
Commack U.F.S.D. Board of Education

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

February 9, 2023





Agenda

Updates

Special Education:
State of the District

Northwell Health Update

Committee Reports



Updates

2023 – 2024 School Calendar



COMMACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 School Calendar

| SEPTEMBER 2023 | | | | | OCTOBER 2023 | | | | | NOVEMBER 2023 | | | | | DECEMBER 2023 | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|------|-----|--------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|-----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|
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| | | | {31} | {1} | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | {7} | 8 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 5▲ | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (18+2) | | | | | (21) | | | | | (17+1) | | | | | (16) | | | | |

| JANUARY 2024 | | | | | FEBRUARY 2024 | | | | | MARCH 2024 | | | | | APRIL 2024 | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|------------|----|------|----|----|
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| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 8 | 9 | {10} | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| (21) | | | | | (16) | | | | | (19) | | | | | (15+1) | | | | |

| MAY 2024 | | | | | JUNE 2024 | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|-----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | M | T | W | T | F |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 26▼ | 27 | 28 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| (20) | | | | | (17) | | | | |

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Bold | Schools Closed |
| { } | Staff Conf. Day |
| ▲ | First Day of School |
| ▼ | Last Day of School |

Noteworthy Items:

- First Day of School: September 5, 2023
- School Closed the Wednesday before Thanksgiving: November 22, 2023
- Spring Recess #1 and Spring Recess #2
- Eid al-Fitr: April 10, 2024, no school for students/staff conference day
- Memorial Day Weekend: School closed Friday, Monday and Tuesday of Memorial Day weekend
- Last day of school set by the State: June 26, 2024

Upcoming Budget Events

March 9, 2023
Budget Workshop

- Superintendent's Proposed 2023-24 Budget
- Tax Cap Levy Increase
- District-Wide Administration Spending Plan
- Instructional Spending Plan by Program

March 23, 2023
Budget Workshop

- Facilities and Security
- Transportation
- Technology
- Staffing
- Undistributed Costs (Insurance, Retirement, Etc.)

