

Winchester Special Education 2016-2017

What is happening....

- Ongoing vertical alignment of programmatic support
- Continued work with outside consultants including Landmark Outreach, Triumph Center, and Social Thinking Boston
- Worked with nationally renowned experts in co-teaching/inclusion
- Increased participation and interest in professional development spanning special education and general education (i.e mindfulness, literacy meeting more diverse literacy needs, increase of assistive technology supports (read- write google)
- Expansion of LBLD(17 students grades 6- 8) and Multi Age (15 students grades 6 – 8) programs at middle school
- Expansion of elementary LBLD program(16 students grades 3-5)
- Expansion of elementary Partnership program (10+ students)
- Co teaching/instructional support all grade levels(not yet grade 11, under discussion)
- Improved focus on compliance (regulations, processes and procedures)
- Pending completion of District Program Evaluation from CPR review

What's happening....

- Improved transitions from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school
- Developing after school opportunities at middle school and high school with explicit focus on socialization and experiences for students
- Two of the advanced placement Spanish classes from the high school enriched the full day four year old preschool classes twice a month with Spanish lessons. The lessons started off with the high school students and the preschool students singing Beunos Noches together followed by small group lessons designed and implemented by the high school students introducing Spanish vocabulary aligned with the preschool curriculum standards through hands on activities and games.
- The preschool teachers wrote WFEE grants for interactive smart boards to engage learners during large group circle times as well as to provide brain breaks through programs such as; Go Noodle
- The preschool team hosted the educators from the seven private Winchester preschools during the full day professional development day in November. The workshops included Active Bodies and Active Minds as well as Incorporating STEM and ARTs into the preschool classroom.
- The preschool team began working with the transition coordinator at the high school to develop the preschool classrooms into internship sites for high school learners interested in Early Childhood Education.
- Across the year, the preschool worked with surrounding communities with regard to best practices in Early Childhood Education. The work included site visits as well as professional development learning communities to target curriculum and assessment design and implementation, leadership and instruction, parent and community engagement as well as environmental and material considerations to promote engagement and progress in preschoolers.
- Winchester Special Education Parent Advisory Council coffees and workshops including Assistive Technology, Dr. Nadine Gaab and The Reading Brain, Social Thinking, Transition to Adult Services and Basic Rights