

FROM: Cheryl Hall, Director of Special Services

TO: All Special Education Staff

DATE: August 10, 2016

RE: Welcome to the 2016-17 School Year

Welcome to all of our new staff and welcome back to all of our returning teachers, EAs and support staff. I hope you had time to enjoy summer activities with family and friends. There are so many things to be grateful for and excited about as we approach the new school year.

- Dr. Matt Hillmann, our new Superintendent, will be leading the district. This year we are developing our strategic plan. Your input and perspective is important and we encourage everyone to participate.
- We are kicking off the first year of the newly formed setting IV low incidence programs at Cannon Valley Special Education Cooperative, (CVSEC).
 - Northfield is the fiscal host for the Cooperative.
 - The Cooperative now has four member districts: Faribault, Medford, Northfield, and Owatonna.
 - We will be serving approximately 90 students beginning September 6, 2016.
 - We have interviewed and hired over 40 positions (licensed and Non-licensed) since February.
 - See more on the Website available by the end of the month: cannonvalleyspecial.ed.org
- We welcome Kelley Foehrkolb, Behavior Specialist, is a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA) to the special education district wide team and CVSEC. Kelley will be consulting across all programs and disabilities with teams on behavior, PBSP's, FBA's, Observations, modeling interventions, coaching, data collection, providing training, autism consultation, etc. Her position replaces Deb Peters who retired this past spring.
- We are piloting the Due Process Clerical (DPC) support in each building. The Due Process Clericals will work 1/2 time in each building. They will provide support for scheduling meetings, tracking due dates, filing, etc.

- Building a culture of team work across the continuum of services – In the spirit of the Olympics, watch for upcoming FUN monthly activities to participate in with your colleagues.
- Continue the EA training modules to build knowledge and skills in fostering independence in the children and youth they assist.
 - New EAs will complete a required set of modules.
 - We encourage all EAs and Case managers to participate in the training as ongoing staff development.
- Continue to take time for reflection on our teaching practice and the impact of our interventions on student learning. We want to accelerate the learning of all students.
- Lynn and I will be utilizing new ways of communicating with all of you. You will learn more about these initiatives in during workshop week and beyond.

We are looking forward to a great year working and learning with all of you. Lynn, Laura and I are dedicated to supporting each of you in the important work that you do each and every day.

Please help us welcome our new special education licensed Staff to Northfield Public Schools and the Cannon Valley Special Education Cooperative:

Northfield Schools

Anastasia Badeau Speech Language Pathologist LTS- Greenvale Park Elementary
 Jamie Forbord LD Resource High School
 Aurora Kubach LD Resource High School
 Tammy Paulson, EBD Resource Rm Sibley
 Diane Weis Resource Rm Greenvale Park Elementary
 Megan Winter Setting 2/3 DCD-MM Greenvale Park Elementary
 Rachel Morrison School Social Worker Greenvale Park Elementary
 Alexi Thompson Resource Rm Bridgewater Elementary

CVSEC Programs

Elizabeth Deen Coordinator Alexander Learning Academy
 Cori Kelly Administrative Assistant Alexander Learning Academy
 Tom White Coordinator SUN at Laura Baker and STEP
 Debbie O'Meara Administrative Assistant SUN at Laura Baker
 Corrine Carnevale EBD Teacher Alexander Learning Academy
 Andrew Dimick SSW Alexander Learning Academy
 Neil Smith EBD Teacher Alexander Learning Academy
 Wendy Ahnupkana EBD Teacher Alexander Learning Academy
 Courtney Olson EBD Teacher Alexander Learning Academy
 Amanda Reed EBD Teacher Alexander Learning Academy
 Jennifer Theis EBD Teacher Alexander Learning Academy
 Stephanie Bangs ASD Teacher SUN @ Laura Baker
 Jacqueline Braun ASD Teacher SUN @ Laura Baker
 Alison Kopp ASD Teacher SUN @ Laura Baker
 Brittney Laue ASD Teacher SUN @ Laura Baker
 Catherine Lovrien School Social Worker SUN @ Laura Baker
 Diane Dehnert Speech Language Pathologist SUN @ Laura Baker
 Samantha Chlan DCD Teacher Secondary Transition Education Program
 Kelley Foehrkolb Behavior Specialist, BCBA CVSEC and Northfield
 Melissa Roth, DCD Teacher Secondary Transition Education Program

Returning Staff in new positions/ buildings:

Jamie Moyer Resource Room LD/ASD Teacher Bridgewater
 Lori Peterson EBD Resource Room Middle School

Shannon Flegel Occupational Therapist CVSEC .3 Longfellow .7
Lori Warner Assistive Technology/OT CVSEC .1 & District wide .4/GVP .4/HS .1
Stephani Mahal Occupational Therapist Sibley.5, BW .4, MS .1
Marcy Korynta School Psychologist HS .6/ CVSEC .4
Kyle Roth ECSE/DHH ECSE .8/DHH CVSEC & GVP .2

I apologize if we missed anyone!

We also acknowledge and welcome all new and returning Educational Assistants!

SPECIAL EDUCATION SPECIFIC TRAININGS

Please refer to the District Website for specific training schedules offered for CPI, CPR and First Aid, Lifting Basics and District Workshop Week.

This year we will not have a specific time for a Districtwide special education staff training. Please look for a variety of options during workshop week on Wednesday and Thursday.

Enjoy the last weeks of summer! See you all soon.