

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 we will continue using this section for best practice 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.

Sandra Smedley comes to us from Frontenac with a background in special education and ESOL. She is the 3rd grade resource teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Independence. Ask her about Zeb!

Debra Payne is the 6th grade resource teacher at Community Elementary in Coffeyville. She is a recent retiree as a principal in Bartlesville.

Jennifer Duncan is the new ED teacher in Coffeyville. She has lots of experience supporting parents with behaviors as a Parents As Teachers Instructor.

Karen Sprouse is our new Independence preschool based Early Childhood Teacher at Independence Day Care Center and an itinerant ECD teacher in Coffeyville in the afternoons. We are excited about having this new position and about Karen's enthusiasm for her students and job!

Peggy Harrell is the gifted teacher for Caney, Coffeyville elementary and Lincoln in Independence. She was previously a high school math instructor with Coffeyville.

Andrea Campbell is not new to Tri-County but new to this side of the Tri-County district. Andrea is now a Speech Language Pathologist for Independence. She is joining us from Parsons.

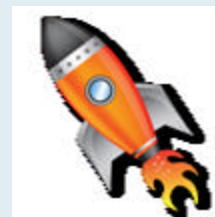
Shani Stacy is another Independence Speech Pathologist that we are lucky enough to

get for one day a week in Independence. She also works in Parsons four days a week.

Melinda Talbott is our new Occupational Therapy Assistant and will be sharing the OT caseload of Jaci Hafner in Cherryvale, Independence, Coffeyville and Caney.

Many paraprofessionals and attendant care positions have new faces: Rhonda Siebel, Renee Ferguson, Amanda Froebe, Jamie Clubine, brandi Grebe, Elisha Miles, Teresa Rogers, Samantha Gudde, Angie Jarrett, Heather Morgan, Sierra O'Conner, Jamie Kelley, Roxy Drawdey, Amanda Jay.

Please welcome our new staff!



"It is Rocket Science"

Summer is the time that teachers learn new strategies, read professional documents and get inspired for the upcoming year. This summer I was lucky enough to get to hear some wonderful speakers that inspired me, including Alexa Posney, Commissioner of Kansas State Department of Education, Jeri Powers, 2008 Kansas Teacher of the Year and Dr. Jill Shackelford, Superintendent of USD 500 in Kansas City, KS.

Dr. Jill Shackelford spoke of the gains that her district has made since 1996 on the state assessment. The demographics are 83% minority, 77% free and/or reduced, 12% SPED, and 22% ELL. The Kansas City, KS School district teachers and administrators work very hard and focus on student learning and making sure students will make gains.

But what she said that made the biggest impact was that

"Good teaching) is rocket science." A good teacher looks at each students data, monitors growth, and changes interventions/strategies to continue to help the student make growth.

We as teachers need to take this quote to heart, rather than the old saying "Those who can—do; those who can't—teach." We are the rocket scientists—we make rocket scientists!