

West Mifflin Area School District Interventions

# Academic Support Initiatives

**Acadience Math**

Acadience Math is designed to assess foundational math skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. It helps identify students who may need additional instruction and ensures progress toward grade-level proficiency.

**Acadience Reading**

Formerly known as DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), Acadience Reading is a screening and progress-monitoring tool used from kindergarten through sixth grade. It measures early literacy skills that are critical for reading success.

**ALEKS**

ALEKS is an artificially intelligent learning and assessment system that has been used by over 25 million students for Math, Chemistry, Statistics and Accounting. After quickly and accurately determining each student's precise knowledge of a subject, ALEKS helps the student work on the topics they are ready to learn. ALEKS intelligence, content and software are unique and proprietary; they have been developed together, and work in unison. ALEKS digital content provides comprehensive course coverage.

**Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT)**

CDT is a set of online tools designed to provide diagnostic information to guide instruction and provide support to students and teachers. These tools assist educators in identifying students’ academic strengths and areas of need, providing links to classroom resources.

**Double-Block ELA & math classes**

In double-block classes, there is an increased span of teaching time, longer cooperative learning activities can be completed in one class period. The teacher is able to provide more varied instruction during class and find it easier to interact with students with disabilities and different learning styles. During the second half of a class, it gives the opportunity to pull students for remediation.

**Drop-out Prevention**

This in-house program will work collaboratively between the Titan Cyber Academy teachers and high school staff to target our at-risk students. This program will give a pathway for our at-risk students who have a history of course failure. “At-risk” students are defined as those failing to achieve basic proficiency in key subjects or exhibiting behaviors that can lead to failure and/or dropping out of school. This program will employ online learning along with in-person support. This will allow students to accumulate credits at their own pace, thereby empowering them to take control of their learning.

**ECRI**

ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction) is a research-based framework designed to improve reading outcomes for students in elementary school, particularly those who need additional support in developing foundational literacy skills. It combines evidence-based instructional strategies with explicit, systematic teaching and integrates well with multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) frameworks.

**ELA and Math Coaches**

Educational professionals who support teachers in improving instructional practices, curriculum implementation, and student outcomes in literacy and numeracy. Their role is critical for fostering teacher development and enhancing student achievement in these foundational subjects.

**Heggerty**

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness is a widely recognized supplemental program that focuses on developing foundational phonemic awareness skills in young learners. Phonemic awareness is a critical pre-reading skill, as it helps students understand and manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words, which is essential for learning to read and write.

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH)**

HMH provides teachers with a digital component of the curriculum that assesses students for academic growth. HMH’s Reporting Suite provides a standards-aligned view of student achievement across benchmark and in-program assessments. Shared reporting gives teachers a more comprehensive view of student achievement to drive differentiation.

**IXL ELA**

IXL ELA is an interactive, standards-aligned platform designed to support students in developing reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills. It offers personalized learning experiences for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, helping them master key concepts at their own pace.

**Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

A comprehensive, data-driven framework used in schools to address the academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs of all students. It integrates multiple levels of support to provide personalized interventions and ensure equity in education. MTSS is designed to help schools identify struggling students early and intervene quickly. It focuses on the “whole child.” That means it supports academic growth, but many other areas, too. All students in Tiers I, II, and III are serviced by the district.

**Number Corner**

Number Corners is an essential component of Bridges in Mathematics but can be used to complement any K–5 curricula. Number Corner is a skill-building program that revolves around the classroom calendar, providing daily practice as well as continual encounters with broader mathematical concepts in 15–20 minutes of engaging instruction.

**Personal Management Class**

Students learn to interact and communicate effectively with their peers and with authority figures. Personal Management targets: perspective-taking, conversation skills, friendship skills, problem-solving, social competence, emotion recognition, theory of mind, and problem-solving.

**Sonday System**

The Sonday System is a structured, evidence-based reading intervention program designed to support students who struggle with reading, particularly those with dyslexia or other language-based learning disabilities. It aligns with the principles of Orton-Gillingham instruction and provides a systematic, multisensory approach to phonics, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

**SpringMath**

SpringMath is an evidence-based math intervention program designed to help students improve their math fluency and problem-solving skills. It provides tools for teachers to deliver targeted, tiered interventions in a systematic way. The program focuses on closing skill gaps efficiently by leveraging data to guide instructional decisions.

**School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions (PBIS)**

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students’ behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. When implemented with fidelity, PBIS improves social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate.

**Specially Designed Instruction Procedures (SDI)**

The special education teacher/case manager/gifted support teacher is responsible for disseminating the IEP, which includes Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) pages/copies to all teachers for each student every school year, as well as making general education teachers aware of the contents of the student’s IEP, strengths, and needs.

