

Dear Parents/Guardians

September 10, 2020

District 97's primary and immediate focus is to create a positive learning environment for all District 97 students that is equitable, inclusive, and focused on the whole child. At Hatch, one way we will be striving to meet this mission is through social skills group run by the social worker and speech and language pathologist.

Throughout the school year, we form small social skills groups that focus on helping children develop social skills that are called upon in everyday situations with parent consent or per a student's IEP. The topics include but are not limited to: sharing, citizenship, good sportsmanship, cooperation, conflict resolution, and friendship. The students will engage in age appropriate interactive games and activities to facilitate positive social exchanges. This is also a great opportunity for the students to get to know each other.

These social groups consist usually of 3-6 peers and meet once weekly for 30 minutes. The students are often working on social skills that benefit from bringing a friend to group to practice asking a friend to play, to serve as a good role model, or to help develop a more natural social situation with a larger group. We rotate whom the students invite to group to give every student the opportunity to participate if they choose.

As different social skills groups occur, your child may be invited to join a group. If you ARE comfortable with your child being invited, you DO NOT need to do anything. If you would NOT like your child to participate in this social skills group, please email Mrs. Bates at bbates@op97.org.

Thank you,

Bess Bates, LCSW
School Social Worker
bbates@op97.org

Anne Ciosek, M.A. CCC-SLP
Speech and Language Pathologist
aciosek@op97.org