

Pupil Services Administration

- **Joe Simoni- Director**
- **Amanda Allison-Babbitt- CPSE/CSE Chair for grades K-4 and PACE programs**
- **Ed Lopresti- CSE Chairperson for grades 5-12 and Out of District programs**

Pupil Services Office Staff

- Anne Teller- Office Assistant to Amanda Allison Babbitt- Extension 243
- Toni Ann Kunze- Office Assistant to Ed Lopresti- Extension 245
- Lisa Ferraro- Office Assistant to Joe Simoni- Extension 246

Additional Office Staff-

Antoinette Bao- assists with grades 5-12 and Out of District Extension- 248

Carol George- assists with grades K-4 and PACE Extension- 235

Donna Jones- assists with Preschool Extension- 234

New District-Wide staff

- Justin Delgado- District-wide Behaviorist
- Kirsten Carillo- Social Worker at Kent Elementary
- Jacqueline Barry- Speech Therapist at Kent Primary
- Ornella Salza- Grade 5 Special Ed. Teacher at George Fischer MS
- Melissa Dicanio- Grade 5 Special Ed. Teacher at George Fischer MS



Initiatives this year.....

- Multisensory Reading Program training
- Assistive Technology Task Force
- Integrated Co-Teaching Task Force
- Continue IEP Training & Development
- Specialized Instruction Training and Consultation



Parents as Partners Meetings this year:

10/3/18- Meet & Greet

**11/01/18- 7:00 pm- GFMS Library-
Assisting Struggling Readers**

**1/23/19- 6:00 pm- District Office
Preschool CPSE to School Age CSE Workshop
** SNOW date- 1/30/19**

**2/28/19- 9:30 am- District Offices-
Accommodations & Modifications
** SNOW date- 3/14/19**

GROWTH MINDSET & INCLUSION

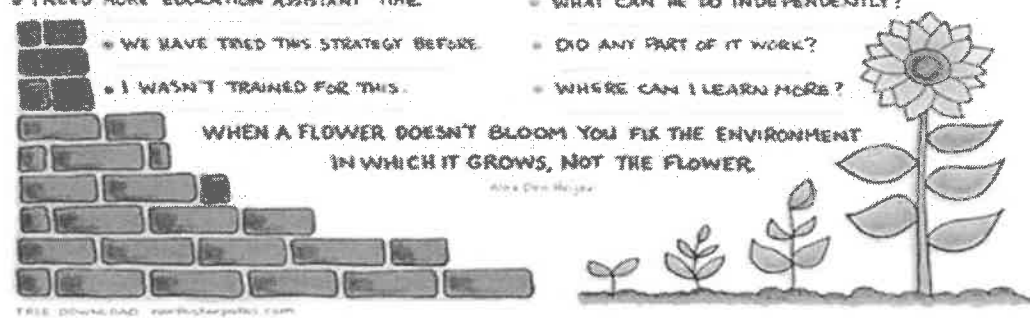
INSTEAD OF THINKING...
(FIXED MINDSET)

- HE IS NOT READY FOR SCHOOL.
- WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES.
- SHE NEEDS TO BE PULLED OUT TO A SEPARATE SETTING.
- I NEED MORE EDUCATION ASSISTANT TIME.
- WE HAVE TRIED THIS STRATEGY BEFORE.
- I WASN'T TRAINED FOR THIS.

TRY THINKING...
(GROWTH MINDSET)

- HOW CAN WE GET SCHOOL READY FOR HIM?
- WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE RESOURCES I HAVE?
- HOW CAN I MAKE SURE SHE HAS A SENSE OF BELONGING?
- WHAT CAN HE DO INDEPENDENTLY?
- DID ANY PART OF IT WORK?
- WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

WHEN A FLOWER DOESN'T BLOOM YOU FIX THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT GROWS, NOT THE FLOWER.
Alex Dea Rojas



FREE DOWNLOAD: www.thetargetplus.com

Nyack Public Schools – SEPTSA

& the Community Support Network at Westchester Institute for Human Development WIHI



NYACK SEPTSA
(Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association)



Talking To Our Children About Their Learning Differences

Promoting Self-Awareness & Self-Determination

Presenters: Stephanie Bellantoni, *Community Support Network at WIHD*

This presentation will allow participants to discuss freely the issues surrounding a discussion with your child about their disability or learning differences, with a positive eye toward self-awareness and self-determination. The workshop will explore tools to support students in expressing themselves as a member of their CSE, so as to develop a quality IEP that respects and accommodates unique individual needs.

