

Welcome Parents and Guardians!!!

September 26, 2018

Joanne Panopoulos, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education



Background:

- Passionate about students of all ages and finding their intrinsic motivation for learning and purpose of life
- Special Education Teacher for 10 years
- Special Education Administrator for 15 years
 - Leadership experience with full continuum of special education services from Early Childhood through age 22
 - NTDSE, Special Ed. Cooperative - 5 years
 - District #31 Northfield - 3 years
 - Wheaton CUSD200 - 7 years



Background:

- Agent of positive systems change
 - Experience with positive change and enhancements to the Transition programming and services offered for students 14 through age 22
 - Positive collaborative relationships with parents, staff, and community partners
- Lifelong learner and see value in all circumstances whether challenging or rewarding
- Adjunct professor at NLU- special education courses



My Beliefs

- I believe **all students can learn** at their own pace, timeframe, in their own way.....
- I believe **we should hold all students to a high level of attainment** academically, socially, and emotionally.
- I believe **students with a 504 or IEP should be included** to the maximum extent possible with their typical peers.
- I believe we should **provide the necessary programming and support services** to allow each student with a 504 or IEP to excel to their own capacity so they can be prepared for post-secondary and lead meaningful lives.



General Role and Responsibilities

- **Oversee Special Education Services**
 - Full continuum of special education services and programs
 - Adhere to federal and state regulations
 - Operations and delivery of programs and services
 - Fiscal responsibility aligned with student need
 - Work collaboratively with our community, parents, and Township partners including sender districts



General Role and Responsibilities

- **Work Closely with Senior Leadership**
 - Provide a lens and voice of special education at the administrative level for the benefit of all students
 - Critical leader in the strategic planning process
 - Meet regularly with Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Student Services to evaluate and plan for best practices in general education and special education
 - Identified and mentored an Outplacement Coordinator for students who need a more restrictive setting than on NT Campus



General Role and Responsibilities

- **Work Closely with Campus and Department Leaders**
 - Member of various teams and committees reflective of the systems and supports offered at New Trier
 - General education programming and supports
 - TAT (Teacher Advisery Team) process
 - Academic and social emotional (Guided Study, Guided Assistance Program, social work groups, etc.)
 - Special education programming and supports
 - Leaders
 - Related services
 - Administrative assistants



Overall Vision

My vision is that New Trier will offer a highly collaborative parent/school relationship and will meet each student's needs by providing quality specialized instruction and support services for students within the continuum of special education. My plan is to engage with parents of students with special needs, Township schools, and community partners to be an effective leader for New Trier Special Education.



Organizational Structure



We Value Your Input

- ❑ What are some **sources of pride** for special education services offered at New Trier?
- ❑ What are some **areas for growth** with special education services?
- ❑ Another way to provide input if you haven't already is through the **Strategic Planning survey** (closes 9/26)

