



MEET YOUR QPS K-5 SAMS

K-5 Learning Communities Newsletter

January 2018

QPS began the K-5 Learning Communities Newsletter to help inform our families of the changes related to our transition to a K-5 district. Previous editions of our newsletter can be found at www.qps.org; by clicking 'New K5 Boundaries' (located on the left-hand side directly beneath the homepage slider of photos). Then click "QPS K-5 Learning Communities Plan". Hard copies of this year's newsletters will be distributed to all pre-k through 4th grade students; and sent via Skyward Family Access to **all** QPS families whom have provided e-mail addresses to the District.

What is a SAM?

A School Administration Manager (SAM) is a school staff member who works with the principal by focusing on management tasks, allowing the principal to spend more time on instructional leadership. The SAM helps the principal by completing TimeTrack™ (a program for time and task management and analysis) daily with the principal, meeting daily to schedule instructional leadership time, reflect on impact, and develop a First Responder™ structure in the school. Most schools use existing staff, a secretary, assistant principal or teacher leader, to serve as the SAM team of First Responders™.

What is a SAM for Social Emotional Learning?

The SAM for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) assists the principal with management of students and their families in meeting their SEL needs. As directed by the principal, the SAM for SEL utilizes knowledge of child and family development, Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, as well as QPS Second Step curriculum program and activities. The SAM for SEL implements intervention steps including PBIS in alignment with the building's intervention procedures and discipline policy and provides SEL instruction and intervention for students, as determined by the PBIS team.

Sara Cramer: SAM - Baldwin Elementary

Working with students has been a passion and mission for Mrs. Cramer since high school. She is in her 20th year in education with experiences ranging from elementary and intermediate teacher to serving in administration for eleven years. Mrs. Cramer has spent half of her career at Washington Elementary School. She is looking forward to her new role as a SAM as this will allow her to focus on supporting staff at Baldwin Elementary as they synergize to provide the best learning experiences for our children.



Casey Little: SAM for Social Emotional Learning - Baldwin Elementary

Ms. Little began her career with the Quincy Public Schools in 2012. She is a graduate of Western Illinois University with a Master's Degree in Sociology, and is currently working towards her second Master's Degree in School Counseling at Quincy University. Her work with QPS has focused exclusively on supporting at-risk students. For the past four years, Ms. Little has worked at the Adams County Regional Safe School (ACRSS) providing social-emotional support to students through prevention education and behavior intervention. She has also served as the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) internal coach for the past four years. Before her time at ACRSS, she worked at Quincy Junior High School providing truancy intervention. Ms. Little is an advocate for data-based decision making and is excited to bring a prevention-focused approach to the elementary level.



Jason Fink: SAM - Rooney Elementary

Mr. Fink married his high school sweetheart Liane; they have been married for 16 years. They have three children: Chloe (11), Gavin (9), Garrett (4) and a dog named Ozzie. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Western Illinois University in 2000, Master's Degree in Administration from Williams Woods University in 2006, and Specialist Degree in Education from Williams Woods University in 2013. His professional experiences include teaching PE/Health, serving as an At-Risk Teacher and Coordinator, serving as an Athletic Director, and working as an Elementary Principal and High School Principal.



Nikki Finney: SAM for Social Emotional Learning - Rooney Elementary

Mrs. Finney is currently in her 12th year as the counselor for Washington Elementary School. She holds a Master's Degree in School Social Work from the University of Illinois. Mrs. Finney is married to Jason and they have two children Nora (2) and Aiden (6). She is happy and excited to be serving the families in her home district at the new elementary school at Rooney Elementary.



Lisa Wiegand: SAM - Harrison Street Site

Mrs. Wiegand began her career as a teacher with Quincy Public Schools over 20 years ago. She taught early childhood education, early childhood special education, and first grade before leaving the classroom to serve as a K-3 interventionist and instructional coach. She spent some time at home raising her children before returning four years ago as a Literacy Coach. She enjoys coaching and training teachers, providing professional development, monitoring student progress and interventions, and supporting students to reach their fullest potential. Mrs. Wiegand feels it is important to build collaborative partnerships with families, teachers and students to ensure student learning and growth.



Lynne Scholz: SAM for Social Emotional Learning - Harrison Street Site

Mrs. Scholz has served as the Prevention Education Counselor at Berrian School for the past 16 years. Her academic background comes from Quincy University. She feels very blessed to wake up each day, excited to come to school. Mrs. Scholz feels fortunate to work side-by-side with wonderful students and an awesome staff. At Berrian, she knows the importance of building strong relationships with our students, their families and with each other. She believes that providing students with a nurturing, structured environment leads to students that are willing to keep trying, even when things are hard.



Brad Funkenbusch: SAM - Lincoln-Douglas Elementary

Mr. Funkenbusch has been with Quincy Public Schools for eleven years. He served seven years as a sixth grade teacher at Baldwin West and the last four as principal of Dewey Elementary School. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Culver-Stockton College and a Master's Degree from William Woods University. Mr. Funkenbusch's wife is a teacher in the district. They have two children who attend QPS. Mr. Funkenbusch looks forward to facilitating new learning opportunities for staff as well as students in his new role as a SAM.



Jessica Huckey: SAM for Social Emotional Learning - Lincoln-Douglas Elementary

Mrs. Huckey has been working for Quincy Public Schools for eight years at Baldwin Intermediate. She taught for four years in sixth grade and four years in fourth grade and has served as the PBIS Internal Coach for Baldwin North. She is currently teaching 3rd grade at Lincoln-Douglas Elementary. Mrs. Huckey has a passion for promoting a positive learning environment for her students. Student learning is always at the forefront of what she does, and she also loves learning. She graduated with her Master's Degree in Administration in May 2017. Mrs. Huckey is looking forward to using what she's learned from teaching and education in her new role as a SAM. She is extremely excited to begin this new adventure with QPS and looks forward to working with many new individuals.



Richard Pugh: SAM - Iles Elementary

Mr. Pugh brings 23 years experience working with students at the residential, public school, and post-secondary levels. He has been a school administrator for seven years. Mr. Pugh holds a Master's Degree in special education with endorsements in business and history. He also has certificates in school administration and director of special education. He believes in assisting students in meeting their academic potential through providing rigorous education and developing each student's critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills are needed for each student to navigate their schooling, prepare for future vocational endeavors, and to prepare them to positively impact their communities. In addition, Mr. Pugh believes that each student's behavioral and emotional well-being needs to be nurtured and developed so that he or she can be well-balanced. This, in turn, will aid the student with their academic development.



Stephanie Stephens: SAM for Social Emotional Learning - Iles Elementary

Ms. Stephens is thrilled and humbled by the opportunity to support students, teachers, and the Quincy community at Iles Elementary as a SAM. She began her career by teaching for four years in Chicago Public Schools. Since moving to Quincy, she has absolutely loved teaching 6th grade to future Blue Devils; first at Baldwin South and now, for her second year, at QJHS. She has enjoyed contributing to several District and School Leadership teams, and admires how everyone here at QPS inspires students each day with the 7 Habits and PBIS. With a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Illinois State University and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University Chicago, she will be a committed team member at our new school. She looks forward to building a community that will support each and every student to achieve their goals and become their best selves!