October 17, 2018

7:00 pm

Nyack Middle School

98 South Highland Avenue, Nyack, NY

PLEASE RSVP to Nyack SEPTSA at septsanyack@gmail.com

**WIHD Self Advocacy Group Meeting
Monday October 22, 2018 7:00-8:30 PM**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS MEETING



MEETING AGENDA

- Introductions and healthy snacks
- **Discussion Topic: Dealing with Negative Interactions**

Our discussion leader will be Nicole Turygin Ph.D. Behavioral Psychologist at WIHD. It is important that we learn how to advocate for ourselves in difficult situations. Even if we try to avoid having negative interactions with other people, these situations are bound to happen sooner or later. Having differences in opinions with others, different goals, or even everyday disappointments can set the stage for negative interactions. During this meeting, she will talk with us about the different types of negative interactions; situations that can put us at risk for having negative interactions; and some strategies and tips for how to manage negative and uncomfortable interactions with other people. This is an important topic.

Join Hear Our Voices Self Advocacy Group at WIHD to:

Connect to the Hudson Valley Region of the Self Advocacy New York State Association (SANYS) for meetings, trainings, conferences, networking and fun activities; learn useful information to have a more independent and self-directed life; and become a self-advocacy leader and speaker.

Our meeting will take place at:

**Westchester Institute for Human Development
Cedarwood Hall- First Floor Boardroom**

If you are planning on attending, please contact Mitchell Levitz at (914) 493-8119 or Email: mlevitz@wihd.org

Please bring along an interested friend or share this announcement with other self-advocates who may wish to join and their house staff or family members. Feel free to share with appropriate people in your programs. New members always welcome to join!!!!

Non-Diploma Credentials

A diploma alone does not necessarily prepare students for the workplace. Beginning in 9th grade, and over the course of four or more years, students can work toward the achievement of a CDOS Commencement Credential in addition to a diploma. It certifies that a student has successfully participated in career planning and developed the skills needed for job opportunities. This certificate of work-readiness can also be used as an option to meet one of the five exam/assessment requirements for a diploma.

Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential

Available to all students except those who participate in the NYS Alternate Assessment testing program

Option 1 Requirements

- 1) Developed a **Career Plan** documenting career goals and preparation
- 2) Completed a minimum of 216 hours of Career & Technical Education (CTE) coursework and/or work based learning experiences (*at least 54 of the 216 hours must be in work-based learning experiences*)
- 3) **Demonstrated** achievement of the NYS CDOS learning standards
- 4) At least one **Employability Profile** documenting work-related skills and experiences

Or

Option 2 Requirements Passes a state-approved nationally recognized work-readiness credential exam

Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

A certificate only awarded to students with severe disabilities who participated in NYS Alternate Assessment

-Documents a student's level of academic achievement and independence based on alternate grade level standards, skills, strengths, interests, and other accomplishments.

-Provides learning experiences both in school and whenever possible and appropriate, in the community, to support and improve opportunities for post-school living, learning and working.

Things to Remember!

- ◆ All students must be held to high expectations and be provided with meaningful opportunities to participate and progress in the general education curriculum to prepare them to graduate with a Regents or local diploma. NYS research shows the majority of students can meet the State's learning standards for graduation.
- ◆ Students that earn a Regents or local diploma are no longer eligible to attend high school or receive special education services. Students who do not meet graduation requirements have the right to attend school until they earn a diploma or until the end of the school year in which they turn age 21.
- ◆ The CDOS Commencement Credential is not a diploma but certifies a student has the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment. Students who are unable to earn a regular diploma may complete high school with the CDOS Commencement Credential as their only exiting credential.
- ◆ The Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential is not a diploma. All students who take the New York State Alternate Assessment will receive this credential as they exit from school along with a summary of their achievements and overall performance.

Questions?

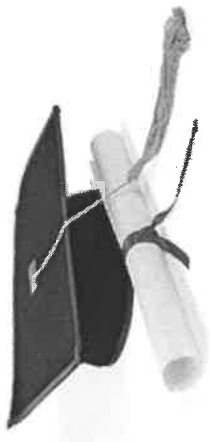
Contact your school counselor

or local Parent Center which can be found at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassisst/parentcenters.htm>



Understanding the Requirements and Pathways to Graduation



A Guide for Families

Information was compiled by Parent Centers and Regional Special Education-Technical Assistance Support Centers funded by the New York State Education Department (Updated - February 2018)



Earning a Diploma in NYS



Thinking about life after high school is exciting! A critical part of preparing for this transition is learning what is required in order for your child to graduate. Are you aware that your child must earn a required number of credits and pass certain state exams? Did you know there are different diploma options depending on test score results? Have you heard about ways your child can participate in work-based learning experiences to develop skills needed for future job opportunities? This guide provides information to understand all the requirements and multiple pathways to graduation.

