administration of a social and emotional screening tool. For students needing additional assistance in the area of SEL, a variety of interventions will be offered at the tier two and three levels by our dedicated support staff, including our Child Study Team members and school psychology interns. These include small group and individual counseling sessions during the school day, as well as individual and family counseling after school hours through our partnership with therapists from Jefferson Hospital. Our counseling services via Jefferson began in the spring and proceeded throughout the summer, and we expect the program to continue to grow during the upcoming school year.

We are grateful to the Collingswood community for partnering with us to make SEL and mental health a priority, and proud of our staff members who have spent long hours this summer preparing resources for our educators and families. If you have any questions about our social and emotional learning initiatives, please contact Kristin O'Lexy, Counseling Coordinator, at [kolexy@collsk12.org](mailto:kolexy@collsk12.org). Please see the following page for resources specific to COVID-19 and remote learning, as well as contact information for support staff in our elementary schools.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Oswald, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth M. Whitehouse, PhD, NCSP  
Supervisor of Special Services

## *Resources*

Mental Health While Staying Home

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IoNf9negloXnSMpfC\\_zbVe0IPsIva52L2K2ftaEBMAI/mobilepresent?slide=id.p1](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IoNf9negloXnSMpfC_zbVe0IPsIva52L2K2ftaEBMAI/mobilepresent?slide=id.p1)

Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting From COVID-19

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>

## *Support Staff List*

### Elementary Counseling

Kristin O'Lexy, Elementary Counseling Coordinator - 609-206-6060

### Child Study Team

Irene Graves, Administrative Assistant, Special Services Office - 856-962-5702, x6513

Kim Pietruszka, Case Manager at Zane North Elementary - 856-962-5703, x1101

Dr. Bianca Coleman, Case Manager at Newbie Elementary - 856-962-5706, x5011

Sharon Dixon, Case Manager at Sharp Elementary - 856-962-5708, x2206

Katie Morgans, Case Manager at Garfield & Tatem Elementary - 856-962-5702, x6137