



Partnering for

October 2019

# Student Success

From Gervais School District's Behavior Support Team

## What is the Behavior Support Team?

The Behavior Support Team's (BST) goal is to support all students in their social emotional development. The BST has weekly meetings to review referrals made by any school staff person or parent. Whole child health is an important aspect of education. If your child is being referred, you will be notified of the referral by your child's teacher if they are under the age of 16. After discussing the concerns, our team determines who is best suited to follow up on the referral from our behavior team. If you have any questions about our team, please contact your building counselor.

### Current BST members include:

- Bob Martin** (Director of Special Services/GMS Principal), ext. 2010
- Fenya Aman** (K-12 Behavior Assistant), ext. 2022
- Jerry Jimenez** (Pre-K and GES Social Worker/Counselor), ext. 1036
- Vilma Chan** (GMS Social Worker/Counselor), ext. 2024
- Sara Broadhurst** (High School Counselor), ext. 3024
- Jeanne Doyle** (Pre-K-12 Behavioral Specialist)
- Jill Woodard** (Pre-K-12 School Psychologist), ext. 2026
- Mariana Barrera** (Qualified Mental Health Professional through Marion County), ext. 3026

By Jeanne Doyle, GSD Behavior Specialist

## Social and Emotional Learning: What it is and Why it Matters!

Students experience unique life stressors growing up in today's world. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the way children and adults learn and apply the knowledge and skills needed to understand and manage emotions. We learn to set and achieve positive goals; feel and show empathy for others; establish and maintain positive relationships; and make responsible decisions.

Gervais School District is working to help students combine these skills with academic achievement. By creating high-quality learning experiences

and environments, we empower students to contribute in their classrooms today and in their workplaces and communities tomorrow.

To find out more information about SEL and how to incorporate it into your parenting practices go to: <https://casel.org/in-the-home/>. Here you will also find an informational video in Spanish.

Continue reading below to see how Gervais Elementary, Middle, and High schools are promoting SEL in each setting.

By Jill Woodard, GSD School Psychologist



## Social and Emotional Learning is happening at...

### Gervais Elementary School

is working with students and staff on recognizing the value of understanding emotions. We know that building empathy and relationships is key to success. SEL is critical to improving the quality of our learning environments and school climate.

This year the elementary is using the SEL program called the Sanford Harmony Curriculum for K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Sanford Harmony helps improve skills such as empathy, communication and problem solving to support peer relationships in all grade levels this year.

We also had lower grades try PAX Good Behavior Game, which is a classroom management program. Teachers use positive behavior practices in their academic lessons to help students increase positive behavior in the classroom. It has gone well and training has been extended out to additional grade levels.

By Jerry Jimenez, GES Counselor

### Gervais Middle School

6<sup>th</sup> graders are involved in weekly community classroom as part of SES Lessons from Sanford Harmony. Students. They participate in lessons about diversity, inclusion, critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and peer relationships.

October is Bullying prevention month. GMS has been engaging students in activities throughout the month so they can recognize bullying and promote positive interactions among peers. As part of our efforts, GMS hosted a No One Eats Alone Day on October 25<sup>th</sup> during lunch time. Additionally, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students watched the film Bully and participated in activities to promote a culture of Kindness at GMS. You can see our Kindness tree in our GMS hallway.

By Vilma Chan, GMS Counselor

### Gervais High School

Students in our Health classes are currently focusing on the risks of alcohol/tobacco/drugs, body systems, and reproductive and sexual health. Ms. Palmer's AVID 10 class is learning about conflict resolution and discussing whether or not revenge is ever appropriate.

Gervais High School has created a Trauma Informed Data Team, which examines school-related data through a trauma lens.

By Sara Broadhurst, GHS Counselor

