



MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Mid-State Messenger **September 2021**

Welcome Back!



The MSSE administrative team started off the FY22 school year with our annual Go Forward leadership meeting and legal update on August 3rd. Brandon Wright was in attendance to share some important and time sensitive legal updates. Joining our administrative team in FY22 is Danley Killam and Eric Lux. Danley serves as the Carlinville Primary School Principal and Program Coordinator for Carlinville CUSD#1. Eric serves as the Program Coordinator for Vandalia CUSD#203. We welcome you both! As we begin another unique school year, Angie Armour, MSSE Director, has a few reminders.

1. There will be a lot of distractions, but keep your focus on the kids.
2. Although this may be the most difficult and challenging year you've experienced, remember that we are experts at providing education differently, and it is OK to lean on our strong and very experienced team—any time—day or night.
3. We will serve children, families, and schools with kindness, flexibility, and grace! (taking care to extend these same qualities to ourselves).

New MSSE Staff



MSSE welcomes new staff members Ingrid Watkins (Data Specialist), Brianna Herschelman (SLP), Barb Daugherty (Social Worker), Sarah Turner (Social Work Intern), and Lindsey Davis (CTI Specialist). Please take time to welcome and support our new colleagues as they work to deliver quality services.

Therakids Celebrates 25 Years

Therakids, P.C. is the largest contract company in southwestern Illinois that provides occupational, physical and speech therapy services to special education cooperatives and school districts. Therakids, P.C. has been contracting to area school districts since 1996. The company started with one employee and has expanded to 70 employees. Working in both rural and metropolitan communities in central and southern Illinois, they provide therapy to over 1,300 students per week. Co-owners Kathy Wassink and Traci Hartrich, both Occupational Therapists, have had the honor of providing services to Midstate Cooperative for 24 of the 25 years. "Working closely with the district's students and staff within the Co-op, has been one of the high lights over the years". " For our therapists to be part

of the special education team, to provide services to enhance the student's academic performance and allow them to be successful within their classroom setting, has been both professionally and personally rewarding", Wassink stated. Kathy went on to say, "The Midstate staff have always made us feel a part of the team and Midstate family, we look forward to working closely with everyone for many years to come".

Transition Training



On August 5th, Laura Snyder, Transition Specialist, provided transition training for MSSE and SMASE teachers and administrators. Staff appreciated receiving important reminders about transition. During the training, Randi Reimann, Transition Specialist, shared a link that houses many transition activities that students and teachers can access.

Mentoring & Induction



On August 9th at LLCC in Litchfield, Bobbi Fisher kicked off this year's Mentoring & Induction program for new staff. Mentees learned about expectations, resources available to them, procedures from the newly updated Procedural Guide, and had time to learn about the Embrace website. Our hope is that

all new staff start the year with confidence and feeling well supported. On-going Mentoring sessions will be held with each new employee throughout the school year.

CPI Training



During the month of August, MSSE CPI trainers provided a total of seven CPI trainings. Pictured above is trainer Dawn Theivagt providing an initial CPI training.

Discrete Trial Instruction



On August 11th & 12th, Emma Reichert, Behavior Specialist, and Lyn Becker, BCBA, trained staff from eight member districts how to implement Discrete Trial Instruction. Participants enjoyed the small group setting and hands-on approach taken to teach this unique instructional method.

MSSE Staff Meeting & PD



Brandon Wright provided 45 MSSE staff with a legal update on August 20th at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield. With all the legislation passed over the summer, Brandon did an excellent job of sharing the many new laws that pertain to special education.

MSSE Book Study Series

MSSE Program Coordinators will be leading several book studies throughout the year. Ten professional development hours will be provided for each book study completed. Go to the MSSE website <http://www.midstatespec.org/professional-development/> to register for one or more of the following: Lost at School, Hacking School Discipline, or Fostering Resilient Learners.