



LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM (LSP)

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St. Clare School's Learning Support Program (LSP) serves our entire school community and is designed to help each student feel and be successful at school, providing both academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support.

The LSP is based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model and promotes the awareness of diverse learning needs and the individual talents of all students.

Programs administered through this department include:

- RTI* program
- Social-emotional support
- Consultation
- School-wide Universal Screening
- Individual Educational Testing (K-8) and Triennial Testing (Grades 5 & 8), by referral
- Differentiated instruction for all learners
- Special supports for students who struggle and/or excel
- Learning intervention groups
- Needs-based "push in" services in some classrooms
- Ongoing teacher education and support
- Parent education library



We make every effort to help our students through classroom accommodations and learning interventions and coordination of services such as outside tutoring, counseling, and other specialized therapies.

What is RTI?

Our Response to Intervention (RTI) program uses our universal assessment system to help us identify students who are not meeting benchmarks. There are 3 levels of intervention:

- Tier One is the intervention level within the classroom delivered by the teacher (ex: reading groups, math groups, preferential seating, one-on-one help, organizational systems, etc.).
- Tier Two interventions are small, evidence-based intervention groups outside of the classroom to target specific skills and needs of the students delivered by learning support staff (ex: Orton-Gillingham groups, enrichment groups, math groups, fluency groups, friendship groups, ELL services, etc.).
- Tier Three is one-on-one tutoring outside of the classroom. If a student has a documented learning disability and needs this intensive one-on-one intervention, we are, in most cases, able to offer that support. Students with diagnosed learning differences usually need all three tiers of support.

Educational Testing & Triennial Testing

We provide some individual educational testing for students in Grades K-8 and triennial testing in Grade 5 and Grade 8. The goal of this component of our LSP is to identify students who, through teacher's formative assessment, observations, and specific data from STAR Testing, are at risk for a learning disability. Ideally, students are identified before the end of Grade 2 and testing is recommended and scheduled. If these students have a specific learning disability, they would be tested again in Grade 5 in preparation for middle school, and finally, in Grade 8 prior to high school. The protocol follows these steps:

- Teacher and/or learning specialist identifies the need for student academic testing.
- The need is discussed with parents by the teacher and learning specialist.
- Testing options are discussed with parents by the teacher and learning specialist. Options include: In-house testing (Mrs. Carolyn Ullman) (free and onsite), Portland Public Schools (free and on their site), private testing (cost and at their offices)
- If in-house testing is selected, the learning specialist coordinate with Mrs. Ullman to schedule testing.
- Testing report is provided by Mrs. Ullman, PPS, or outside testing company to the family and shared with the LSP in order for an ILP to be activated, if necessary, and desired by parents.

Meet Our Team



Lillian Kidwell

Mrs. Lillian Kidwell is our learning specialist. Lillian manages and implements all components of our LSP, including providing direct support to all students K-8, their families, and teachers. She provides Tier 1 (in-class), Tier 2 (small groups) and Tier 3 (1-1) levels of support. Lillian is on-site Tuesday-Friday and is your contact for any and all questions regarding learning support and our program.



Shannon Winningham

Mrs. Shannon Winningham is our assistant learning specialist. Shannon helps implement our LSP and runs our school-wide Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) program. She is also our go-to person for Tier 3 literacy support for those students who qualify, using the Orton Gillingham method and Barton system. Shannon is on-site Monday-Thursday and also provides Tier 2 level support.



Mary Griffith

Mrs. Mary Griffith is our assistant learning specialist. Mary helps implement our LSP and is our math specialist. She provides all levels of math support in Grades K-8, providing remediation and enrichment support. She is on-site Tuesday and Thursday.



Carolyn Ullman

Mrs. Carolyn Ullman is our testing and assessment specialist. Carolyn is responsible for individual educational testing for students in Grades K-8 and triennial testing in Grade 5 and Grade 8. This level of testing is by teacher referral and happens on-site. Carolyn primarily works remotely, but is on-site for testing on Mondays.