



The Mid-State Messenger

October 2020



Physical Therapy Appreciation Month!

October is Physical Therapy Appreciation Month. Please be sure to thank the dedicated and hard working physical therapists and physical therapy assistants for all they do to improve the lives of the students they serve! These include Kelli Evans (RPT), Deanne Perry (RPT), Amy Ashmore (LPTA), Amber Schulze (LPTA), Lauren Himer (LPTA), and Crystal Tarin (LPTA).



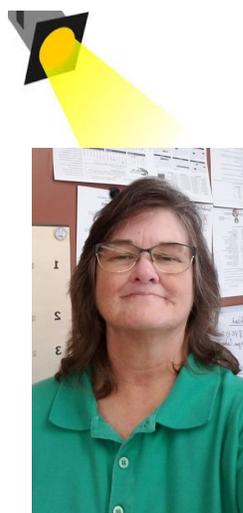
LRE Designations

All 13 Mid-State member districts earned a “Meets

Requirements” under the new Illinois Special Education Accountability System! Data from previous school years through 2019-20 were applied to the Compliance and Results Indicators in numerous areas. This is one measure of the quality of services being provided to our students and is credited to the collaborative efforts of many professionals and support personnel. Congratulations to all the districts’ and Mid-State staff who contributed to this accomplishment!

Ramsey Celebration

Hats off to Ramsey! During their recent two week school closure, Ramsey kept instruction as close to in-person learning as possible. Students continued to receive instruction via google meet videos, and live interactions from teachers. Thank you, Ramsey, for your continued efforts in ensuring your students are learning regardless of the circumstance.



Employee Spotlight

April Wilson, teacher of the visually impaired from SMASE, joined the MSSE team in FY20 serving students in Bond and Vandalia school districts. This year she has taken on all 13 MSSE districts and is doing an excellent job meeting the diverse needs of our students with visual impairment. Although April works for several cooperatives and many districts, she has managed to develop a schedule that allows her to see

all of her students and collaborate with teachers, parents, and administration regularly. We are extremely thankful that SMASE is willing to share this dynamic and experienced teacher with us. She brings a great deal of knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication to MSSE and the students and families she serves.

Thanks to Emma Reichert



Rebecca Waters (Special Education Teacher at Beckemeyer Elementary School) shared, “I want to give

a shout out to Emma! Emma Reichert, Autism & Behavior Specialist, gave a short 7 minute presentation to each kindergarten class on how to be a good friend to someone with Autism. It was a great lesson in accepting differences and helping others! She also did an amazing job in showing me how to get ready and set to collect data for DTI! Thanks, Emma!” Thank you, Rebecca and Emma Riechert, for working together to serve students.

STEP Students Supporting Staff



At Hillsboro High School STEP/ Work Program students tie dyed masks and are planning to provide the masks to HHS staff. When visiting the classroom, the students excitedly shared the different techniques used to tie the masks and proudly displayed the masks they had created. A special note of thanks to Mrs. Lomprez (Special Education Teacher) and Mrs. Snyder (Transition Specialist) for assisting these students with such a meaningful task and contribution to their school.

SLPs Gather Virtually

Speech/Language Pathologists representing all 13 member districts came together September 4th for their quarterly SCISHA meeting.



During this time, Brandy Buske led the group in discussion about tasks to be completed, successful remote therapy options, and solutions to the challenges SLPs are facing. The group shared many great ideas. Thanks to Kim Pepler and Emilee Niemeier for sharing their google activity logs with the entire group!

Video Tutorials

These days, it's the new norm to spend a significant portion of our time providing instruction and participating in meetings through virtual platforms--to the point that we feel like we're in the opening theme song from the Brady Bunch! As we embrace this new normal, it is also becoming second nature to whip up a tutorial or instructional video on what we are teaching and push content out to users rather quickly. Using recording sites

such as Screencastify, Loom, and Zoom, it's easier than ever to share our screen and record our teaching for future reference. This is something that also works well for demonstrating specific aspects of the IEP process such as what to include in an Re-Eval packet and where to find these documents, or how to use the batch printing feature in Embrace for quickly printing student data and checking class lists. To date, tutorials have been made for these topics so please contact your Program Coordinator to request the link for these videos. We welcome suggestions for other topics to cover to help us all work more efficiently!

Title I Literacy Night

Penny Niemann is pictured below with some of the 97 Title I Literacy night activity bags. Penny has planned a literacy activity for families in the Litchfield School District who have students in grades Pre-K through Five. The activity will include a book and something they can do as a family. September's activity included reading a recipe, following the directions, using math for measuring, and making spaghetti. An age appropriate book was also included in the bag. Next month, Penny plans on having activities related to



pumpkins and hopes to provide each family with a small pumpkin.



National Principals Month

Building principals play an essential role in fostering student success and making schools great. They set the tone for learning and provide a vision for academic success. Please thank your building principal for all of the effort they put into meeting

the needs of students, families, staff, and the community each and every day.