April 13, 2023
Informal Budget
Hearing

- Revenues
- Overview of Budget



April 20, 2023
BOE Meeting and
Budget Adoption

- Board of Education Formally Adopts Budget

Budget Hearing
May 4, 2023
at 8:00 pm

Budget Vote is
May 16, 2023



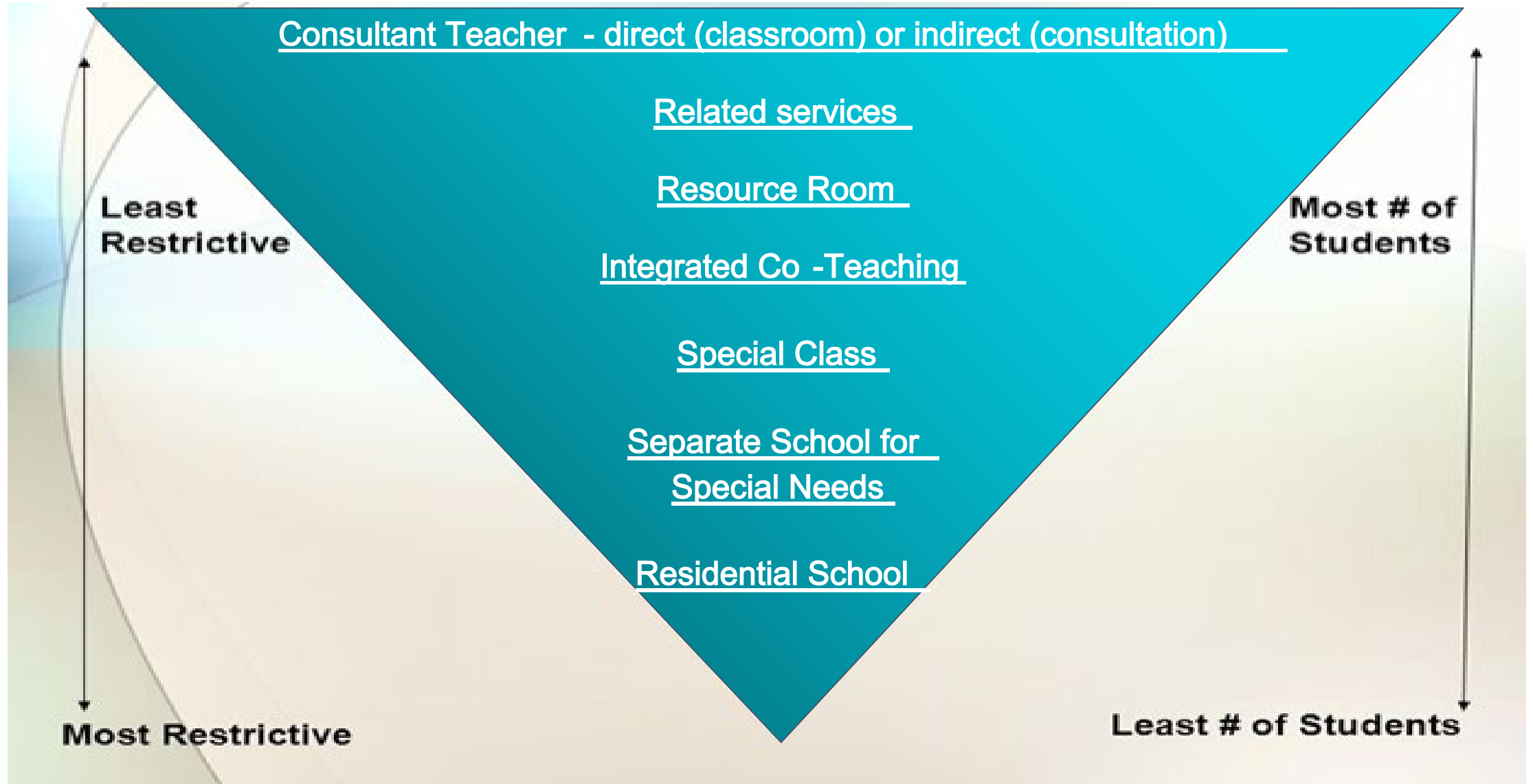
State of the District: Special Education

Commack School District

Special Education Programs and Services

Commack Model of Continuum of Services

Least restrictive (least support) to most restrictive (most support)



Consultant Teacher- direct (classroom) or indirect (consultation)

Support within the classroom setting either directly to the student or indirectly where the special education teacher works with the general education teacher.



Related Services

In Commack we offer a variety of related services including but not limited to;

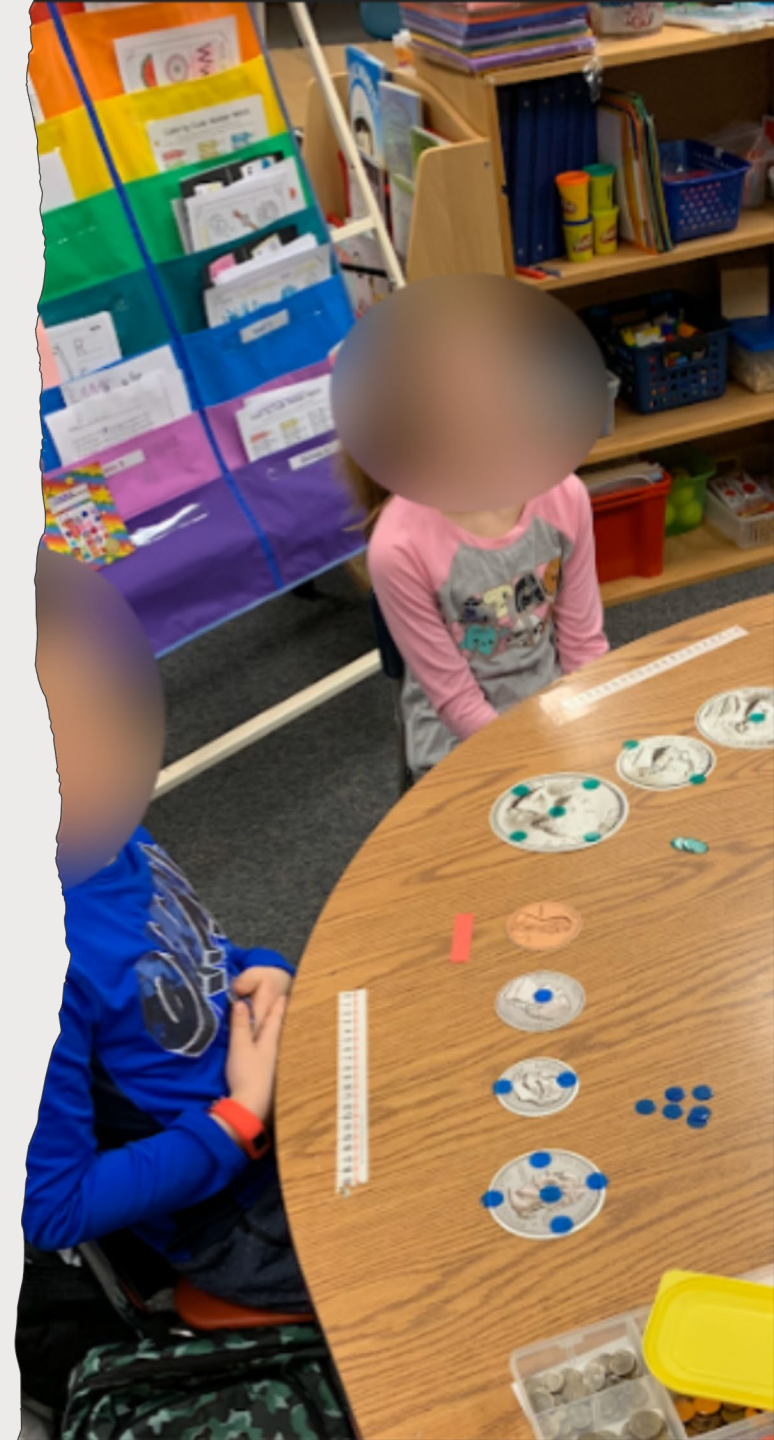
- Speech-Language Therapy
- Counseling Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Vision Services
- Hearing Services
- Behavior Consultation





