



Canterbury Public Schools Pupil Services Office

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<http://www.canterburypublicschools.org/special-education/>

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Although this school year will likely be one of the most unusual, (second to only 2019-2020) we are determined to highlight the good, solve problems as they arise, and come out stronger as a school team. We have already navigated the challenging waters of social distancing, mask-wearing, IEP Implementation Plans, scheduling and a host of other logistics it takes to pull off the start of a school year, and we will look at any future challenge as an opportunity to be creative, flexible, and responsive. We appreciate your continued understanding and communication to do this together as a home-school team.

Despite the COVID landscape, a few things continue to be true about the Canterbury Public Schools Pupil Services Department. Our first goal is to ensure your child's safety with the proper protective equipment in school. In addition to their masks, additional protective barriers will be in classrooms in the form of desk shields, plexi-glass for 1:1 work with teachers, clear face masks for adults and children for speech instruction, and face shields. Although they will likely not be used all at once, they offer multiple ways to protect one another from the spread of the virus. Given the needs of our students, we may need to offer these pieces of protective equipment as alternatives when needed, and we are prepared to do so.

Secondly, we continue to honor and implement a few guiding hallmarks of special education to ensure that children with a disability have free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. This language directly relates to our legal obligation to responsibly provide a meaningful education to all children, and we are committed to doing so. We will use the most revered research-based instructional practices, data collection, and interdisciplinary teaming to work with children who have a barrier to absorbing information, and we will do this through direct service with children and consultation with parents and general education teachers.

Learning is a process that is very personal and sometimes vulnerable, particularly when navigating a visible or invisible barrier. Our goal is to support Canterbury youth and their families through this educational process from the early age of three years old, through a successful transition to life beyond high school. Through open communication, creativity, and problem solving, we will find the path that best meets each student's needs.

Wishing you a great school year!

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