



Special Education

@ Acton-Boxborough

August 22, 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year. We hope you all have had the chance to spend time with family and friends and to enjoy this beautiful, hot, summer weather. Summer is a special time, filled with promise. For us here at AB, the promise is all that a new school year brings.

Summer Happenings

ESY: We had a very successful Extended School Year program (ESY) in July and August with over 100 students participating! Many thanks to Joe Gibowicz, Shawna Young and all of our ESY educators for providing a summer of learning and fun.

Professional Learning: Acton-Boxborough teachers participated in professional learning and many spent time unpacking classrooms in our new Boardwalk Campus. Many of our educators participated in summer professional learning opportunities. Some of the topics included:

- Co-teaching at the Junior High
- Curriculum planning for students in the areas of transition, social skills, and executive functioning
- Self Regulation in the Classroom
- Compass, Connections, Pathways and LAB program planning

We are excited to continue this work into the school year as well.

Welcome

It was a busy summer of hiring in the district. We are thrilled to introduce the following educators, some of whom will work school-based and others who are district-wide.

CHECP: Erica Allain, SLP, joining from Blanchard
Blanchard: Krista Gleyzer, Special Education Teacher; Alexandra Jeffway, SLP; Alyssa Rosenfeld, Counselor
Conant: Rebecca Comisky, Special Education Coordinator; Jaycie Luke, Special Education Teacher/Connections; Sarah Mitchell, Psychologist; Kim Gauthier, BCBA
Douglas: Christine Mullen, Special Education Teacher; Stephanie Morrissey joining LAB program
Gates: Tracey Johnson, Special Education Teacher; Kim Gauthier, BCBA
McT: Kristie Barry-Ayres, Special Education Coordinator; Kelli Buote, Special Education Teacher/ Compass; Antonia Cummings, Special Education Teacher
Merriam: Rebecca Comiskey, Special Education Coordinator; Kirsten Johnson, Psychologist; Kristen Lerra, Counselor
RJG: Brittany Britton, Special Education/Compass teacher; Beth Thoman joining LAB program
ABRHS: Rachael Fusco, Special Education Coordinator

District-wide: Heather Stouch, Elementary Psychology Coordinator, will be taking on a new role as our Coordinator of Social/Emotional Learning, Mental and Behavioral Health.
Maryann Young, formerly English Learner Coordinator, is the district's Multi-Language Learning Coordinator.

Upcoming and Ongoing Work

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Work: Looking ahead to the 2022-2023 school year, AB will continue the [Tiered Focused Monitoring](#) (TFM) work that we started in the spring. We will have our on-site visit from the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) (DESE) in December, and families will have opportunities to participate in the visit through a survey and interviews. I will provide more specific information about these important ways to share your experiences as I learn them from DESE.

New IEP Professional Learning: Our special education staff will also be participating in professional learning with Allan Blume as we prepare for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) New IEP project. Allan is a retired professor of Special Education from Simmons and was a consultant to DESE as the new IEP format was developed.

Who To Contact and How to Connect

Team meetings will continue to be held both virtually and in-person, based on parent preference. Your liaisons will be in communication with you when scheduling your meetings.

If you have questions about your student's IEP or services, listed below are the Special Education Coordinators and their contact information.

CHECP:	Joe Gibowicz	jgibowicz@abschools.org
Blanchard:	Kelly Morrissey	kmorrissey@abschools.org
Conant:	Becca Comisky	rcomisky@abschools.org
Douglas:	Tara Kirousis	tkirousis@abschools.org
Gates:	Tara Kirousis	tkirousis@abschools.org
McT:	Kristie Barry-Ayres	kbarryayres@abschools.org
Merriam:	Becca Comisky	rcomisky@abschools.org
RJ Gray:	Maureen Lin	mkin@abschools.org
ABRHS:	Rachael Fusco	rfusco@abschools.org
Out of District:	Matt Kidder	mkidder@abschools.org

Acton-Boxborough SEPAC

We look forward to another collaborative year with the Acton-Boxborough SEPAC. The schedule of meetings will be finalized soon and shared on our websites and through a SEPAC letter that will be sent out soon. Please visit the [SEPAC website](#) or email the SEPAC co-chairs at: abrsdsepac@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming your students back very soon. Please reach out to me or any of the special education coordinators if you have questions, concerns, or commendations.

Sincerely,

Jen

Jennifer Truslow
Director of Special Education
978-264-4700 x3265
jtruslow@abschools.org