**Study Island**

Study Island is a web-based program designed to support standards-based instruction, practice, and assessment for students in grades K–12. It offers tools for building proficiency in core subjects such as English Language Arts (ELA), math, science, and social studies. Study Island is widely used for classroom practice, intervention, and test preparation.

**Titan Remediation-HS**

West Mifflin Area High School has a remediation period that is a designated time during the school day where students receive additional academic support to improve their understanding of key concepts, address skill gaps, or recover credits for classes they may have failed.

**Waggle**

Waggle® is a digital learning solution that goes beyond adaptive learning to provide personalized practice and instruction to support skills-diversity in the classroom. With skills-based practice that assesses knowledge in real-time, teachers can support the needs of all learners.

**Wonderworks**

Wonderworks is a flexible intervention program that can easily be incorporated into the current English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. Wonderworks research-based instruction includes a teacher modeling approach that moves to guided practice—ultimately leading students to become independent readers

**Wonders Adaptive Learning**

Wonders Adaptive Learning targets discrete skills in each of the foundational skills topics (Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, and Structural Analysis) and follows a systematic learning progression from grades K through 5. Students are placed into the system in their zone of proximal development for the full learning progression, meaning they could be placed into a skill group at any grade level. Students work through activities that are available to them for each of the topics. The system moves the student through the learning progression for each of the topics. Students must complete the necessary prerequisites for each skill group before progressing in a topic.

# Social Emotional Learning Initiatives

West Mifflin Area School District provides Social-emotional learning (SEL) initiatives that aim to equip individuals, especially children and adolescents, with the skills necessary to manage emotions, build relationships, and make responsible decisions. These initiatives are increasingly recognized as critical for academic success, mental health, and overall well-being. Below is a link to special education and pupil services provided to students in grades K-12:

[WM Special Education and Pupil Services Supports.pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Chaneyn%5COneDrive%20-%20West%20Mifflin%20School%20District%5CDesktop%5CWM%20Special%20Education%20and%20Pupil%20Services%20Supports.pdf)

**Disabilities Awareness Week**

Disability Awareness Week (DAW) continues the tradition of National Access Awareness Week first established in 1988 to promote better community access for people with disabilities. The main goal of DAW is to raise public awareness of existing barriers that prevent citizens with disabilities from full and equal participation in all aspects of their community and what may be done to correct these problems. We also want to celebrate examples of best practices and advancements made towards full inclusion for citizens with disabilities.

**Eradicate Hate Summit**

The Eradicate Hate Summit is an annual conference aimed at combating hate-fueled violence and extremism. It serves as a platform for experts, policymakers, activists, researchers, students and community leaders to collaborate on strategies to address hate and promote understanding and inclusion.

**Expect Respect**

The Expect Respect Program is an evidence-based initiative designed to promote safe and healthy relationships among youth. It primarily addresses issues of bullying, harassment, and dating violence by fostering respect, inclusivity, and equality in schools and communities.

**Family Behavioral Resources (FBR)**

Family Behavioral Resources is a team of talented and dedicated clinicians and therapists that provide world class mental health care to consumers of all ages. FBR works in local schools, homes and communities, serving children with diagnosed behavioral and mental health disorders. They also provide Outpatient Mental Health Therapy in numerous locations throughout the states of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

**Forging Hopeful Futures**

The Forging Hopeful Futures Program is an initiative designed to empower individuals and communities facing adversity by fostering resilience, hope, and opportunities for growth. The purpose of the program is to help individuals, especially youth, overcome challenges such as poverty, trauma, or systemic barriers, promote skills, mindsets, and support systems that enable participants to envision and achieve a positive future and to create thriving, supportive communities that uplift and empower their members.

**Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)**

We want every student, in every school, to be valued and treated with respect, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We believe that all students deserve a safe and affirming school environment where they can learn and grow. We believe that such an atmosphere promotes a positive sense of self, which is the basis of educational achievement and personal growth. Since homophobia and heterosexism undermine a healthy school climate, we work to educate teachers, students and the public at large about the damaging effects these forces have on youth and adults alike. We spread awareness through school-wide activities, bring guest speakers to our school, and organize educational field trips.

**Girls Only Leadership Development (GOLD)**

West Mifflin Area Middle School has started a GOLD program: Girls Only Leadership Development. WM community members or WM graduates come and meet with our middle school girls. The GOLD program focuses on female empowerment and bringing girls together despite their social differences. The program is run on a monthly basis after-school, and 2 breakout sessions during each meeting: one learning and one physical.

**Heyward House-HS**

The Heyward House Foundation aims to inspire, support, and uplift underserved youth and families by addressing critical needs, fostering education, and providing opportunities for growth and empowerment.