Resource Room *Elementary*

The purpose of Resource Room is to provide supplemental instruction to target specific skill deficits.



Resource Room *Secondary*

Special Education Teacher provides specialized supplementary small group instruction to aid students in benefitting from general education classroom instruction.

Fulfilled through an everyday resource room class period (5:1 Ratio)

Focus on IEP goals through curriculum

Organizational, study skills, and test taking skills

Integrated Co-Teaching: Primary

- An integrated co-teaching class is a general education class with up to 12 students identified as special education.
- A special education teacher pushes into the classroom for part of the day to provide instruction and support.
- Additionally, a teacher assistant, is present to provide reinforcement of previously taught skills throughout the day.
- Learning expectations are the same for all students. Adaptations may be made to the instructional delivery and/or materials so that identified students may acquire necessary knowledge and skills.



Integrated Co-Teaching: Intermediate

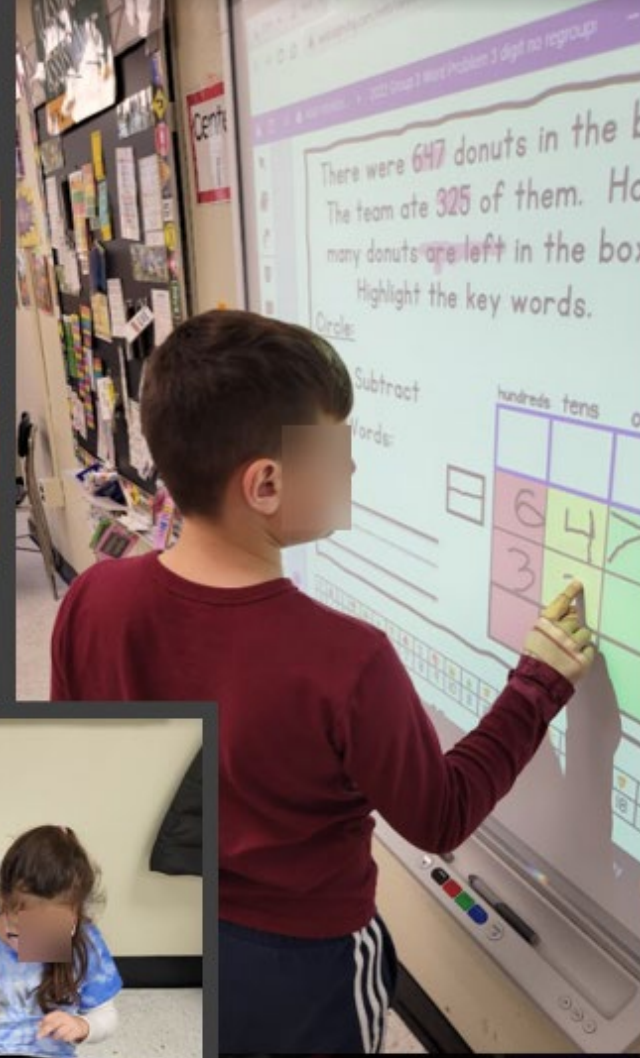
- An integrated co-teaching class is a general education class with up to 12 students identified as special education.
- Full-time general education teacher and a full-time special education teacher. (2023-2024 School Year)
- Students have opportunity to work in a flexible learning environment where they will receive instruction in all content areas.
- All instruction is co-taught using a variety of data driven instructional methodologies to support student learning within the classroom and foster independence.
- Learning expectations are the same for all students. Adaptations may be made to the instructional delivery and/or materials so that identified students may acquire necessary knowledge and skills.



