



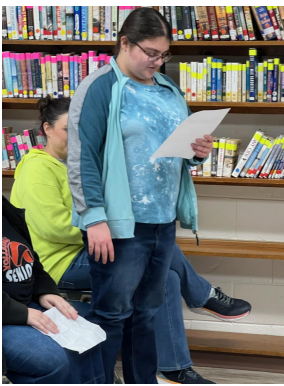
# MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

## The Mid-State Messenger

December 2022

### Ramsey STEP Students

Katie (left) and Madyson (right) are Ramsey seniors that are in the STEP program. Both students attended the November Ramsey board meeting and shared their experiences during the STEP program. We applaud both Katie and Madyson for sharing their experiences and helping to promote the STEP program!



### Positive Behavior Reward Day

Litchfield students in grades 2-3 were rewarded with a day at the bowling alley for having such good behavior for the first trimester of the school year. Students in grades 4-5 were rewarded with a day at the local theater, watching a movie of their choice. All of the students enjoyed time away from the classroom, while they relaxed and visited with friends—all because they followed expectations!



### Shoutout to Brownstown Elementary!



Many great things have been happening at BES lately, especially the focus on mental health. Having a growth mindset has been a focus lately and students have learned a great deal about how to train their thoughts to be geared towards growth and not a set/negative mindset. Training students to take control of their inner voice will help them to become lifelong learners. Great job BES!

### Sharing Some Holiday Cheer

Sarah Turner, SSW serving Edinburg and South Fork, decided to share some holiday cheer with students and staff on December 1st. She says she has more than one of these festive sweaters!!



### Legal Update with Brandon Wright



On December 2nd MSSE staff gathered to learn *The Right Answers to 20+ Questions* facilitated by Brandon Wright. Topics of discussion included staff shortages, student records, residency, homeschooled students, child find, change of placement, required procedures and much more. This two hour discussion with Brandon provided staff with a great opportunity to stay up to date on current legislation while getting specific questions related to special education compliance answered.

#### Top 10 Special Education Compliance Reminders:

- 1) Follow all required spec ed procedures within the given timelines
- 2) Attendance issues must be addressed through the IEP/FBA
- 3) Use up to date MTSS interventions, assessment, curriculum, etc.
- 4) Provide timely drafts to parents
- 5) MTSS is not a place to live only to visit
- 6) Bullying must be promptly investigated and IEP team convened
- 7) Clear and present danger reporting must be made to the state police
- 8) Consider student's changing needs and address them
- 9) Communicate wisely - text, email, social media
- 10) Use the ELL resources found on ISBE's website when needed

#### SCISHA Event

Following the regularly scheduled SCISHA business meeting on the afternoon of December 2nd, MSSE welcomed Samantha Conklin, AT Facilitator, who presented on *Finding the Right Words: The Link between Communication and Behavior*. Behavior is a form of communication. This presentation explored how we can support students in replacing challenging behaviors with more socially acceptable modes of communication. Topics discussed included the basics of behavior and communication, low tech tools and strategies to promote effective communication and the use of functional communication training (FCT).

#### Take a Deep Dive into Behavioral Interventions!

Register for the next MSSE PD activity and add additional evidence based tools to your behavior tool chest to more efficiently and effectively

increase desired behaviors while decreasing unwanted actions. This video series through Infinitec will break interventions into smaller components to help participants better understand what can be done to help students and why specific interventions are better than others. This PD event begins on January 11th and allows you to work at your own pace. To register for this free PD go to <https://www.midstatespec.org/professional-development/>

#### One Family-Team Theilen!

We all struggle to keep up with the ins and outs of daily school life with deadlines, mandates, and meeting the academic, behavioral and mental health needs of our students. It can be tough when one of our own is going through something hard. Edinburg staff and community are pulling together to support Ben, his family and each other. Walking into a building and watching staff, who are already close and supportive, step it up another notch for their family is what it is all about!

***In this Family No One Fights Alone!***



***May this Christmas season be filled with kindness and bring you and your family love, happiness, and good health.***