



Penn-Harris-Madison Exceptional Education

December 6, 2017
Forum Meeting

Innovative & Inclusive Leadership



Dr. Jerry Thacker
P-H-M Superintendent

~~"It takes a special kind of person to care for a child with special needs."~~

A child with special needs will inspire you to be a special kind of person.

Exceptional Education Administrative Staff

Exceptional Education Administrative Offices at the Educational Services Center (ESC)

*Gena L. Todd - Director of Exceptional Education

*Ashley Wright - Administrative Assistant to the Director

*Deb Kolber - Clerical Assistant



Exceptional Education Division Office Penn High School - Room 129



Supervisors: *Preschool/Elementary, Mrs. Caroline Brill*
Secondary/Psychologists, Dr. Jenny Sears

Office Staff: *Mrs. Mary Petersen - Division Secretary*
Ms. Angela Edwards - Secretary
Mrs. Kelly Strezlecki - IIEP Coordinator
Mrs. Marcia Abrams - IIEP Coordinator

Psychologists: *Mr. Kevin Runyan*
Ms. Sarah Lerch
Mr. Travis Block
Mrs. Stephanie Burger
Mr. Mike Manis

By changing nothing,
nothing changes.

Anthony Robbins

- Split from Mishawaka Coop (Joint Services) July 2015
- P-H-M Special Education was renamed P-H-M Exceptional Education
- Program Assistants were renamed Educational Assistants
- Preschool was renamed Penn PALS (Promoting Academic Learning Skills)

Exceptional Education is Part of the Learning Division

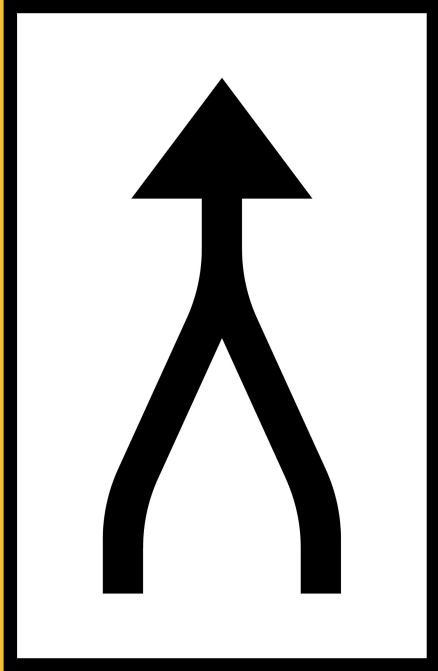
General & Exceptional Education are all a part of the Learning Division led by

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Heather Short



We enjoy a close working partnership with our Director of Professional Development, Dr. Jayson Snyder

Collaboration with General Education



We are merging *General* and *Exceptional Education* in a more meaningful way than has ever been done.

- *Co-Teaching Pilot at Schmucker Middle School
- *Sharing Curriculum
- *Sharing Resources/People
- *District RtI Committee
- *Visuals Across the District
- *Sensory Rooms in Every Building

Serving Students is Our Passion

Our number one goal . . . providing for the students!

- Education
- Meeting all needs
- Even the playing field
- Expecting everything
- Preparing them for life on their own
- Foster independence



The Ex Ed Multidisciplinary Team

Administrative Staff - 4

Division Secretary - 1

Occupational Therapists - 3

Physical Therapists - 3

Speech Language Pathologists - 12

Speech Language Assistants - 7

Resource Teachers - 45

School Psychologists - 5

Educational/Clerical/Assistants - 207



Building Capacity

*School-wide Behavior Support

*Building Behavior Support Teams

*Building RtI Teams

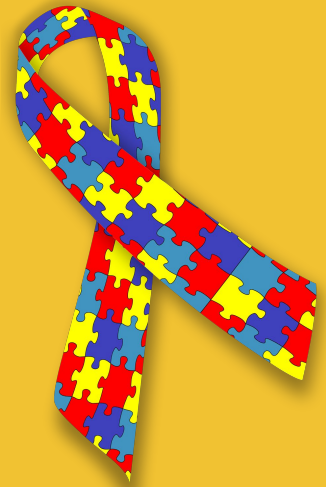
*Teacher Leadership Teams (TLT)

*Building CPI Teams

*Autism Team



District Autism Team



- ★ Trained team members with expertise
- ★ Ask for help through a streamlined referral process for a student on the Autism Spectrum
- ★ District has hired an Autism Consultant - Mrs. Kelsey Moon
- ★ Autism Team Members are sent to schools in pairs to consult/observe



Penn PALS

Previously named Growing Together Preschools were renamed Penn PALS
(Promoting Academic Learning Skills)



4 sites: Bittersweet, Mary Frank, Elsie Rogers & Elm Road

Secondary: Age Appropriate Programming

- Age appropriate programming for students with significant disabilities
- Serve students with activities that meet their level of function but honors their age
- Peer leadership as seen at Penn High School - expansion of this to EI. & MS



Vs



- Redesigned courses at Penn High School under the new leadership, Mrs. Rebecca Allen, Ex Ed Academy Leader and Mrs. Beth Zachary, Assistant Principal