Integrated Co-Teaching: *Secondary*

- Provides academic and specially-designed instruction in the general education setting to an integrated group of students
- Planning and delivery of instruction is shared by General Education Teacher and Special Education Teacher
- Supported by a programmatic Skills Class one period per day





Special Class:12:1 *Elementary*

- Students who require instruction within a small group or who need significant modifications to materials and instructional methodology may be recommended for the special class program.
- Special Class Programs are also considered for students who have moderate to significant management needs that prevent them from accessing learning.





Special Class 15:1

Commack Middle School

Grades 6-8



- ❖ A ***highly structured*** learning environment designed to effectively meet the ***individual needs*** of ***each*** student
- ❖ Facilitate a ***multi-modal approach*** to learning
- ❖ Allows for ***flexibility*** of ***instructional pacing*** as well as ***pedagogical approaches*** to learning
- ❖ Learning environment ***maximizes opportunities*** for ***individualized*** skill development, ***application*** and ***skill transfer***.
- ❖ Framework of our ***Middle Years Programme*** allows teachers to construct and ***differentiate*** units and lessons to ***maximize*** student ***potential*** and make ***broader connections across the curriculum*** as well as make ***real world connections***
- ❖ Students receive ***explicit instruction*** in ***Approaches to Learning Skills (Skills for lifelong learning)***

Special Class: 15:1 Commack High School

- Provides primary instruction for content areas that is specially-designed to meet the needs of students
- Smaller class size ratio (15:1)
- Pacing of class based on student needs
- Taught by a Special Education Teacher
- Specific Math courses, Science (Living Environment, Earth and the Environment, Forensics and Horticulture, ELA 9-12, and Social Studies 9-12)

Special Class: 8:1:2 and 8:1:3 *Elementary Model*

- The teacher individualizes educational programs to meet the strengths and weaknesses of students.
- The students are grouped according to age and similarity of need, with an age range of no more than 36 months.
- Students receive individualized instruction throughout the day to work on specific goals. Discrete trial work is done during this time if needed.
- Opportunities to interact with typical peers are built into the program.
- Programmatic parent training is provided to families by the school psychologist assigned to the class.
- Behavioral consultant services are provided to the class weekly.





8:1:2

Commack Middle School

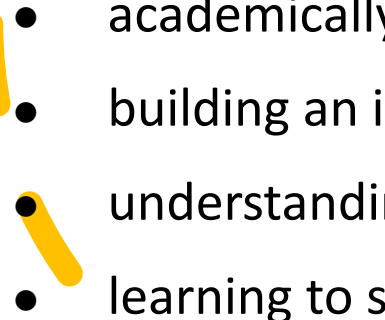


8:1:2

Commack Middle School

Each 8:1:2 section works alongside programmatic staff such as a programmatic speech/language pathologist, programmatic psychologist, and a programmatic behavior consultant. All members of the school team collaborate and work together to develop a program that addresses the needs of the whole child while enriching each individual's educational experience and maximizing overall success.

