

Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Learners Monthly Newsletter

Welcome Our New Staff

Goals for teachers:

- Be experts in your field
- Search for best practice in your field
- Utilize best practice
- Change what is not working
- Diagnose needs with appropriate tools
- Progress Monitor student needs at least weekly
- Be excited about your growth and your students' growth
- Care about all children, even the tough ones

Best Practice

This year, this section will include a best practice that should be being used or one that is being utilized within our Tri-County district. Let me know if you see a best practice being used or share one that you are using.

We have many new staff members joining us this year in Independence and Coffeyville.

I am very excited to introduce you to the professionals that will be a part of our team.

Kim Therrien is the new Independence ED teacher located at Washington Elementary. Kim was of great help last year as she substituted in this classroom for the entire second semester. Kim reside in Independence with her husband and 4 children. Kim will be working on completing her Masters in Sped.

Carrie Strycker is the 3-5 grade Functional resource Teacher in Independence. Carrie and her husband have 3 children and live in Indy.

Mary Woldum is the new Coffeyville ED teacher. Mary is returning to the SEK area

after teaching in Washington for two years.

Jerri Haymaker is the new Early Childhood teacher in Coffeyville. Jerri is returning to Tri-County after completing her degree in Elementary Education.

Jaci Hafner is the new OT for Coffeyville and Caney. Jaci has spent her career as an OT at a local hospital and we feel very lucky to have her join us. She and her husband have a son, Luke.

Many new paras and Attendant Cares are also joining our staff:

Tonya Trout at Eisenhower, Wendy Fienen at Eisenhower, Marisa Fritzeimer at Lincoln, Bonnie Beyen at Lincoln, Vicki Clifton at Washington, Patricia Mathis at Washington, Francesca Marsden at Washington, Rachele Shryock

at Washington, Tiffani Kendrick at CES, Joy Findley at CES, Barbara Ritter at CES, Barbara Tefft at CES, Susan Barker for EC, Stephanie LeBlanc for EC



Monthly Meetings

I am eager to start this year and be able to meet with each team once a month. Although there are many things we can accomplish meeting individually, there are many topics that, as a team, we can learn and grow as professionals.

The focus in all 3 districts this year is Progress Monitoring. As special educators, we should be utilizing this skill, since it is becoming a required

skill for general education teachers in searching for strategies that work, as well as being a "best practice" in the field of special education. Each district will also be focusing on individual topics, for example, Coffeyville will be studying the book *Classroom Instruction That Works* by Marzano, Pickering and Pollock.

Coffeyville will meet the second Monday of each month;

Independence will meet the first Wednesday of each month; Caney will meet the last Monday of each month; Functional Resource Teachers will meet the third Monday of each month; ED teachers will meet the first Monday of each month.

Please mark your calendars so that these scheduled meeting dates are not interrupted.