**Little Titans**

The elementary counseling department believes in the personal potential of each and every student. The counselors offer small group counseling opportunities at Clara Barton and Homeville throughout the year to assist students to reach their full personal, social and academic potential. All groups are confidential. Students are considered for group participation based on teacher/administrator recommendations and parent request.

There are several possible small group topics including the following:

* Peer Relations and Social Skills
* Self Esteem
* Anger Management
* Changing Families/Divorce
* Managing Stress & Anxiety

In addition to small groups the counselors push in the classrooms to teach social skills, emotions and student conflict as a whole class. During these class sessions students are able to role play in order to fully understand certain situations.

**Save Promise**

SAVE Promise Club is a nationally recognized youth-led organization that encourages young people to take charge of keeping their friends, schools, and communities safe. The club is a combination of two organizations, Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) and the Sandy Hook Promise. They shared a belief that in order to help our school communities become a safer place, we must educate the youth about gun violence, trauma, suicide prevention, and mental health conditions.

**Student Against Destructive Decisions (SADD):**

SADD club meets monthly to design, create, and promote activities for the high school. The activities center around relevant topics that teenagers are presented with every day, such as texting and driving, drinking and driving, peer pressure, dating violence, etc. Our goal is to create awareness about these topics and help students make better decisions and choices. The benefits of joining SADD club are endless. Not only do we help students deal with issues that impact teenagers' lives, but we help you earn meaningful community service hours which you will need if you desire to be accepted into NHS.

**Student Assistance Program (SAP)**

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) services at-risk students within the West Mifflin Area School District. Students identified as being at-risk are referred to the SAP team. At-risk students are typically experiencing significant personal problems related to: depression, academic performance, peer relationships, pregnancy, suicidal thoughts, anxiety/fears, family problems, eating/sleeping difficulties, drug and alcohol usage, and hostility/anger. Before any action is taken, parents/guardians are notified and provided with approval forms that must be submitted prior to any action through SAP.

The Student Assistant Program is comprised of trained school professionals (guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators) who receive referrals from parents, teachers, students, and other school staff. This team works closely with outside agencies and other counseling and referral services.

**TAP-Titan Assistance Patrol**

The District TAP is made up of in-house and contracted employees to provide the expertise needed to meet the mission of the school district. In-house employees will consist of director of pupil services, home-school visitor, school counselors, and school police officer. Contract services are family and attendance liaison, behavior specialist, two family assistance liaisons and community support specialist. TAP will be a mobile team with the ability to conduct home visits, transport families to appointments, IEP meetings, and social services. The team will utilize two district-owned vehicles to conduct home visits, parent meetings, and community engagement opportunities. Mental Health Services: - Licensed counselors and therapists provide individual and group counseling to address emotional and psychological well-being. - Support for managing stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental and physical health concerns. - Workshops and events promoting mental health awareness.

**Tardy Room-HS**

The "tardy room" at the high school is a designated space where students who are late to school are required to go. It serves as a disciplinary measure to address tardiness and encourage punctuality. It provides several benefits for both students and the overall school environment: promotes punctuality, minimizes classroom disruption, encourages reflection, provides an alternative to punitive measures, reinforces school policies and improves overall school functioning.

**Titan Academy**

The Titan Academy is a true transitional education opportunity for “at risk” students. The mission is to eliminate past negative social and academic outcomes by learning personal, life, and academic skills in a positive, structured and reinforcing environment. The Titan Academy will prepare students to make a successful transition back to the regular education program, graduate, and have a realistic chance to achieve their life goals.

**Titan Pantry-HS**

A combined food, clothing, and hygiene pantry at the high school is a powerful resource to support students who may face financial hardship or other challenges. The pantry provides essential items that address basic needs, reduce stigma, and contribute to student well-being. The high school pantry offers food, clothing, and hygiene products.

**TLC (Titan Leaders Club)**

TLC is a junior and senior community service and leadership club. Members of TLC plan and operate many community activities which serve and benefit the West Mifflin Community. Students serve as peer mentors to younger students. TLC organizes major school events including the powder puff game, community day, the haunted gym, and school wide blood drives.

**Titan Learning Time-TLT**

West Mifflin Area HS has implemented a flexible learning period, known as the "Titan Learning Time," to enhance students' educational experience. This 90-minute period is broken into three segments, which include lunch, and offers a variety of activities. During this time, students can engage in academic support such as tutoring, meet with teachers for help, or choose from a range of elective activities, including enrichment options like yoga or SAT prep. The goal is to allow students to take ownership of their learning by selecting activities that align with their academic needs and interests, providing them with a more personalized and flexible approach to education.

**Turtle Creek Valley Community Services (TCV)**

TCV provides a continuum of services, care and support that empowers individuals, families and communities with behavioral, mental health, substance abuse and/or developmental issues to sustain their recovery and achieve the important possibilities in their lives.