

# **Student Support**

## **Health Services**

A professionally licensed registered nurse is on duty at each of the six Clarence Schools and Nativity of Mary School during normal school hours. School nurses are responsible for maintaining health and immunization records, periodic vision and hearing screenings, and to respond to any medical emergency. For health-related questions, contact the nurse assigned to your child's school.

## **Guidance Department**

Certified guidance counselors provide counseling in academics, vocational, and personal adjustment to students at the Middle School and the Senior High. Students are assigned to guidance counselors alphabetically at the Senior High and according to grade level at the Middle School.

## **Committee on Special Education (CSE)**

The Director of Special Education for the Clarence School District is Mrs. MaryEllen Colling. She also serves as the Chairperson of the District's Committee on Special Education (CSE). Any questions or concerns may be directed to her office at 407-9105. The Committee on Special Education is a multidisciplinary team, appointed by the Board of Education.

The Committee reviews, evaluates, and recommends to the Board appropriate programs for all students classified with an educational disability. Matters are dealt with in a highly confidential manner. The Committee on Special Education consists of a district representative (chairperson), a school psychologist, a school physician (if appropriate), a special education teacher or therapist, a school administrator (if appropriate), a child's classroom teacher and the child's parents.

The philosophy of the Committee is to:

- Determine presence of an educational disability;
- Place students in the least restrictive environment in which they can experience success;
- Provide appropriate services to meet the child's individualized educational needs.

Each child identified as having an educational disability receives an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) outlining the child's strengths, needs, and the services required. The Committee reviews each child's IEP at least once a year. Parents are encouraged to participate in each step of the process.

## **Preschool Special Education (CPSE)**

School districts are responsible for providing special education services to eligible preschool children with educational disabilities. If you suspect your preschool child may have an educational disability, your child should be referred to the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). At the time of referral, you will be provided with a list of agencies approved by the State Education Department to conduct evaluations. You will be asked to select the agency that will conduct your child's evaluation from that list.

After the evaluation is conducted, the Committee will meet to discuss your child's evaluation and determine the presence of an educational disability. If your child is eligible for special education services, the Committee will develop a recommendation for programs and services that have been approved by the State Education Department. Preschool children with an educational disability and their parents are entitled to all the due process rights available for school-age children with educational disabilities.

The Committee on Preschool Special Education includes a school district representative (chairperson), a general education teacher member, an Erie County representative, an evaluating agency representative and/or a special education service provider and the parents of the child. Any questions or concerns may be directed to Mrs. MaryEllen Colling at 407-9105.

## **Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)**

Depending on state funding, the Clarence Central School District provides a quality Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) learning experience for a limited number of eligible children each school year. To qualify, children must reside in the Clarence School District and be four years of age by December 1.

The Clarence UPK program operates 2.5 hours per day, five days a week, for 180 days. UPK services are provided by eligible early childhood providers, which are physically located within the district's geographic boundaries. Transportation is not provided. Morning and afternoon sessions are available.

The goal of the program is to provide four-year-old children with strong foundational skills in literacy and mathematics that will prepare them for future academic success. Mrs. Kristin Overholt, Director of Curriculum, coordinates all aspects of the program including:

- Application, selection of eligible children;
- Oversight of qualifying providers;
- Educational program that conforms to regulations mandated by the New York State Department of Education and the Clarence School District.

Section 3602-e of Education Law requires that school districts must establish a process to select eligible children to receive UPK services on a random basis when there are more eligible children than can be served in a given school year. Applications for eligible children will be selected by lottery according to state specifications.

Applicants not initially accepted into the program will be placed on a waiting list. Services will be offered to all eligible applicants until the list is exhausted. Questions may be directed to [upk@clarenceschools.org](mailto:upk@clarenceschools.org), or the office of Mrs. Kristin Overholt, Director of Curriculum at 407-9109.