



“OWL” News from the Office of Student Services

Who is eager for summer and who is mourning the loss of our old pre-pandemic normal???

I think we all feel this way, I certainly know I do! Summer at least brings with it the warm weather and increased sunshine. The pattern of the days change and there is opportunity to sit back and relax. I wish everyone a happy, and more importantly, healthy summer.

Plans for the extended year program are primarily offerings of remote instruction, either in the form of tutoring or placement in a grade level class. If your child is recommended for tutoring, the times of tutoring will be negotiated with you directly. For students placed in a class, instruction will be between 9-12 am, unless there is a unique compromise worked out between you and the teacher. Please refer to the table below to have a visual of the proposed class schedule for students recommended for camp. Of course there will be some variations and flexibility is requested!

Activity	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur
Zoom Session (30-45 Minutes)	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
Teacher Office Hours (30 minutes)		Yes		Yes
Social Group (20-30 minutes)	Yes		Yes	
Home Activity Suggestions (60 minutes)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Related Services Block (Discrete Trials, SP/L, OT, PT, 30 minutes))	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Finally, we will have a social skills face to face group offered for every classroom. The social group will be between 30 to 45 minutes in length and held at the middle school cafeteria. Parents will need to provide transportation.



Seeking English Language Learner Parents for an Advisory Board

Please help the district be better at programming for students who are learning English! Ashland seeks to start a parent advisory board for support and advocacy for our English Language Learners. The group will be parent led and how often it meets and the mission and vision will be decided by those who choose to participate. However, it will be incredibly helpful for parents to give Student Services feedback about how to support students who are learning English and potentially learning new cultural norms which are different from their family background. If you are interested please contact me at ksilva@ashland.k12.ma.us

Ask Student Services

This is a new section in the Owl News....Parents contact ASHPAC with questions and maybe one of yours will be featured and answered here in the Owl Newsletter.

Question: Why can't there be more face to face instruction this summer for unique learners? They are falling behind!

Answer: Thank you for the question and for expressing the concern that parents of unique learners are feeling universally. The closure of schools for health and safety during this pandemic has thrown everyone a curve and remote learning is not an ideal platform for many students. We have yet to comfortably establish our safe routines in light of COVID 19 and much of the PPE has not yet been delivered. Therefore, face to face instruction must be limited. We will have to assess where each student is at come the fall when we can be face to face (even if in a hybrid model of remote and face to face) and discuss ways to support students gaining the skills missed during the pandemic and getting back on track with their own personal development and success. I do want to remind parents of the following: we all are the sum of our genetics and the experiences that we go through in life. This includes the positive and wonderful experiences and the negative and difficult experiences. They all play a role in shaping us as people. The time spent in remote education is not wasted time, and there is growth for us all, perhaps in ways we never could have predicted.

"One More Award"

Recipients



Congratulations to the following:

I am taking over this section to nominate and recognize the parents of our students. Without your support as educational coaches we would not have been able to educate your students during the pandemic and school closure. THANK YOU!! You all deserve a One More Award!

ASHPAC news...



ASHPAC is a group of parent and caregiver volunteers. We would love to see some new faces at our next meeting. Do you have a talent that you would be willing to share with our group? Please reach out to one of us for more information:

Kristine Kaveney, Co-chair: kriskaveney@yahoo.com

Jill Fulhan, Co-chair: jill.fulhan@verizon.net

Diana Davis, Vice-chair: diana.davis.ashpac@gmail.com

Anna Bukina, Treasurer: a.v.bukina@aol.com

Recipients of the ASHPAC Lighting the Way for Excellence Award 2019-20

Each year ASHPAC asks parent to nominate a staff person who has made a difference in the life of a unique learner and ASHPAC is proud to announce the following recipients for the 2019-20 Lighting the Way for Excellence Award:

Henry Warren Elementary School

Jane Guiney, Speech & Language Pathologist
Erika Zipse, Special Education Inclusion Teacher

David Mindess School

Joseph Chimienti, School Psychologist
Janet Gamache, Therapy Dog Handler
Monica Moriarty, Educational Support Personnel
Nicole Natale, Third Grade Teacher
Christian Robinson, Special Education Teaching Assistant

Ashland Middle School

Amy Chickering, Special Education Teaching Assistant
Michele Stanislawzyk, Sixth Grade Special Education Teacher
Keith Truesdale, Seventh Grade Special Education Teacher
Ashley Zanghi, School Psychologist

Ashland High School

Patricia Daly, Social Studies Teacher
Sarah Finn, Special Education Teacher
Regina Jardon, English Language Arts Teacher