

Seattle Public Schools: Every student achieving, everyone accountable

August 31, 2009

Dear Seattle Public Schools Families,

Greetings from the Department of Special Education Services and welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. I am writing to update you on the work we have done this summer and to give you some key information to help you and your family as school starts. **Serving Students Closer to Home:** Many of you know that we are implementing a more inclusive model for special education in Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms in about forty schools this fall. This new model, which is called Integrated Comprehensive Services (ICS), is based on successful programs from around the country. Each of the Seattle schools that is serving students through the ICS model will serve one or two special education students, and will receive additional staffing to help provide extra support so that all our students are successful. To prepare for the first phase of ICS implementation, we held a week-long institute, attended by more than 150 teachers, principals, and instructional assistants. Dr. Ilene Schwartz from the University of Washington (see <http://education.washington.edu/areas/edspe/profiles/schwartz.html>) gave powerful presentations on creating inclusive classes and positive behavior management. Feedback from participants was very positive. We will closely monitor student progress throughout this year, always using data to guide our next steps.

New Staff: We have many new staff members in our department, and we have built solid teams of supervisors and consulting teachers to work directly with you and your teachers and principals. Our supervisors and consulting teachers will provide on-site support to school staff throughout the school year. We want you to feel heard and supported! See the attached list of Supervisor assignments for your school. We have also added two Instructional Coaches to our department to provide on-going, in-class coaching in schools.

Curriculum Alignment and Special Education: Curriculum alignment, which means that students throughout Seattle will have consistent, district-wide expectations in Math, Science, Reading, and Writing, enables us to become more inclusive as a system. Our special education staff will be attending core curriculum trainings so that ALL students will be able to achieve academic excellence and be prepared for college, work, and life. Last week I was able to meet with our incoming teachers, both general education and special education, to share our vision of providing integrated, inclusive and comprehensive services.

Upcoming Family Event: Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 17th**, for an all-day family engagement event titled *Best Practices for Inclusive Schools*, at the John Stanford Center. Guest speaker Dr. Elise Frattura (see <http://www4.uwm.edu/soe/directory/profiles/frattura.cfm> for information about her work) will be the keynote speaker, and we will also have an expert panel presentation. This event is sponsored by the Seattle Special Education PTSA.

First Week Call Center – 252-0058: We are establishing a call center in the Special Education Department to make sure that you can get speedy resolution for any issues that arise during the crucial early days of school. We will be partnering with the Transportation, Enrollment, and Customer Service offices to get you the information and answers you need. Call **252-0058** with any questions or concerns.

It is a privilege to be working for you and your students helping Seattle Public Schools meet its commitment to ensure an excellent education for every student. You can reach Director Becky Clifford or me if you have questions, insights, observations, or concerns at 206-252-0058 or specialed@seattleschools.org. You can also find key information on our Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/speced/index.dxml>.

Thank you for partnering with the Special Education team and Seattle Public Schools to ensure the success of all our students!

Marni Campbell, Executive Director, Special Education Services

Geri Diaz (ggdiaz@seattleschools.org) will be the supervisor for the following schools: Adams, Brighton, Bryant, Dearborn Park, Graham Hill, John Stanford, Kimball, North Beach, Sacajawea, Stevens, West Seattle, West Woodland, BF Day, Bailey Gatzert, Green Lake, Greenwood, John Rogers, Northgate

John Clough (jpclough@seattleschools.org) will be the supervisor for the following schools: Beacon Hill, Concord, Dunlap, Highland Park, Lafayette, Lawton, Loyal Heights, Thurgood Marshall, Montlake, Muir, Schmitz Park, Van Asselt, Wing Luke, Arbor Heights, Lowell, Maple, McGilvra.

Amy Briggs (adbriggs@seattleschools.org) will be the supervisor for the following schools: Alki, Daniel Bagley, Emerson, Coe, Gatewood, Hawthorne, John Hay, Laurelhurst, Leschi, Olympic View, Sanislo, Thornton Creek, View Ridge, Whittier, Olympic Hills, Zoe Jenkins, Roxhill, Wedgwood.

Stacey McCrath-Smith (smccrath@seattleschools.org) will be the supervisor for Middle and K-8 schools.

Michael Sanford (msanford@seattleschools.org) will be supervisor for the High Schools and High School programs.