

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

I am excited to begin my second year in the district as the Director of Student Services. I am pleased to announce two special education staff members who have new roles within the district this year.

Colette Bidus, Special Education Teacher/Special Education Coordinator: Mrs. Bidus has been a Special Education Teacher at Quarry Hill Community School for 16 years. As Special Education Coordinator, some of her responsibilities include monitoring special education compliance timelines and IEPs for students in Preschool through grade 12, as well as consulting and collaborating with school personnel and parents.



John Lempart, Special Education Teacher/Specialized Programs Coordinator: Mr. Lempart has been a Special Education Teacher at Granite Valley Middle School in the SOAR Classroom for 5 years. As Specialized Programs Coordinator, some of his responsibilities include monitoring the data collection, programming, and curriculum of substantially separate classrooms across the district.

Special Education Liaisons

All students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) are assigned a Special Education Liaison. This liaison serves as a case manager and contact person for staff and parents involved in the support and implementation of the student's IEP. The liaison also collaborates with the general education teachers to ensure accommodations and modifications are implemented as outlined on the student's IEP, as well as possibly provide direct instruction as specified on the IEP.

If you have any questions or concerns related to your child's IEP, please contact the Special Education Liaison first, as they have the most information and contact with your child. As the Special Education Coordinator, Ms. Bidus is also available to address any questions you may have.

MONSON SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (MSEPAC)

The MSEPAC is a parent group that acts as a resource for parents and advises the district regarding meeting the needs of students with special needs. They provide support and networking opportunities for parents and guardians of children with educational needs, offer workshops and guest speakers to help parents become better informed about special education issues.

The MSEPAC meets monthly, on the second Tuesday of each month, from 6-7:00 pm in the School Committee Room at Quarry Hill Community School.

The following meetings were held this year:

- September 12, 2017: Parents and guardians were invited to meet the new special education staff in the district.
- October 10, 2017: The Director of Student Services provided a workshop on Basic Rights in Special Education.

The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2017. Please contact MSEPAC President, Mrs. Holly Lynch, at monsonpac@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's education. Please contact me directly with any questions you may have regarding special education services for your child.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Morneau
Director of Student Services