22 Required Credits

- 4 ELA
- 4 social studies
- 3 science
- 3 math
- ½ health
- 2 physical education
- 1 arts
- 1 foreign language (unless exempt)
- 3 ½ electives

5 Required Regents Exams/Assessment

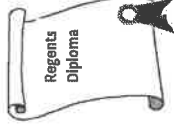
- 1 ELA Regents
- 1 social studies Regents
- 1 math Regents
- 1 science Regents
- +
- 1 Pathway Assessment Option

Pathway Options

- The CDOS Commencement Credential
- An additional Regents exam/assessment in a different course or department approved alternative (in English, math, social studies, or science)
- A Career & Technical Education (CTE) assessment
- An Arts assessment
- A Language Other Than English (LOTE) assessment

* Check with your school district on availability

Types of Diplomas & Required Exam Scores for All Students



Regents Diploma

- 65 on 4 Regents exams (English language arts, math, science, social studies,) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option
- *Schools may require students to take all 5 Regents exams

Appeal Process (for Regents exams only)

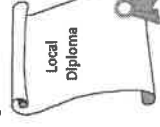
A student who has failed either one or two of the required Regents exams twice, has sought academic help and meets all credit and course requirements, may appeal to graduate with a diploma using a lower score. An appeal may be submitted to the principal by a student, parent or teacher. The appeal must be recommended by the teacher or department chairperson in the subject of the Regents exam under appeal. A school appeal committee makes a recommendation to the Superintendent to approve or deny the appeal.

Regents Diploma through 1 Appeal

- 65 on 3 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 1 Regents score(60-64) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

Local Diploma

An official high school diploma which can be awarded to any student who does not meet the required Regents exams scores but scores within the acceptable range of achievement of NYS learning standards



Local Diploma through 2 Appeals

- 65 on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 2 Regents scores (60-64) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

Local Diploma for students who are classified as English Language Learners

- 65 on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 1 Regents exam (60-64) and 1 successful appeal of ELA exam (55-59) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

Local Diploma Scoring Options for Students with Disabilities

Low Pass Safety Net (for students with an IEP, if recommended in a 504 Plan or if recommended for students declassified while in grades 8-12)

- 55 or higher on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of up to two Regents exams scores of 52-54 and meets requirements for 1 Pathway Option

Compensatory Safety Net (for students with an IEP or if recommended in a 504 Plan)

- A score of 65 or higher on any single Regents exam may compensate for a score between 45-54 on a social studies or science Regents exam. A one for one exchange on up to two exams. Students must score 55 on math and ELA exams (or 52-54 through successful appeal) and meet course requirements

Superintendent's Determination (for students with a current IEP only)



If a student does not meet graduation requirements through safety-net options, a parent may submit a written request for the superintendent to conduct a review of other evidence of graduation level proficiency (required credits and coursework) in the subject areas in which the student has failed to earn the minimum Regents exam scores. To be eligible for this type of review for math and ELA scores, the student must have completed the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential.

Under certain circumstances, a school principal can award the CDOS Commencement Credential to a student with a disability who has not fully met all of the requirements, for purposes of eligibility for the superintendent determination option. Students who are awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential under this exception may not use such credential to meet the requirements for the CDOS graduation pathway to a local or Regents diploma.

Westchester Independent Living Center's
Parent Training and Information Center
Presents

Is Self-Direction for us?
An Overview of Self-Directed Services



Date and Time: Monday, October 22, 2018
10 a.m. to 12 Noon

Presenter: Jennifer Strano
Self-Direction Liaison, Taconic DDRO

Location: The Mahopac Library
668 Route 6
3rd Floor Meeting Room
Mahopac, NY 10541

To register, please click [HERE](#) or
Contact Jessica Baumann to register jbaumann@putnamils.org
or 845-228-7457, x 1108

If you need any special accommodations, please let us know 2 weeks in advance.

This workshop is sponsored by Westchester Independent Living Center's (WILC) Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC). WILC is a Core Community Partner funded by a contract with Starbridge Services, Inc. (formerly the Advocacy Center) in Rochester, NY through its PTIC grant from the United States Department of Education (H328M110020).

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White Plains, NY 10607
914.682.3926
<https://www.wilc.org/>



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