The goal during a child's middle school years is to foster and increase independence throughout all areas of discipline. During 6th, 7th, and 8th grade the children participate in a variety of lessons and functional activities to help them grow. Below are the areas in which we will help foster and increase independence:

- academically, socially, emotionally as well as real-life applications
 - building an internal desire to be as independent as possible
 - understanding the importance of being independent
 - learning to self-advocate
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8:1:2

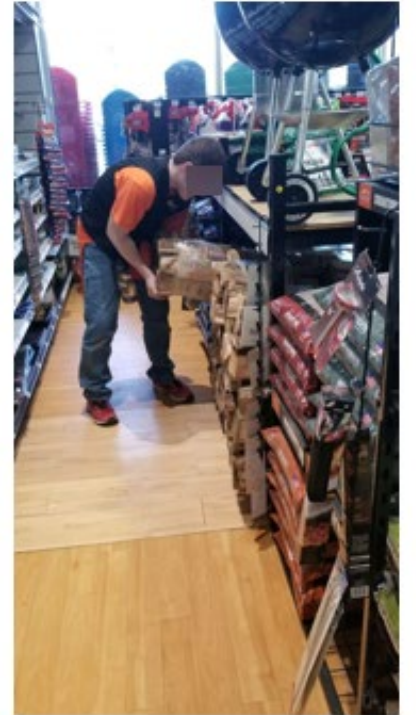
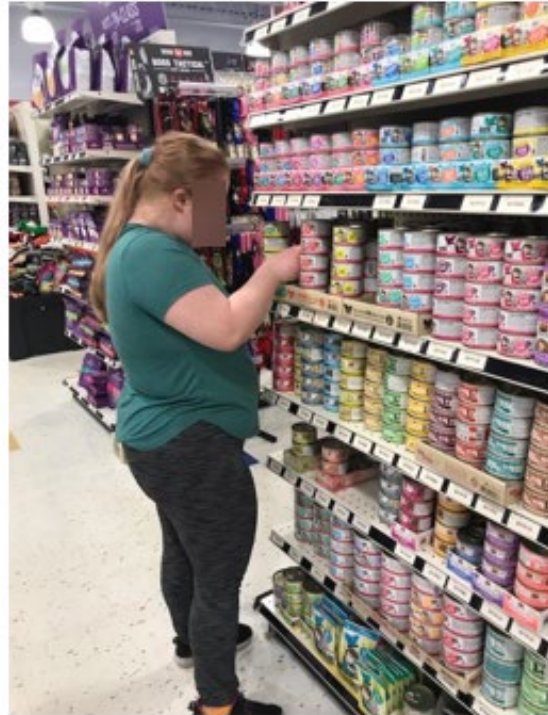
Commack High School

- Focuses on building skill sets to support students post secondary.
- Work-Based Learning Program and Young Adult Program. These programs provide students with work experiences in a variety of settings.
- Experiences are provided both in district and out of district at the job locations.
 - Greenhouse
 - All Star Student Cafe
 - Just Bead it
 - Texas Roadhouse
 - Miller's Ale House
 - Outback Steakhouse
 - The Baking Coach
 - Old Navy
 - Rue 21
 - CVS
 - Walgreens
 - Signature Properties
 - General Need

Work Based Learning

What we foster..

- Relationships with community
- Independent skills
- Opportunities for employment
- Exploration of new work sites
- Opportunities to transition

