

Lincoln Middle School  
Special Education Department  
Transition Coffee  
March 3, 2021

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# Staff Introduction

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- Amy Hyland – SAI Math Teacher/Department Chair
- Darci Keleher – Assistant Principal oversees Special Education
- Vy Andrew- Assistant Principal
- Jennifer Preuss- 6th Grade Counselor
- Marisa Perry – School Psychologist
- Paula Cooperband – Speech and Language Pathologist
- Debbie Vasquez- Adapted PE
- Taila Friedman – Occupational Therapist
- Esther Andersen – Life Skills Teacher
- Melissa Mendez – Social Skills and Intensive Teacher
- Michelle Yaghoubzadeh – Social Skills and Intensive Teacher
- Wynn Sherman – SAI Science Teacher
- Joe Montanez – SAI ELA and SAI Reading Teacher
- Christian Oseguera – SAI Humanities Teacher
- Jennifer Burns – SAI Humanities Teacher

# The Transition to Middle School

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New experiences that middle school brings:

- A bigger campus
- Moving from class to class
- An increase in homework
- Grades and academic performance have a greater emphasis
- Multiple teachers with different styles and expectations
- Taking responsibility; increased independence
- Pre-teen developmental changes



# Special Education Programs

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- Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) (diploma track)
- Intensive Instruction (certificate track)
- Social Skills (certificate track)
- Life Skills: self-contained (certificate track)

# High School Diploma vs. Certificate of Completion

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## Santa Monica High School Diploma

- 220 credits (5 credits per class)
- 4 years of Social Studies
- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math
- 2 years of Science
- 1 year of foreign language
- 1 year of Fine arts
- 60 credits of electives

must pass grade-level English, math, social studies, science and other classes . Social Skills/Intensive/Life Skills classes do not fulfill diploma requirements.

## Certificate of Completion

- This is not an academic credential
- No state or grade requirements necessary to earn a certificate of completion
- A student successfully working toward his/her Iep goals is generally eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion
- SAI Classes do not fulfill Cal State/UC requirements

# Special Education Programs

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- Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)
  - Self-contained subjects, smaller numbers, slower pace, more individualized with one Specialized Academic Instructor and at least one para-professional
  - Focuses on CCSS as well as student individual goals.
  - Curriculum Skills -- A class period that addresses study skills, organization, IEP goals, HW assistance, and modifications on the IEP.
    - Takes the place of an elective course.
    - For students in 3 or more general education core classes

# Special Education Programs

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- Life Skills- a functional curriculum; program for students who require more of independent living focus
- Social Skills- program for students with academic, language/communication, sensory, and behavioral needs
- Intensive Instruction-- for students with academic individual needs that don't have any sensory or significant behavioral needs (more goals based)

# Teacher of Record (TOR)

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Responsibilities of the TOR include:

- Main point of contact
- IEP scheduling and paperwork
- Monitoring your child's progress
- Communicating with general education teachers





Support

Who do I call?

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ALWAYS INCLUDE TOR IN COMMUNICATIONS  
WITH STAFF

- Contact specific teacher for concerns/questions regarding your student's progress in a class
- Contact TOR for IEP matters
- Contact counselor/school psychologist regarding peers



## For Parents From Parents

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- Lockers: not all students use lockers; key locks can be provided if needed
- PE: students change daily in locker room; alternative places for changing are available if your child needs additional assistance
- Class Transitions: all students are adjusting to this experience; adult assistance is available for those students needing additional support in this area
- Student Independence: main goal for middle school; scarier for parents than students

# Tips Continued...

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- School-wide Events: all students are encouraged to be a part of events on-campus; contact your student's TOR
- Clubs: there are many clubs available on-campus – look at the website to see what is available; work with TOR if there is a club your child is interested in but may need assistance to navigate
- Lions Lunch: every Wednesday; students volunteer as lunch buddies
- Late Start Wednesday: school doesn't begin until 10 am; please make alternative plans to support students in the mornings

# LMS Special Needs Support Group

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Collaborative team that works together to create more support for our special needs community. Please join us for monthly meetings.

Contact:

Laura Leib

[laura.e.leib@gmail.com](mailto:laura.e.leib@gmail.com)



**Tentative Get your Stuff Day for incoming  
6th graders: August 11, 2021**

**First day of school 2021/2022: August 19,  
2021**



# Team Contact Info

- Amy Hyland  
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