

Student Support Services Dept.
December 2022
Board Report

- We welcome two new staff to our department. First, Brenda Thomas, an audiologist, has joined our team. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. She has a close working relationship with the New Mexico School for the Deaf and will be servicing our students in collaboration with them. Next, we welcome Michelle Nelson. Michelle is the new social worker that will service Midway and San Antonio. Both schools have welcomed her with open arms. We are excited to have both on our team.
- On December 12th through 14th the special education department participated in an audit. The audit was conducted by Bryce Day, a colleague of Annette Brinkman. The audit consisted of interviews and observations of our special educators, principal interviews, ancillary staff interviews and file reviews. Bryce presented a preliminary report to the Director on December 14th. The full exit report will be conducted in January through ZOOM. A 3-year professional development plan to help address our weaknesses will be submitted to the Director by Mr. Day.
- The school nurses and health assistants participated in an Emergency Medicine training. This training is required in order to store and administer emergency medication to our students.
- The Community Schools Advocate position has been filled by Shelbi Goret. Shelbi will begin with us in January and will be housed at the high school. Her responsibilities include establishing a leadership team, facilitate the development of a vision and strategic plan, conduct a school and community needs assessment, identify community supports and services, create and work within a budget, organize professional development opportunities, create a sustainability framework and support the social emotional needs of the general education population at SHS. We are excited to have Shelbi on board!
- Schools have been working on identifying our ELL students. Students are identified by the Language Usage Survey (LAS) parents fill out when they register their child. The LAS is only to be filled out once in a student's school career. It has been a tedious task to search through student cumulative folders but our school sites are doing this work. As of the 80th day, we have 96 students identified. In comparison, 36 students were identified at the 80th day last school year. The Superintendent recently committed ARP funds to purchase instructional materials to support our ELL students.