



MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Mid-State Messenger

May 2023

You Make a Difference Award



Barb Daugherty, Program Coordinator, and Chloe Foppe, Teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, were recently given the *You Make a Difference* award on behalf of the MSSE Executive Committee and our member districts. Both of these professionals are recognized by the districts they serve and their families as outstanding individuals who go out of their way to connect with students, parents and staff. The expertise, compassion and dedication they bring to their work day in and day out greatly benefits all students.

Happy Retirement to Lyn & Angie!



After 34 and 33 years respectively, Lyn Becker and Angie Armour will be retiring officially this summer. The MSSE family happily celebrated their careers on May 5th. They have both served the majority of their careers in the MSSE family and the impact they have made on their staff, families, and the organization as a whole will not be

forgotten. We wish them nothing but the best while they enjoy their retirement, come July 1.

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month



Better Hearing &
Speech Month 2023

This May, please help celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month! BHSM provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of ASHA members in

providing life-altering treatment. For 2023, their theme is **"Building a Strong Foundation"**. Our Speech Language Pathologists and Hearing Itinerants provide such important services to the families of our 13 member districts!

May is Teacher Appreciation Month



Happy Teacher Appreciation Month for all of our educators as student success is only acquired when everyone plays their

part. How lucky MSSE is to work with such wonderful educators that advocate for students on a daily basis. All educators should end this school year with pride in their hearts and with their heads held high. MSSE greatly thanks you for an amazing year!

May 5th Staff Recognition Celebration



On Friday, May 5th, MSSE staff participated in *Rediscovering Your Why!* with Dr. Courtney Orzel and recognized the employees above for their years of service. 25 years Tricia Kelley, 20 years Lorinda Jennings, Debbie Musgrave, Vickie Throne, 15 years Bobbi Fisher, 5 years, Velvet Balmer, Kelly Behme, Karen Bennett, Kassi Charles, Shera Nail, and Kelli Stewart.

SEL training at ROE 3

Scarlett Vanzo, School Social Worker for Ramsey, Mulberry Grove, St. Elmo, and Brownstown presented a SEL training to new teachers for ROE 3 on March 28th. Way to go, Scarlett!



Blackburn & Beyond

Anna Marie Consenza and Mady Hulett, former CHS students that are both involved in the Blackburn and Beyond program. Anna Marie has graduated from Blackburn and is working as a para-professional for the Blackburn and Beyond program. She is also working on her special education endorsement to become a special education teacher. Mady is currently enrolled at Blackburn college and is receiving assistance from the Blackburn and Beyond staff. These young ladies assisted with a Blackburn and Beyond presentation for DRS counselors at Blackburn college on April 12th. What a wonderful celebration of transition success.



Region 5 Teacher of the Year



Karen Lotz, Brownstown Elementary Special Education Teacher, was awarded the EA Region 5 Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Lotz is retiring at the end of the 22-23 school year after serving 39 years in education! Congratulations Mrs. Lotz!

Jerry Brooks!!

The Regional Office of Education #3 hosted Jerry Brooks at the Litchfield Unit Office. Teachers from around the region attended the conference and enjoyed his energy and excitement!



MSSE's Dynamic Duo



Emma Reichert Campbell, Behavior/Autism Specialist, and Dana White, Registered Behavior Technician, are making a big difference in the lives of students, teachers, and families. This dynamic duo provide behavioral interventions and supports to a variety of students in our 13 member districts who need research

based strategies and plans to successfully make it through the day. We are extremely fortunate to have in-house behavior experts to help tackle the more challenging situations.

STEP

Pictured are the STEP work study students from HHS. The group went to Knights Action Park, Scheels and Osaka on May 2nd to celebrate the successes of the Hiltop Café and work study program. Carl S, Marcus M, Xavier C, Isabella H, Rey F, Sabrina D, Camden H, Heidi M, Trenton J and Tyler R had a wonderful time!

