

Student Support Services

The student support services team consists of our school psychologist (Molly Battaglini), our school counselor (Cassie D'Addeo), and our school social worker (Cori Dudakiw-Warrick). We provide a variety of services to help students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally in the school environment. Some of the services we provide include:

- Facilitating small-group and individual counseling to teach skills related to school functioning (e.g., teamwork, conflict resolution, emotion management, basic communication and social skills, etc.)
- Implementing a school-wide classroom intervention (Second Step), which teaches grade-level social skills
- Developing interventions to address social/emotional and behavioral needs
- Conducting evaluations for special education services
- Collaborating with staff to support students' educational success
- Responding to crisis situations

Special Services

"The Special Services Department serves students with identified needs, as well as their families. Our Student Services Department evaluates, identifies eligibility and provides services and plans for students. The services provided include specialized instructions for students with learning disabilities, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision and hearing itinerant services, specialized classroom settings."

Response to Intervention/RTI

The sixth grade RTI Reading Interventionists are Lori Pappas and Bridget Massey. We provide a variety of reading interventions at students' instructional levels to help them make progress. Students will meet with interventionists during EPIC time. Students who fall below the 30th percentile nationally on district assessments will be considered for interventions. Data will be collected and reviewed periodically.

ELL/English Language Learners

The sixth grade ELL students will be educated by Bridget Massey. Home Language Surveys (HLS) are reviewed and students are placed in ELL according to HLS and qualifying ACCESS testing scores. Focus of instruction will be on Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking in order to improve students' English proficiency. Students will be seen during EPIC or during other classes throughout the day to meet their individual needs. Students will be evaluated using the WIDA ACCESS test in February.

Big Hollow Middle School 6th Grade

"The District will provide a strong educational foundation that empowers students to excel and instills the desire for life-long learning."



Sixth Grade Staff

The sixth grade staff consists of:

- Mrs. Ambler – ELA
- Mrs. Biarnesen – Math
- Ms. Hagen – Science
- Ms. Howard – Social Studies
- Ms. Reil – Special Education
- Mrs. Ward - ELA

Science

Based on the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards.

Focus is on critical thinking and discovery through the use of lab activities.

Topics studied include:

- Chemistry
- Temperature
- Energy
- Waves
- Forces
- Astronomy
- Weather



Math/Advanced Math

Based on the Common Core State Standards:

- Number Systems
- Expressions and Equations
- Ratios and Proportions
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Social Studies

Based on the Common Core State Standards related to Social Studies.

Concepts students will be working on:

- Ancient World History
- Current events
- Geography
- Chart/graph reading
- Primary secondary sources
- Citing textual evidence
- Vocabulary specific to history/social studies
- Central idea



English Language Arts

Following the common Core State Standards, students will be working on the following concepts throughout the year.

- Pronouns
- 7 Traits of Good Writing
- Vocabulary/Spelling
- Writing Workshop/Writing Process
- Various Types of Essays
- Literary Analysis
- Book Projects

Read literature from a variety of genres and informational text to apply appropriate reading strategies to help comprehend the text and:

- Interpret
- Analyze
- Evaluate
- Process the information to become critical thinkers when applying knowledge to written work.

Advanced English Language Arts

Students will work both independently and collaboratively to think critically and analytically. They will meet the Common Core Standards at each grade level. The curriculum will be differentiated to meet the needs of all students. Students will follow the same units as the general ELA classes with possible additions.