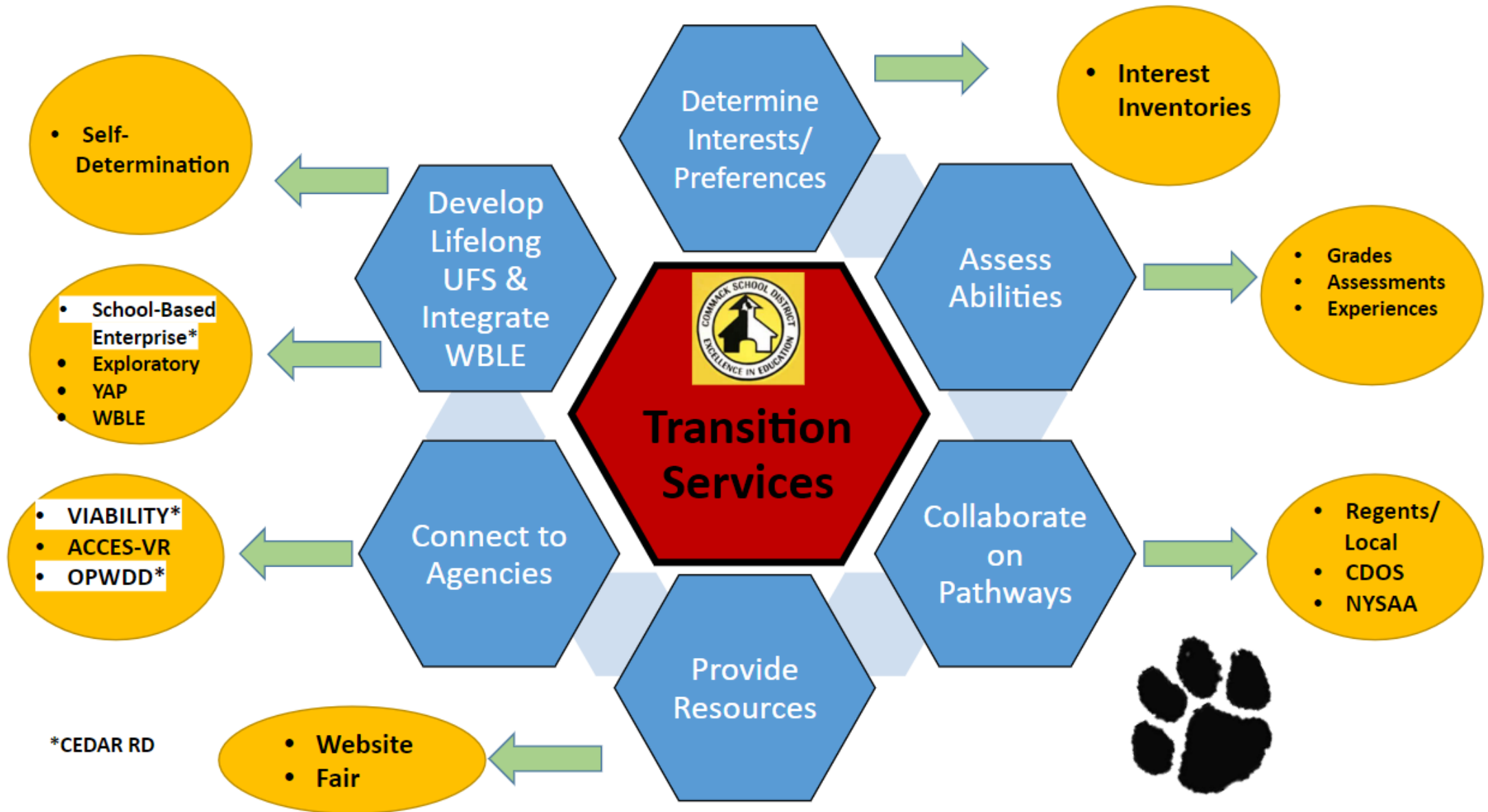




Highlights

- All Star Café
- Just Bead It





*CEDAR RD



Alternative Placements

- For students who need a more intensive setting outside of what the school can provide in our in-district programs.
- Schools for Special Needs- based on social-emotional, physical, and/or medical needs
- BOCES
- Private Schools
- Residential Schools



Mental Health Supports District Wide

Parent Outreach

- Parent Resource Center
- Parent Workshop Series
- Parent Training

Agency Collaboration

- Northwell Health
- Horizons

Counseling

- Mental Health staff in all buildings
- School based counseling

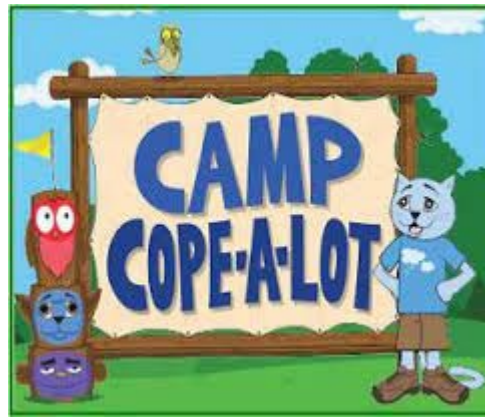
Executive Functioning/Social Emotional Support

