

Special Services Newsletter

October 2021, Volume I



A message from the Executive Director

Dear Families and Special Educators,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year—what a year it will be. So excited to see all the growth in students and new skills staff will learn. Kudos to our staff that have been learning a new IEP program. We had to transition to a new program this year and our staff have been rocking the implementation.

We are still dealing with the effects of the pandemic—the virus keeps all of us on our toes. I am so pleased to see that all staff are working on our behavior expectation of wearing masks. I have seen teachers reinforce the use of them in all classrooms. This is one way to stop the spread of COVID.

A process is being developed to help IEP teams determine the amount of recovery services each student will get. The conversations about these services will be had at the annual IEP meeting. If the meeting has already occurred, the case manager will be contacting families for a meeting to talk specifically about these services. We have some fun ideas floating around and will be utilizing outside vendors and our own staff to provide the services. Most of the services will begin in the new year after winter break in 6-to-8-week cycles. We are planning of offering Recovery Services in the Summer of 2022, as well.

During our Professional Development Day on August 30 all staff were given the opportunity to participate in a 6-hour day filled with opportunities to learn new skills. We had a great lineup which included, Strength Based IEPs, Universal Design for Learning, Mindfulness, High School and Beyond Planning, Curriculum Training, Assistive Technology and many more. Many of our classroom teachers and related service staff were the presenters for these workshops. So happy to spotlight our practicing staff.

Looking at the future we are working on ways to support more inclusive practices across our system. Our department has been working with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department to increase awareness of the importance of closing the opportunity gap for students with disabilities. October 15th the entire school district staff will be participating in a day of Equity Professional Development which will include opportunities for all staff to learn about ways to create opportunities for students with disabilities to increase participation with their typically developing peers, in the classroom and in the community, as a whole.

~ Kelley Clevenger

Special Services Department

Community Resource Center
3900 Broadway
Everett, WA 98102
Specialservices@everettsd.org

Meet our new staff! (more to come in November)

My name is **Katy Ramon**, and I am honored to join the Special Services Facilitator team this school year! I was born and raised in the Skagit Valley of Washington State. After graduating high school, and traveling the world for a couple of years, I graduated from the UW with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science. Unsure of what I wanted to do, my primas invited me to sub as a paraprofessional at the dual language elementary where they worked. I immediately fell in love with the school community, the families, and most of all, the incredible students! I knew then, without a doubt, that I wanted to be a teacher. A year later, I was enrolled in a graduate program at UMass Boston. I received my M.A. in Education and taught in a full inclusion classroom in Boston Public Schools, endorsed in math, ELL, and Special Education. I also completed a graduate certificate in Creative Educational Leadership at Boston University. After 11 years on the east coast, my family and I decided to return to Washington State, and for two years I had the great pleasure of teaching math in a resource room setting at Heatherwood Middle School. ~Katy



My name is **Molly Shearer**. I moved back to Washington State from the east coast this summer to be a part of the amazing EPS team. Raised in Shoreline and a proud WSU alum, I am so happy to be back home. I enjoyed time in Arizona for graduate school and earned great experience working at the elementary and secondary level in Virginia, but I am thrilled to be educating students in my home community. I am passionate about helping children of all needs build their communication skills! ~Molly



My name is **Haley Prins** and I am a district audiologist at Everett Public Schools. I grew up in North Bend, Washington and recently graduated from Western Washington University with her Clinical Doctorate in Audiology. I am excited for the opportunity to work in special education and support students with a variety of hearing needs. I have always loved working with kids of all ages and am thrilled to be joining a team of such kind, welcoming people.

~Haley

My name is **Kathleen Gomez**, but many just call me Kat. This year I am supporting Resource K-12 programs in Special Services. This is a new role to me and I am learning a lot! In Everett, I was a Resource teacher at Eisenhower. Previously, I taught in Seattle Public Schools as a Resource teacher with inclusion, co-teaching experience in ELA and Math. My earliest years of teaching brought me to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer where I met my husband. We have two children, 12 and 9 years old. When I am not teaching I love to cook (and eat!), hang out at the YMCA, and of course, read.

~Kat

Message from Special Education PTSA

Everett Special Education PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association) is a community of parents, staff and students who work together to enrich the learning environment and provide resources to students and their families through advocacy, information, training for educators and students receiving special education services.

[2nd Annual - Community Run, Walk and Roll Virtual 5k \(runsignup.com\)](https://www.runsignup.com)

Want to become a member?

<https://mp.gg/eaec8>

Other contact info links:

website: <http://www.everettptsacouncil.org/esd-special-ed-ptsa.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EverettSpecialEducationPtsa>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/everettspecialeducationptsa/>

