



Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and District Partners,

We are very excited to continue our partnership with Hamden Public Schools for a fourth school year! We place high value on our partnership--not only with Hamden--but with parents, families, and community, and we invite you to be an active part in assisting our students to achieve their full potential.

In our in-district classrooms, we specialize in meeting the educational needs of students with academic and social-emotional needs. From the start, our over-riding vision has been: "Building Student Confidence and Competence through Personalized Academic Interventions." We strive to make each and every student feel successful in the classroom, school community and the community at large through academic achievement and improved self-esteem. This is accomplished by building an individualized program for each student, selecting the teaching style that accommodates their learning style, and using research-based interventions matched to the student's needs and instructional levels.

In alignment with Hamden's policies, vision and mission goals, we offer a full, rich, and rigorous curriculum of academics in conjunction with school-based social-emotional support and behavior-management. All student's Individualized Education Plans' (IEPs) goals and objectives are monitored and followed over the course of the school year.

In the course of last year, our students experienced many successes:

- Significant academic gains and an overall passion for reading as a result of the implementation of a research-based reading intervention called S.P.I.R.E., involving multisensory activities, explicit teacher-led instruction and continual practice
- Increased opportunities for inclusion, including the ability to join district sports teams, attend
  field trips, graduation ceremonies and other celebrations in addition to fun school-sponsored
  events throughout the year
- Transitions back to mainstream environments and public settings

Our students have all responded positively to our new multi-tiered system of Positive Behavioral supports and Interventions: CASE (Considerate, Accountable, Safe, Engaged). As a result, students have increased socially appropriate behaviors in the classroom and across all settings. Throughout the entire school year, students were consistently motivated by our Best CASE Friday events and other incentives and privileges they were able to earn. One of our most successful Best CASE Friday events last school year was our visit from the NJ SnakeMan.

We consider it a privilege to work with our students every day to help them build their confidence and achieve success.

A Program of Specialized Education Please continue to visit our <u>website</u> for updates throughout the year and to meet our brand new classroom pet--a leopard gecko! If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully, *Jennie Serra*Jennie Serra









