

# **Welcome to Winchester Elementary School**

## **31a Team**

### **What is 31a?**

Section 31a is a state funded program created to help students who for a variety of reasons find one or more of the core subjects challenging. It is designed to make gains toward reaching grade level assessments.

At the beginning of every school year, students are assessed in reading and math. These assessments determine who is entitled to the extra support provided by the Section 31a program. Throughout the year continued assessments will be done to monitor every student's progress. Our goal is to ensure every child receives the foundation they need to achieve success at school

The Section 31a Program provides your child extra instruction time either one on one, in small groups or online. During this time, the NPS staff will be working on lessons created to address your child's specific needs. A variety of activities will be utilized to accommodate different learning styles.

### **Winchester Elementary School Section 31a Staff**

Mrs. Jay Hillard, Learning Consultant, is the 31a staff contact at Winchester Elementary School. Mrs. Hillard has worked directly with students who need additional academic support for the last several years. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Hillard or to your child's teacher.

### **Your Role as a Parent**

You are an important member of your child's learning team! All the daily decisions you make for your child, affects how they learn in school. Success in the classroom is influenced by many outside factors. A student's attitude and motivation is affected by their daily schedule, their health and how important they see school is to the adult role models in their lives. A child who walks into school well rested, happy and feeling like what they are doing is important will achieve more. This is something to keep in mind to create a successful learning plan for your child.

There are three main things you can do to help your child to triumph at school. First, be a coach to your child. Set aside time to work with your child every day especially in their challenging subjects. Even if it is only 10 minutes a day, it will make a difference in many ways. It will improve their skills, show them that their learning is important to you, and teach them good study habits. Make sure this time is relaxed and that you are celebrating improvements.

Research shows that parents working at home with a child is a key indicator of accelerated progress. We realize that many parents work, and life can get very busy. Only you can decide what is important to your family. Fifteen to thirty minutes a day can make a huge difference. We will be sending home ideas for practice activities. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Hillard or your child's classroom teacher.

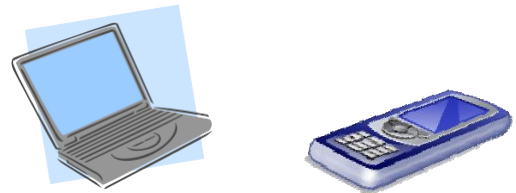
Next, maintain positive communication with the team throughout the school year. It is very essential that we work as a team. Your child will do their best when we are all working together helping them focus on celebrating their strengths and working to improve their weaknesses. Our continuous communication is very important. We will provide many opportunities for you to keep in touch. Aside from the usual; phone, email, notes, newsletters, website, conferences and scheduled appointment (contact information listed below), we will also be conducting several parent workshops, as well as, creating a parent library. More information will be coming home regarding these events. Please attend if you can. They will be filled with helpful information and activities.

Finally, encourage and inspire your child as much as you can. Your child's attitude is a huge factor in their daily success. We work hard to find ways to engage and motivate them every day, but a few optimistic words from you can help create a positive mindset that can unleash amazing opportunities.

## **Communication Opportunities**

**Building Phone:** 248-465-2400

**Email:** [hillarja@northvilleschools.org](mailto:hillarja@northvilleschools.org)



**Scheduled meeting:** If you have questions or concerns about 31a, please contact Mrs. Hillard at the email above, or contact your child's teacher for an appointment. Staff members are available to meet before school or after school.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** November 11 – 15, 2013; April 7 – 11, 2014

**Weekly Communication :** The Winchester Weekly is Winchester Elementary School's weekly newsletter. It is sent via list serv each Friday and contains current event information and can include helpful hints for working at home. Archive copies of the Winchester Weekly are available on the Winchester website - <http://www.winchester.northvilleschools.org/>.

**Parent Workshops:** Parent Workshops held in the District are advertised via the Winchester Weekly.