

# THE SPECIAL EDITION



## THIS MONTH

Please join me in thanking our social workers in honor of national school social workers week! Their contributions have always been appreciated but perhaps more so now that mental health needs for our students and families are on the rise and our providers in the community are unable to keep pace. We know that students can't learn if they don't feel safe and connected making the guidance we get from our social workers invaluable. Thanks for all you do!

It is hard to believe some of us just celebrated the first full week of school since winter break. Snow and parent teacher conferences have made it difficult to get into a routine. But who doesn't love a snow day! I'm over 60 so, "when I was a kid" you didn't know school was cancelled until you woke up in the morning. Now schools are closed 24-48 hours in advance. Does the lack of spontaneity reduce the fun? Deep thoughts....

Keystone Administration



## SPOTLIGHT

Audra Sundberg has been using the para collaboration time that was available this year and is seeing some amazing results from the time together as a team. Here's what she had to say:

"The opportunity to regularly debrief with my paras about student challenges has allowed us to develop strategies to meet individual needs more effectively. I've seen a remarkable shift among our team because everyone gets an opportunity to be heard. I send out an agenda and everyone adds to it so nothing gets overlooked. Our monthly collaboration has truly elevated the quality of teaching and learning within our team."

Way to go Audra and the JWMS Special Education team of Wendy Branson, Michelle Allen, Dani Finson, Kelli Stich, Brenda Schwartz, Jeri Ricketts and Makayla Mertell!

- Elizabeth Hathaway had the following to say about the para collaboration time available this year:
- The time provided for teachers and paraprofessionals is greatly beneficial to provide additional information and training vital to the job. The main focus of this time is to discuss the provision of specially designed instruction. Items that we have specifically discussed include behavior intervention plans, communication devices, data collection for progress monitoring, schedule changes, curriculum, accommodations or modifications, and IEP goals. Every meeting begins with a conversation around strengths and needs with time allotted for questions. This information is then used to drive any training that is needed for future collaboration times. Our paraprofessional schedule is minute for minute here. Without this provided time, we would have to choose between student services being provided or not furnishing the training that is essential.
- Way to go team! Elizabeth Hathaway, Becky Stewart, Paula Johnson and Katherine Gillespie are doing great work!

# RESOURCE

## Using Data to Inform Instruction for Students with Executive Function Needs

Imagine trying to navigate a new city without a map or GPS. You might eventually find your way, but the journey would be frustrating and inefficient.



Teaching students with executive functioning challenges without using data is a lot like that. EF skills-like organization, time management and self-control-are essential for learning, but they don't develop the same way for every student.

That's why collecting and using data is so important. [THIS LINK](#) will walk you through methods of collecting data on EF skills and the process of collecting, analyzing and applying data to create targeted interventions for students with EF challenges.



March 3rd - 7th School Social Work Week  
March 5th ESU Career Fair  
March 7th KSDE SETS meeting  
March 11th Keystone Superintendent Meeting  
March 17th - 21st Spring Break  
March 25th KSSB & KSD tour  
March 26th Keystone Board Meeting  
March 27th New Para Training  
March 28th CYKI Nortonville

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

## Examples of Assistive Technology

### NO TECH

Pencil grip  
Post-it-notes  
Slanted surfaces  
Raised lined paper  
Covered overlays  
Tactile letters  
Magnifying bars  
Weighted pencils



### LOW TECH

Buzzers  
Portable word processors  
Talking Calculator  
MP3 player  
Electronic organizers  
Switches/Buzzers  
Lights



### HIGH TECH

E-Readers  
Touch screen devices  
Computerized testing  
Speech Recognition Software  
Word Processors  
Text-to-Speech(TTS)  
Progress Monitoring Software



**WELCOME ✨  
to the TEAM**

## NEW HIRES

Kristine McGuire - Para

Jillian Berry - Para

Michelle Speer - Contract Social Worker

Elizabeth Vaugh - Contract Social Worker

Alexis Kassman - Para

Chelbi Peters - Para

## Employee Assistance Program

### We're here for you!

*Stress. Family. Finances. Work. Life. Everyone has times when things can feel a bit overwhelming. Talking to an expert can help, giving you the chance to process things before they start to impact your health. Through the EAP, you have access to a certain amount of counseling sessions at no cost to you or your dependents.*

**EAP Support Line**

**800-624-5544**

[Request Counseling](#)

**Lucet**

*We are looking for compassionate and dedicated Special Education Teachers to join our team and help us ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.*



## Current Teaching Vacancy List 2025-2026 School Year

USD #338 Valley Falls (High School)

USD #339 Jefferson County North (Elementary School)

USD #340 Jeff West (Elementary School)

USD #340 Jeff West (Middle School)

USD #340 Jeff West (High School)

USD #341 Oskaloosa (Early Childhood)

USD #341 Oskaloosa (High School)

USD #343 Perry-Lecompton (Early Childhood)

USD #377 Atchison County Community Schools (Jr./Sr. High School)

USD #608 John Dewey Learning Academy (K-12)

## HOW TO APPLY?

Keystone Learning Services  
("Employment" tab)



[www.keystonelearning.org](http://www.keystonelearning.org)