

Haverhill Public Schools

Special Education Department

4 Summer St. Rm 104 Haverhill, MA.
978-374-3435



April Newsletter

Spring is a busy time of year for Special Education. The department is in the process of planning open houses for students who are in transition years, preschool to kindergarten, elementary to middle school and middle school to high school. We will be hosting students at an information night to familiarize families with the daily schedules, routines and activities at each school.

We have introduced a new club at the high school, The Friendship Club. This club will be based on the Best Buddies model and include both students on IEP's and students who are not on IEP's. The advisor to this club is Sarah Emilio. Look for more information to follow!

ESY (Extended School Year) planning is in full swing. ESY will begin July 10, 2017. Classes are being set up as we speak. Similar to last year, Special Education families will be informed what their child's placement is in advance of the program start date.



Yota

Employee Spotlight Panagiota Zoumpoulakis

Yota has worked in the HPS Special Education Department for 10 years. Yota is a Principal Clerk and is our go-to person for IEP questions and files. Yota has 2 children, 1 is an HPS student and 1 in preschool. When she is not working, Yota enjoys time with her family spending time sledding or at the beach. Yota loves movies, drama's are her favorite genre. Yota is from Canada and speaks 3 languages. She has a love for travel. Yota has spent time in Greece, Aruba, Jamaica and Mexico and would love to travel the world. We love Yota for her upbeat personality and her smile!

Fun Fact!

Did you know?

- Staff in the Central Office Special Education Department have a grand total of 27 children: 15 boys and 12 girls.
- The 2015/2016 student body in HPS was 7,324. 3,880 boys and 3,444 girls.
- A little quick math tells us that district wide boys represent 53% of the student body and girls represent 47%.
- The Special Education Department lines right up at 55% boys and 44% girls. We love when we are in sync with Hillie Nation!!



Haverhill Public Schools

Special Education Department

4 Summer St. Rm 104 Haverhill, MA.
978-374-3435



A Look Back:

The 2016/2017 school year has been busy for the Special Education Department. We have created a new class for hearing impaired students, developed a new life skills room at Haverhill High School, Our Parent Resource Center has found a permanent home at Burnham School, and we are running a social skills class afterschool at Whittier Middle School. Our first annual holiday toy drive was a big success and provided gifts to many Haverhill families in need.

Spring is here!

Spring is a great time to get out in the community and connect with other families and peers. The Parent Resource Center has many contacts for classes, sports and other opportunities for children to join community outings. It is also a great time to plan walks and outings in your neighborhood. Check out the following links or contact us for ideas to create community connections for your children.

Haverhill Public Library programs:

Kids <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=HAVERHILL&curKey1=children>

Teens <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=HAVERHILL&curKey1=teen>

Buttonwoods Museum:

<http://buttonwoods.org/programs.html>

Shoetown Art Center: (including inclusive programming)

<http://www.shoetownartcenter.com/>

Riverside Bradford Baseball

Check out Buddy Ball for kids that need some extra support (flyer attached)

<http://rbbaseball.org/>

Haverhill Youth Soccer

<http://www.haverhillyouthsoccer.org/>



Haverhill Public Schools Special Education Department

4 Summer St. Rm 104 Haverhill, MA.
978-374-3435



Behavior Corner

Choosing Reinforcement in the home:

Rewards come in many different forms and vary per individual. Providing rewards within the home setting doesn't have to cost money!

Positive reinforcement provides your child with attention by letting them know you have taken the time to notice when they are behaving well. This acknowledgment results a desire continue to engage in the behavior!

Rewards can be as simple as:

- Verbal praise
 - "Great job cleaning your room!"
- a smile, nod or a high five
- Catching your child being good
 - "I love how you shared with your brother"

Rewards can also be provided by items that are already in the house. Items that the child already has access to within the house can become contingent or dependent on good behaviors.

Examples can include:

- Instead of allowing your child to watch T.V. or play video games in the evening, they can watch T.V. *IF* homework is completed.
- An "I caught you being good jar"- Parents can add coins or pom-poms and once they reach a certain amount the child can play a preferred activity i.e. watch a favorite movie, stay up past bed time on a weekend or pick what's for dessert.

Keeping rewards simple encourages positive behavior and creates more enjoyable family time!

Parent support Center resources

SEPAC:

Upcoming meetings:

- April 12, 2017 at 5:30pm at the HHS Library
- May 10, 2017 6:00pm HHS library
- Mental Health and the IEP presented with PPAL
- May 13, 2017 Resource Fair time and location TBA
- May 17, 2017 at 5:30 at the HHS library Elections and SEPAC business.
- May 24, 2017 10:30am at the Parent Resource Center Transitions and the IEP presented by Andrea Morris of the GHN ARC

Open Houses:

- We are scheduling open houses for Kindergarten and Middle schools Dates to be announced.

HC Media Group:

- Please return membership forms and project ideas to HC Media.
- Anyone else 12 and up interested in joining a group please email:
parentcenter@haverhill-ps.org

Friendship Club:

- Is underway at HHS. If you have a student that is interested please contact the parent center or Sarah Emilio.

