

## **2024-2025 Student Support Team**

### Introduction & Narrative

#### **Student Support Team Members**

Beth Parker, M.S. Ed., Support Services Coordinator

Nancy Kozlowski, M.A., Reading Specialist

Breah Ponce, M.A., Math Interventionist

Helen Elayan, Ed.D., School Counselor

#### **Overview**

Grace Lutheran School Student Service Team (SST) provides a range of services to students requiring additional support at school. Students are identified using a variety of screening measures, individual assessments, and historical academic and functional performance. Varying levels of math intervention, reading intervention, and counseling occur throughout the school week. In addition to direct instruction to students, specialists problem solve and collaborate with staff to problem solve the performance of specific students. School plans are developed that align with the area(s) of need and can include accommodations, interventions, progress monitoring and services.

The **Student Service Coordinator** at Grace Lutheran School oversees student service programming:

- Assists in the coordination of academic and social emotional benchmarking and screening
- Coordinates the schools system of support and a continuum of services with a focus on prevention
- Administers individual assessments
- Lead the problem solving process
- Delivers of specialized services in identified areas
- Manages Section 504 Accommodation Plans and School Service Plans
- Coordinates ISP services and Child Find Activities with River Forest School District 90
- Assists in transition to high school programming for students with disabilities
- Partnerships with private providers and agencies

The **School Counselor** at Grace Lutheran School:

- Serves Grace Lutheran's student body twice a week (Tuesday/Wednesday)
- Does not serve as a disciplinarian but rather an advocate and guide for students' well-being.
- Supports students in their academic, emotional, and social development, offering guidance and resources to help them navigate challenges and achieve their full potential.
- Collaborates with students, parents, and staff to create a positive, inclusive environment, ensuring every student feels supported and valued.
- Offers *short-term counseling* and *school-related support* for common issues like stress, peer relationships, and academic challenges. If a student needs more intensive or long-term mental health support, the school counselor may refer them to a clinical therapist.
- Differs from outpatient clinical therapy services in that counselors in schools typically meet with students for no more than 15-30 minutes during a school day and will offer resources or referrals for outside support when more clinical services are needed. Outside Clinical therapy services can offer individuals a clinical hour of counseling services where more intensive support is provided and higher needs are met.
- Helps students succeed academically and socially, while a clinical therapist aims to improve overall mental health and well-being.
- Acts as liaisons between school and outside support services when releases of information are completed (therapists, psychiatrists, etc.)

The **Reading Specialist** at Grace Lutheran School:

- Collaborates and communicates with teachers to aid in literacy instruction.
- Participates in the problem solving process.
- Assists and interprets academic benchmarking and screening.
- Delivers targeted literacy intervention: fluency, decoding (phonemic awareness, phonics) comprehension and vocabulary.
- Supports the implementation of instructional resources with staff.
- Develops life-long readers.

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

7300 Division Street ■ River Forest, IL 60305 ■ 708-366-6900 ■ [www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org)

The **Math Interventionist** at Grace Lutheran School:

- Collaborates and communicates with teachers to aid in math instruction.
- Participates in the problem solving process.
- Assists and interprets academic benchmarking and screening.
- Delivers targeted math intervention: number sense & operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis & statistics
- Supports the implementation of instructional resources with staff.

**2024-2025 Student Support Team  
School Counseling Services Opt Out Form**

For the 2024-2025 School Year, the abovementioned School Counseling services are offered to all students. Should you *not* wish for your student(s) to receive School Counseling services for any reason, and would like to **opt out of school counseling services for the 2024-2025 School Year**, please fill out and return the below form to the Main Office:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_