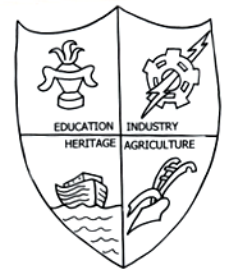


SPENCERVILLE SCHOOLS

Learning and Growing Together as One School, One Community, One Purpose



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Spencerville Local Schools Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan Beginning April 1, 2021

On February 9, 2021, Governor DeWine asked school districts to work with their communities and educational stakeholders to help students continue to advance academically.

*Each category below has a list of the many strategies **Spencerville Local Schools** has been or will be using to help make up for any learning that may have been lost or delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic and related disruptions.*

Approaches to Identify Academic Needs

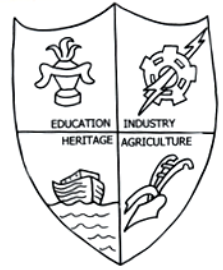
- *Response to Intervention – staff meetings to evaluate student needs and determine an intervention plan.
- *Academic Evaluations (Gifted and Special Education assessments)
- *Classroom benchmark assessments
- *Test Scores (state and local)
- *Formative and informative measures
- *Previous data collection – quantitative and qualitative documented data from prior years
- *Grades/attendance
- *Jack Berckemeyer Consulting Services – One year plan to assess the level of student engagement. Establish strategies to ensure a strong student-staff connection and pathways to be sure students understand the content and objectives of the lessons.

Approaches to Address Academic Gap Filling

- *Schedule supports during and after school.
- *Hire an educational aide to assist academically challenged students.
- *Schedule K-12 Summer School for this summer and in future years.
- *Return to school in person all 5 days (from 4-5 days, starting April 6, 2021).
- *Increase tutoring periods in the Middle/High School by 2 or more periods.
- *Schedule after school tutoring time.
- *Schedule Saturday school for grades 5-12.
- *Continue to provide Special Services: gifted, special education, 504 Plans, etc.
- *Kids Hope Program – mentoring program where adults from the community are partnered with students to help them with various academics needs.

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Approaches to Identify Social and Emotional Needs

- *Attendance/Grades
- *Observations/journaling
- *Allocate Wellness and Success Funds for a school nurse, psychologist, and two counselors to care for and identify needs.
- *Jack Berckemeyer Consulting Services – One year plan to assess the level of student engagement. Establish strategies to ensure a strong student-staff connection and pathways to be sure students understand the content and objectives of the lessons.

Approaches to Address Social and Emotional Needs

- *Cornerstone of Hope – counseling and programs
- *Meals – provide breakfast and lunch to all students
- *Transportation – provide transportation to all students
- *Counseling – seek out students who could benefit from counseling and work with them at school using our counselors or local agencies.
- *Kids Hope (see below)
- *SAFY (see below)
- *Second Step Program grades K-8 (see below)
- *Small group counseling grades K-8 (see below)
- *Guys with Ties grade 4 (see below)
- *Girls with Pearls (see below)
- *PAX (see below)

Kid's Hope Program

Kid's Hope is a mentoring program born from Michigan and was introduced to the Allen county schools from Debbie Boquist (wife of Doug Boquist, pastor at Lima Community Church). The main goal is to connect one child to one mentor. The mentor comes to school and meets with their student once a week for an hour (or an amount of time that works best for the student's schedule). They spend time connecting, talking, playing games, and can help them with schoolwork if the teacher would like. We like to identify students in Kindergarten to begin this program. These are identified from the teachers, principal, parents, or counselor that would benefit from someone investing and spending time with them on a regular basis. The mentor can then follow them through the elementary school and we have some that have even followed them through middle school. Unfortunately, Covid hit this program hard. As of last year, we had eight Kid's Hope Mentors working weekly with eight different students. We are hoping to return to this next year.

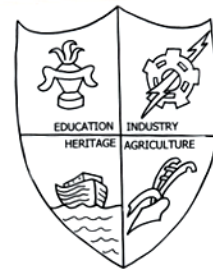
[Mentor Program - Kids Hope USA](#)

SAFY

We have a School Navigator that comes to our school for four hours, one day a week. This program is provided at no cost to our school, from a grant through the We Care agency. We can refer students to

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meet with the School Navigator during the school day and they can meet up to six sessions. During this time, the students are evaluated for suicide risk among other factors and it is determined whether the students should be referred to counseling outside of the school, through SAFY. We have used this program for students who have been referred to us themselves, by teachers, by parents, or at our own discretion. The School Navigator requests permission from the parents and stays in contact with them. This program has been helpful for students and families needing counseling and may not be able to afford it or do not have insurance.