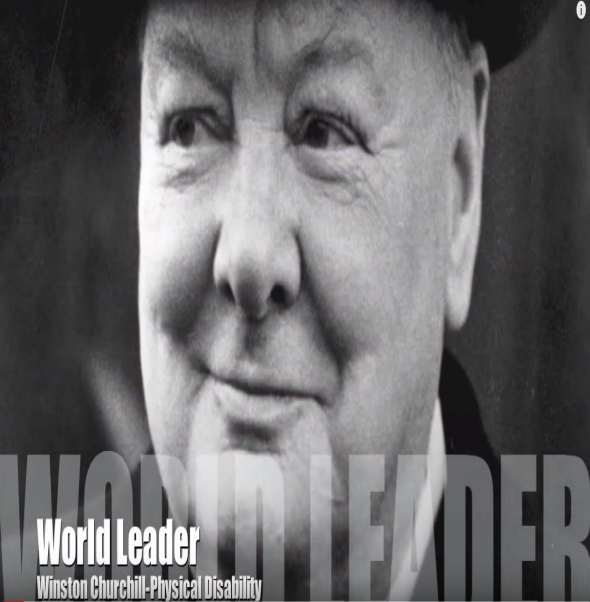
Young Adult Program

- Located at Schmucker Middle School
- Service students ages 18-22
- Community-Based Programming
- Preparing students for Adult Life
- Partnership with Logan and Corvilla for adult services and transition to employability



Our Goal for Each Student

As every student with a disability exits Penn High School
or the Young Adult Program,
our goal is for them to lead productive and fulfilling lives,
obtain meaningful employment and live as independently as
possible



World Leader

Winston Churchill-Physical Disability

You have been
assigned this
mountain
to show others
it can be moved.

wordtotheword



Athlete

Ricky Williams-Social Anxiety Disorder



Actress

Daryl Hannah-Autism



President

John F. Kennedy, Jr.-Learning Disability

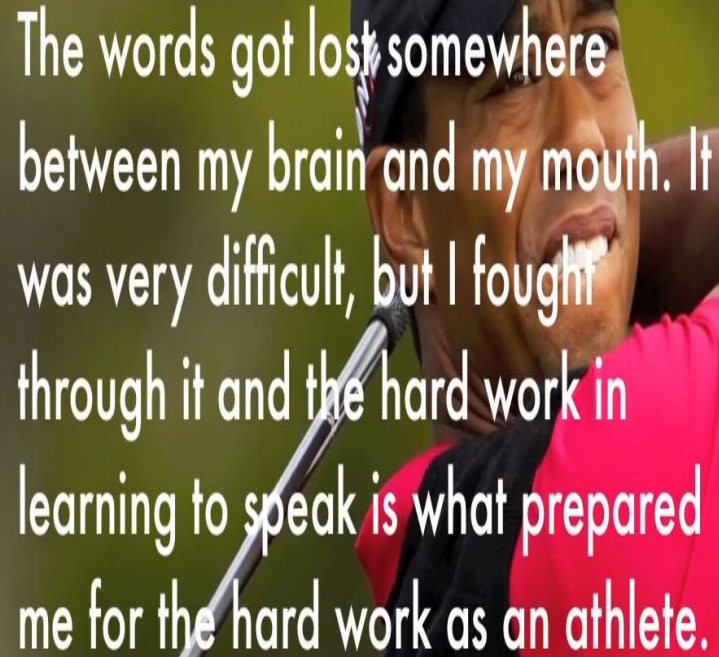


Entertainer

Justin Timberlake-ADHD & OCD



Tiger Woods
Athlete
Speech Disability

A close-up photograph of Tiger Woods in the middle of a golf swing. He is wearing a dark blue cap and a red and black shirt. His expression is one of intense concentration and physical effort, with his mouth slightly open and teeth showing. The background is a blurred green field.

The words got lost somewhere between my brain and my mouth. It was very difficult, but I fought through it and the hard work in learning to speak is what prepared me for the hard work as an athlete.

Cher

Singer/Actress

Reading-Math

Disabilities



School was really difficult.

**Almost everything I
learned, I had to learn by
listening. My report cards
always said that I was not
living up to my potential.**

Richard

Branson

CEO

Dyslexia

Dysgraphia



Stephen
Hawkins
Scientist
ALS

A photograph of Stephen Hawking sitting in a wheelchair. He is wearing glasses and a dark jacket. In front of him is a computer monitor and a microphone on a stand. The background is dark.

My advice: concentrate on the things your disability does not prevent you from doing well...and never let your spirit be disabled.

Whoopi

Goldberg

Comedian

Actress

Dyslexia

A close-up photograph of Whoopi Goldberg on a red carpet. She is wearing dark sunglasses and has her signature braided hair. The background is a bright red wall with some blurred white text.

Why am I a success? Because of
my mothers love and great
teachers who believed in me.

Temple Grandin

Activist

Author - Speaker

Innovator

Autism



Steven Spielberg
CEO-Filmmaker
Reading-Math
Disabilities



“Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them. Who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.

~Rita Pierson