

Meet the Oak Farm Student Services Team

At Oak Farm, we strive to provide an environment that meets the social, emotional, physical and academic needs of every student. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Student Services Team, who provide additional individualization and lessons to those students who would benefit. This team is led by **Brenda Huth**, our **Director of Student Services**, who partners with **Lisa Bockelman**, our new **Reading Interventionist**, and **Sarah Holland**, our **Speech Language Pathologist** (currently on maternity leave until October).

Brenda leads support teams for children who demonstrate either academic or behavioral needs that require additional consideration. At teacher or parent request, a team may be called together to develop a written plan to help a child be successful meeting identified goals. These may range from peaceful participation in various aspects of the school setting to executive function skills to academic performance. Teams may include the parents, classroom teachers and specialists, Lisa, Sarah, myself, and student (when age-appropriate). These plans will help us work as partners to have clear communication so that appropriate supports are in place across settings to help students reach their potential.

Lisa's primary role is to provide supplemental reading instruction for those students who might benefit from additional time, small group work, and a direct instruction approach to learning reading. Lisa is trained in the Orton-Gillingham method of reading instruction, which is systematic and multi-sensory, and has worked for many years as a reading tutor and director of education at the Sylvan Learning Center in Fort Wayne. Lisa has spent the last week assessing the skills of students who previously received reading intervention to develop this year's plan for them.

In the next two weeks, classroom teachers will be assessing students' reading skills, and they and Lisa will collaborate to determine if any other students may benefit from her support in developing their reading skills. Following these conversations, Lisa will contact you to discuss our recommendations if we feel your child might benefit from additional reading instruction. Participation in a reading group with Lisa is at no additional cost to families.

Sarah is a licensed clinical speech-language pathologist whose primary role is to provide clinical services to any child who may benefit from support to develop articulation, speech or language skills that may include the language aspects of social skills. The cost of sessions with Sarah is \$25, capped at \$100 per month. Financial support is available by requesting an application from Lauren Moyer at lmoyer@oakfarmschool.com. Sarah will only evaluate and work with a child with a parent or guardian's written permission. From time to time, Sarah observes in classrooms and provides recommendations and resources to teachers on how to augment the language aspects of their classroom environments. Sarah may also provide group lessons in grace and courtesy, turn taking, and other language related skills that are a benefit to all the children.

If at any time you have questions about what support our student services team might lend to your child, please don't hesitate to contact any of us!

Sincerely,

Megan