



# MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

## The Mid-State Messenger

May 2021

### National Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-8, 2021. We are saying 'thank you' this week, and throughout the year, to the extraordinary educators who have worked tirelessly with students and families to keep things moving forward, despite such an unpredictable year.



### May is Better Hearing & Speech Month

#### Better Hearing & Speech Month



2021 • BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHS&M) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of ASHA members in providing life-altering treatment. For 2021, our theme is "Building Connections."

[\(https://www.asha.org/bhsm/\)](https://www.asha.org/bhsm/)

ASHA provides a variety of different resources to promote BHS&M on their website. They include: facebook profile filters, coloring pages, posters, and even zoom backgrounds that you can use to help promote BHS&M! Check out their website so you can help promote Better Hearing and Speech Month! ASHA's website will include weekly information on weekly topics. The schedule is as follows:

- **Week 1:** Lessons Learned on Hearing Loss: Turning Pandemic Realities Into Action on Hearing Health
- **Week 2:** Early Intervention & COVID-19
- **Week 3:** The Role of Health Care SLPs in COVID-19 Recovery
- **Week 4:** Summer Skill Building, Hearing Protection for School-Aged Children

### Happy Retirement Amy Schmedeke



There's a new word at the top of Amy Schmedeke's "List of Fun Things to Do" and that word is RETIRE! After a much appreciated tenure as a Special Education Teacher, the Matriarch of Morrisonville High School is closing out her 35 year career that has included teaching in just two school districts- South Fork for 9 years and

Morrisonville for 26 years. The love, enthusiasm, and compassion that Amy has shown to her students, her fellow teachers and staff, and the Morrisonville community is not something that will ever be replaced. Amy, we wish you nothing but the best and can't wait for you to continue to "come play" at Morrisonville Schools for years to come!

### Happy 2nd Retirement Judy Riedl



After devoting 38 years to students with unique abilities and providing outstanding leadership to staff, Judy Riedl will retire for the second time at the end of the FY21 school year. Judy served 35 years as a program coordinator and principal with SASSED before joining the MSSE team. She has done a wonderful job supporting and guiding Carlinville special education staff over the last three years.

We are grateful that Judy agreed to come out of retirement and become part of our team. Her knowledge, dedication, hard work, and professionalism have been a great asset and set a wonderful example for us all. Enjoy being fully retired and all of the traveling you have ahead of you!

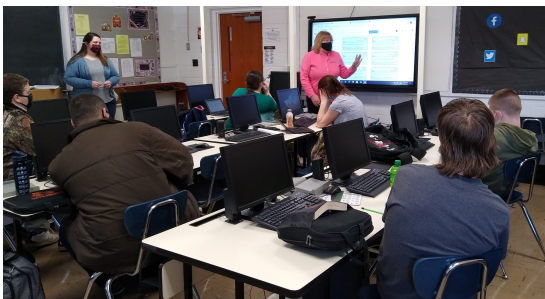
## Connections Class Business

Mrs. Hatley's Connections class turned a fun mask making activity into a business! After receiving donated materials from Mrs. Snyder, students



started selling masks in January and have sold 30 masks so far. Each mask costs \$5.00. The profits have all gone back into buying more masks and dye. The class continues to dye masks based on creative student ideas. They have made St. Louis Cardinals masks, cheetah print, Lancer patterns, and multi-colored ones. Each student is responsible for different parts of the business. Drake is our seller. He has encouraged many students and staff to support our business. He was also able to persuade a staff member to assist us in selling our mask at the grade school. Lynlee has assisted with making many of the masks and given creative ideas. Chris is our treasurer and helps count money each week. Gabe helps keep track of our supplies and is responsible for looking up costs of needed supplies. Students all agree this business is not only fun, but practical due to COVID19. Mrs. Hatley said, "We're in business to sell masks but we're really trying to spread kindness not germs".

## Banking Unit

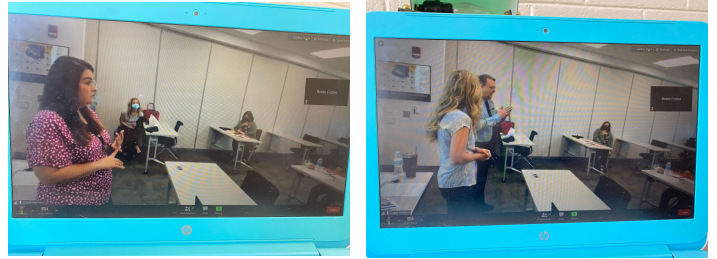


Ramsey High students participated in a bank unit, with the U of I Extension. They learned how to write checks, balance their account, and how to utilize a debit card.

*May your summer be long and your worries be small.*



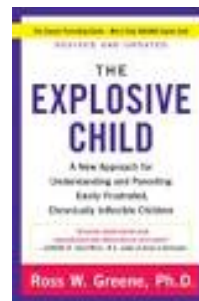
## Virtual Senior Transition Conference for



## Bond/Fayette Schools

The seniors in Bond/Fayette schools attended their Senior Conference that was held at Kaskaskia College, via Zoom. Mrs. Saatkamp, Transition Specialist, partnered with Dana Homann, U of I extension, along with a Car Dealer, Banker, Teller, Insurance Agent, and Realtor. Each agent talked about their jobs and explained to the students real world situations. (Cost of purchasing a house, buying a vehicle, loans, the cost of insurances, etc. ). The students completed a "Real World Experience". They selected a career choice and had a monthly budget based on their salaries. They then could see if they had enough money to make the choices they selected.

## Book Study Series: The Explosive Child



Brandy Buske, program coordinator serving Hillsboro, is leading our first MSSE book study on *The Explosive Child* by Ross W. Greene, PhD during the month of April and May. Participants will complete three activities from a choice board and discuss specific aspects of the book via zoom. *The Explosive Child* provides a new approach for understanding and parenting easily

frustrated, chronically inflexible children. The focus is on understanding factors that contribute to challenging behavior, reducing or eliminating these challenges, solving problems proactively, and reducing hostility between the adult and the child. According to Dr. Greene, the key to successfully helping explosive children is developing the child's ability to be more flexible, solve problems, and handle frustration. Children do the best they can with the skills they currently have. It is the adult's role to teach the missing skills allowing the child to have a brighter future. It's not too late to join in to learn more and receive 10 CEUs. Register at [www.midstatespec.org](http://www.midstatespec.org) on the Professional Development link.