



Special Services Newsletter

August 2018

Every student, every day, preparing for the future.

The mission of Derby Public Schools is to create a tomorrow that is better than today by ensuring all students continually grow and learn.



All,

We hope that everyone has been enjoying a well-deserved summer break. Our Special Services Team has been hard at work preparing for the 2018-19 school year. We're ready to get started! In our district we believe that communication is key to a great parent-educator relationship. Please feel free to contact us at any time either by phone or email. We look forward to getting to know all of our new students and are also looking forward to catching up with the familiar faces. See you soon!

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Early Childhood Screenings

Derby Public Schools provides public notice to all patrons of the availability of special education services and related services for all students (ages 3 through 21 years of age) residing within the school district. To learn more about services for our youngest students, please click on the Project Kids logo.



Parent Learning Opportunities

We plan on hosting two parent events this year. We will offer one in the fall and one in the spring. For the fall event, we are hoping to bring in a number of outside organizations that can assist students with disabilities (and their parents). We will have more details as soon as they become available.

Parent Reminder:

It's a difficult time of the year for parents; that time of the year when your child may have new teachers, support staff, and paras. If you are a parent of a child with an exceptionality you always worry about listening to what your child needs, while also supporting the dedicated professionals who work everyday with your child. Never be shy about reaching out to your child's teacher and school staff. Ask any questions, offer any insights, and most important, lend a hand. Offer your help and support; it empowers parents to feel connected. There are always ways to help the beginning of the year school transition to be more fun and less stressful. Communication makes those first days easier to navigate!

Did you know?

Derby Public Schools ended the 2017-18 school year with more IEPs (1,349) and 504s (161) than we have ever had previously. One of the main reasons for these record numbers is our increasing enrollment district-wide. To ensure that all students are receiving the help they need, the Special Services Department has also continued to grow in size. For the 2018-19 school year we have added the following staff to our team:

- One new social worker.
- One new paraprofessional.
- Two new special education teachers.

We're thankful for the extra support and know it will be beneficial in meeting the needs of our students!



5 Tips for a Successful School Year

1. Help your child prepare for school.

- Avoid back to school stress by learning the routes to and from school.
- Take a tour of the school.
- Set an alarm clock and go through the daily routines.

2. Meet the teacher.

- Introduce yourself and your child to the teacher.
- Discuss your preferred method of communication.
- Inquire as to how you can be involved (parent involvement is a key contributor to a child's school success).

3. Get everyone to bed on time.

- Proper rest is critical for a healthy and productive school year.
- Help your child by having them go to bed earlier and wake up earlier starting at least a week before school begins.

4. Make healthy choices.

- Studies show that children who eat a healthy, balanced breakfast and lunch do better in school.
- If your child is bringing a sack lunch, help them make their lunch the night before. This will cut down on any stress in the morning and give you time to help them choose healthy options.
- If your child is eating at school, go through the menu for the week so they know what their options are.

5. Make homework a priority.

- Set up a daily homework routine.
- Find a quiet and consistent place for your child to complete their homework every night. Remove items that might be distracting.
- Be sure to show interest and praise their work.
- Make a plan to read every night with your child.



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