Second Step Program K-8

We have two different programs through Second Step.

For the Kindergarten through 5th grades, we use the Bullying Prevention piece. This focuses on recognizing what bullying is and is not, learning how to and who to report bullying behavior to, and how to refuse bullying for yourself and others. This program focuses on creating a safe and respectful school for the students and their classmates.

For the students in grades 6th-8th, we use the Second Step Middle School program. This program is online and it covers subjects such as Mindsets/Goals, recognizing and managing thoughts, emotions, making decisions, creating healthy friendships/relationships, and resolving conflicts.

I use both of these programs in my classroom lessons. This year I also focused on teaching calming methods through character traits, such as flexibility, perseverance, resilience, and gratitude.

Small Groups K-8

Small groups are used to focus on a group of students that may be struggling with similar issues, to create a group for students to meet other students who they may relate to, or to focus on teaching specific skills. Most of the small groups I teach are during lunch. For that reason, we call them Lunch Bunch. I offer different small groups each year, based on the needs of the students and the referrals of the teachers.

Some of the small groups I have done include:

Changing Families (group with 3rd and 4th graders who were all experiencing divorce and separation in their families)

Friendship/Conflict group (Middle school girls that needed to work on building and maintaining healthy friendships and learning how to resolve conflict)

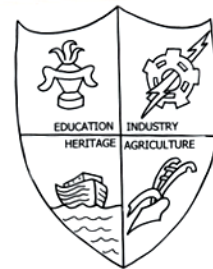
Making Good Choices group (a group with Elementary boys that needed help making positive choices at recess)

Lunch Bunch (These groups are usually for Middle School and vary based on the interest and need of the particular group I am meeting with). Lunch Bunch topics have included: *How is 5th Grade Going?* And *What to Expect in 6th Grade*. Sometimes I just extend an open invitation for a particular grade and we just spend once or twice a week together talking about their lives.

Worry Warriors- This is a group I am currently running with 5th graders. I asked for referrals from the teachers of students they have observed worrying or appearing stressed.

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Guys with Ties

This is a new program for 4th grade boys. This group is on year two and is lead by John Zerbe, with the help of Matt Thompson and two local pastors, Darryl Potts and Scott Johnson. The focus of this group is to teach the 4th grade boys how to be a gentleman and develop their character. They have adapted the slogan "Look good, feel good, do good!". They not only teach the students how to tie a tie, but they dress up on the day of their meetings in dress shirts and nice pants. They teach them manners and how to show respect to themselves and others.

Girls with Pearls

This program is similar to the Guys with Ties and is geared toward the 4th grade girls. Susie and I are hoping to get this program started next year. We will be focusing on teaching the girls how to respect themselves and others, how to be good leaders, and how to recognize their value. They will be wearing their pearls on their meeting days.

PAX

Our elementary school (grades K-4th) use the PAX program. It is a research-based preventive discipline program that teaches self-regulation, encourages the students to become part of their decision-making processes, teaches them how to look for positive behavior in themselves and others, and calls for accountability of their behavior. The teachers are trained in using the Pax Good Behavior game.

"PAX GBG creates changes in behavior; and neurochemical, neural connectivity, and epigenetic make-up that strengthen inhibition, extend self-regulation, and improve social-emotional scaffolding. PAX is the only classroom-based strategy shown to cause the expression of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) genes that serve as adaptive protections for young people through adulthood and into future generations." [PAX Good Behavior Game | PAXIS Institute 2020](#)

The teachers also use the PAX tools in their classrooms.

"PAX Tools is a collection of evidence-based, trauma-informed strategies to improve cooperation and self-regulation with youth. PAX Tools draws on decades of science to create strategies that support parents, youth workers, and other caring adults to create a nurturing environment that ultimately helps kids thrive!" [PAX Tools | PAXIS Institute 2020 \(goodbehaviorgame.org\)](#)