- In the classroom and in small groups

Staff Training

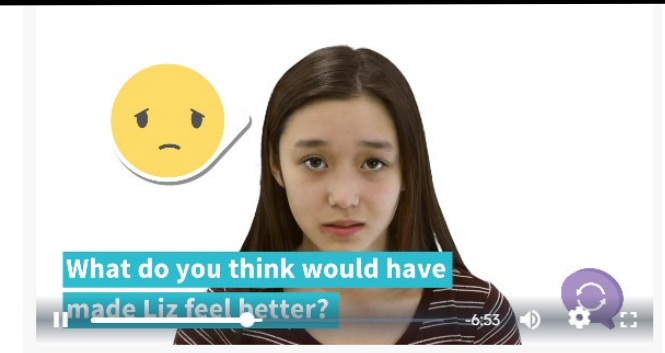
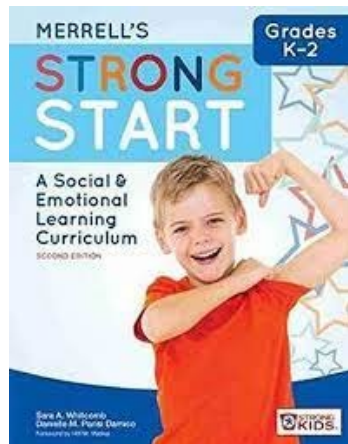
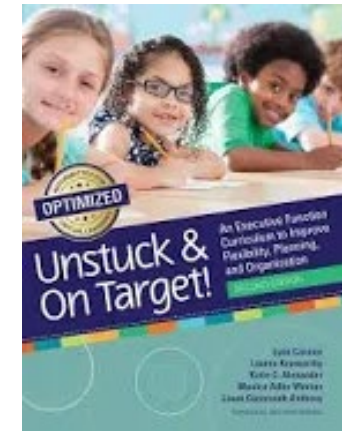
- Mental Health First Aid
- Professional Development
- Research based curriculum

Examples of curriculums and materials used in elementary classrooms and school-based counseling sessions



The ZONES of Regulation

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | |
| Blue Zone | Green Zone | Yellow Zone | Red Zone |
| Sad Bored Tired Sick | Happy Focused Calm Proud | Worried Frustrated Silly Excited | Overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified |



Everyday Speech

Social Emotional Learning and Support

Commack Middle
School/High School

Consultation:

- Grade Level Teams (Counselors and MHPs)

Universal Supports:

- Quarterly Classroom Push-In Lessons

Skill-Based Groups

Individual Counseling

Group Counseling

Extended School Year

- 6-week summer program for eligible students to support maintenance of skills and abilities achieved over the school year
- Half day and full day for recommended special class students
- Related services available for students whose needs require it
- Our program is held at the newly refurbished Cedar Road School



Occupational Therapy Support Push-in to Kindergarten

- Weekly push-in to support all students' fine motor skills, pre-writing skills, letter formation and sizing.
- OT goes into support during Foundations writing units and works with the classroom teacher, support staff and students to ensure age-appropriate grip, paper stabilization and overall writing skills.
- One time monthly the OT presents a lesson to the class to work on supporting fine motor skills and upper body strength to support all student's ability to complete classroom tabletop assignments.
- Data is collected to ensure all students are demonstrating age-appropriate skills.
- At the end of 12 weeks any student who demonstrate continued weaknesses in these areas will be pulled for small group targeted supports during this classroom push-in time.



Kindergarten Phonemic Awareness Curriculum

30 phonemic awareness push in lessons, delivered weekly, to all kindergarten classrooms by a speech/language pathologist in collaboration with classroom teachers.

Curriculum materials were designed by Commack staff members utilizing different tools (e.g., Heggerty, Hear Builder) and teacher created lesson plans. Multisensory, interactive format, with ongoing data collection.

Skills taught include rhyming, sound blending, isolating initial sounds, and phoneme manipulation of initial, final, and medial sounds.

Clubs and Extracurricular



Sensory Pathways/Flexible Seating



SEPTA

Special Education Parent Teacher Association

- Meets every month and provides monthly parent support groups
- Resource for families
- Connect parents and professionals
- Speakers on a variety of topics
- Information accessible through the District website





Questions from the Board of Education?





