

J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

May 2018



We can not change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the game.
- Randy Pausch

Changes for 2018-19 at JESSE...

After several years with the JESSE central office, we must sadly announce that Kathy Lynch and Sharon Stewart will be moving on to new adventures in their lives. Kathy is moving to Kouts, IN to be closer to her family, while Sharon is ready to enjoy retirement here in Plymouth. Kathy and Sharon will both be missed and we thank them for their wonderful years of service at JESSE! Another change involves Occupational Therapy - Emily Escapule will not be returning as the OT for Triton and Argos, as she will be spending more time at home with her family. In addition, Rob Richards will be moving on to a new position in the South Laporte County Special Education Cooperative. JESSE will not be replacing the assistant director position at this time. Ashley McCallum, JESSE School-Based Therapist, will be taking over CPI Training duties for the 2018-2019 school year. Stay tuned for additional changes next August.

Alternative Programs Update - Effective at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the SAVE Alternative Classroom in Knox will be discontinued. Plymouth Academy will continue as an alternative program option at the high school level for the 2018-2019 school year.

IDOE Short Share - SHAPE System

The Office of Special Education is happy to share its newest Short Share TIPS [video](#) on the [School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation \(SHAPE\) System](#). SHAPE offers a virtual workspace for a school mental health team to document, track, and advance quality and sustainability improvement goals as well as assess trauma responsiveness. Many school districts across Indiana and the United States are using the SHAPE System, in varying degrees, to obtain customized school and district level progress reports and useful resources to improve system quality and sustainability. There is no limit to how many districts can participate in the SHAPE system and districts can work in local teams to complete the assessments without assistance from IDOE. In this video OSE would like to highlight the Hamilton Southeastern Schools and their work with the SHAPE System.

Social Skills Curriculum/ Intervention Program - Second Step

A crucial component that schools need to *explicitly* address when it comes to challenging student behavior is the direct instruction to teach pro-social skills, as well as helping kids understand such things as adaptability, flexibility, frustration tolerance, empathy, and problem solving. As mentioned in previous JESSE newsletters, one program out there that many school corporations across the nation are starting to use is **Second Step**. Here is an article along with a short video that features this program, which a school corporation in Utah is using and seeing wonderful results. This program is research-based and is yielding positive behavioral data.

http://www.secondstep.org/success-stories/tooele?utm_source=Success+Stories_Indianapolis_email&utm_campaign=Success_Stories_Indianapolis_email&utm_medium=email

Professional Development Opportunity

Enhancing Practices through Successful Implementation (EPSI).

EPSI is an upcoming professional development opportunity for educators who work together to support all students. Administrators, general education teachers, special education teachers, and support personnel who are interested in collaborating to improve inclusive practices and promote sustainable change within their district are encouraged to apply. EPSI events and activities will occur during the 2018-2019 school year. ([Read more about EPSI](#)).

2018 Tom Dulle Scholarship Winners

We received several outstanding candidates for the Tom Dulle Achievement Scholarship this year, and it was quite a challenge in selecting one recipient. Therefore, we have decided to select two recipients this year- Zachary Utz from Argos High School and Ricky Leffert from Plymouth High School. Both of these young men have achieved great things while in their respective high schools, and have both overcome many challenges to get where they are at this point in their lives. Coincidentally enough, both students plan to attend Ancilla College in the fall. We congratulate Zachary and Ricky, along with all of our other scholarship candidates, for their commitment, hard work, and accomplishments!



Zach Utz with his teacher, Laura Shafer - Argos HS



Ricky Leffert - PHS

**Have a good
Summer everyone!**

