

## **Welcome to the New Milford Special Services Department**

The New Milford School District Special Services Department's mission is to provide appropriate support and educational services to students, faculty, staff and parents. Each year, the multi-disciplinary Special Services Team develops program-based objectives aligned with the district goals to ensure that all students are given opportunities to maximize their potential for academic and social emotional success. The Special Services Department assists students by teaching them to develop the necessary skills to think critically, socialize appropriately, and become responsible citizens in their community.

The special services department believes in a team-based approach that encourages the parent(s), students, teachers, instructional assistants, related services personnel, administrators and any other essential IEP team members to fully participate in the educational experience of the students. The district believes in open communication to ensure feedback from the community stakeholders. These successful relationships translate to a positive and productive academic experience for our students.

The district is committed to providing special education children/students with opportunities along a continuum of educational services that offer access to and participation in the activities in the schools and community as appropriate to the age and educational needs of the children/students. The District upholds the principles established by both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as these acts support the educational experience and protect the rights of students. New Milford believes in a collaborative process through the IEP Team. The department believes that students with disabilities must be included in any decisions regarding their individual instructional program, and these decisions must be made with key contributions from parents who know

their child best and professional educators who have knowledge of instructional practices and who have experience in guiding students with disabilities to become both productive learners and positive citizens in the school and community.

Across the continuum of special education services, the department serves children/students with the following identified educational disabilities:

- Specific Learning Disability
- Communication Impairment
- Speech and Language Delay
- Emotional/Behavioral Disability
- Other Health Impairment
- Preschool Child with a Disability/ Developmental Delay
- Autism
- Multiply Disabled
- Cognitive Impairment
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Hearing Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Social Maladjustment

The New Milford special services department understands that when a child needs special education services, he/she may step into a new world of teaching methods, services, and classroom choices. Therefore, we have created this site for parents, teachers and students. It will provide you with a basic understanding of the special education process and resources within the district.

The teachers, related service specialists, support personnel, Child Study Team members and I look forward to joining you as a partner in supporting our students/your children in realizing their personal and

academic goals. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call your child's school, case manager and/or the Special Services Office.

So please take a few moments to review the site. In it, you will find key information to help you navigate through the special education programs and procedures. In addition, as always, I welcome your feedback to help keep this site accurate and user-friendly. If you have particular items that you would like to see added to our site, please email me at [wperro@newmilfordschools.org](mailto:wperro@newmilfordschools.org)