Guidance

Commack Behavioral Health Center

Location:

2171 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 345, Commack, NY 11725

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:30am - 5:30pm

Wednesday: 8:00am - 8:00pm

Contact:

Phone - 631-775-3280

Fax - 631-486-7447

Email - combh@northwell.edu



Northwell School Mental Health
A School District Collaborative

Services Offered Through Commack's Partnership

- Referral resources and support to connect families with mental health treatment in the local area, that works with your insurance.
- Mental Health Assessments conducted by a child adolescent psychiatrist as well as licensed mental health counselors.
- Coordination of care: With parent/guardian consent, the team at Northwell can reach out to a student's school, pediatrician or outside provider to communicate findings and recommendations.
- Transitional care: In person, short term care or virtual services until a referral can be established.

Who may my child see at the Commack BHC?

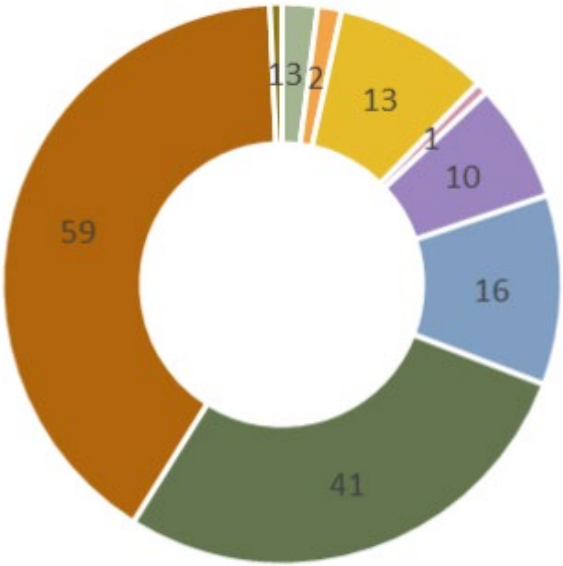


- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- Medical Office Assistant
- Care Coordinator
- Administrative Coordinator



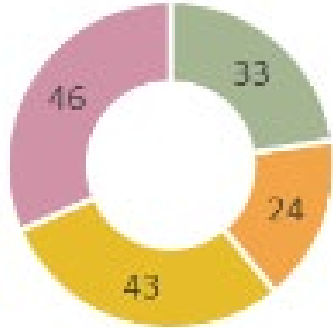
Families Utilizing Northwell Behavioral Health Center

By School Building



- Wood Park Primary
- Rolling Hills Primary
- North Ridge Primary
- Indian Hollow Primary
- Sawmill Intermediate
- Burr Intermediate
- Commack Middle School
- Commack High School
- Other

Student Age



- 5-8
- 9-11
- 12-14
- 15-18

Additional Opportunities Within Our Partnership

- Presentations (on many topics) at individual PTA, SEPTA or building parent meetings/workshops
- Community Education Workshops: School Avoidance, Sleep Habits, Stress and Coping, Healthy Eating Habits, Internet and Social Media
- Staff Professional Development
- Monthly Community Newsletter



Questions from the Board of Education?



Committee Updates

Multicultural Committee Update

At our Multicultural Committee Meeting this past January, we continued to work on planning for this year's Multicultural Fair, which will be held at the Commack High School on Saturday, May 20th. Committee members shared some of the plans across the buildings to celebrate Chinese New Year and Black History Month. Plans for our multicultural fair continue to make progress as we begin to plan some of the popular experiences from our fair last year, while also adding additional stations and interactions for a broader group of our Commack students. The committee is also investigating ways that we can highlight how our Commack community has come together from cultures, nations and religions from all over the world! Our committee, which consists of students, parents, teachers, and administrators, continue to identify ways that we could help our students celebrate the cultural diversity of our community by learning about each other through music, historical facts, art, and languages throughout the school year.

The next Multicultural Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 13th, 2023.



Legislative Advocacy Committee Update

The students, staff and community members of the Legislative Advocacy Committee are hard at work, preparing for their trip to the State Capitol in Albany on March 21. The committee will be meeting with Senator Mattera to discuss their updated platforms which include sustainability in schools, experiential learning, local governance, school funding, school safety, and mental health. We are excited for another great trip to the state Capitol.



Thank you, Commack!