

## Hello Excell Academy Families!

We have a few new faces in the special education department at Excell Academy, and several returning staff this school year. We're excited to help all of your students reach their full potential this school year. The special education teachers can be reached by phone at **763-533-0500**. Here's a brief introduction to our Special Education Team for the 2016-2017 school year:



**Mandi Zielske \* Special Education Teacher/Coordinator \* mzielske@excellacademy.org**

I am incredibly excited to continue my teaching career at Excell Academy! I completed my Master's Degree in Special Education from Bethel University. I decided to pursue my degree in Special Education while working at a high school in Saint Paul, and have loved every minute of my experience so far. I am looking forward to working with all of my students and their families, and making this a great year!



**Amy Sauve \* Special Education Teacher \* asauve@excellacademy.org**

I am ecstatic to continue working with the Special Education team here at Excell Academy! I graduated from St. Cloud State in 2008, with an education degree. This is my 8th year teaching and I previously worked as an intervention teacher in reading and math. I am a huge sports fanatic and enjoy playing softball and volleyball competitively. I am excited to make this school year a successful, fun-filled year!



**Deb Johnson \* Special Education Teacher \* djohnson@excellacademy.org**

I am thrilled to be back with the special education team here at Excell Academy. I am licensed in K-12 special education in the area of Emotional Behavior Disorders (EBD). Prior to joining the Excell team 2 years ago, I was working in a self-contained classroom for the previous 2.5 years. In my free time I like to travel, read, swim, garden, and take photographs. I look forward to getting students excited about learning!



**Jay Kroma \* Special Education Teacher \* jkroma@excellacademy.org**

I've worked at Excell for the last two years as a paraprofessional and student success coach in the Special Education department but this year I am so enthused to be working as a Special Education Teacher! I received my Bachelors degree in psychology from Augsburg College in 2014 and I am currently in my Masters program for EBD. I am incredibly thrilled to be working with you and your future leaders this school year!

We have nine amazing paraprofessionals working with the special education team this year (some will also play other roles in the building):



Bridget Brooks



Kai Carter



D.J. Davison



Ken Flaminio



Katie Gregerson



Kim Handren



Tessa Harchysen



Sweet Vang



Bethany Young

We contract related service providers to meet individual needs. Your child may or may not receive support from some of the following professionals:



**Jennifer Uttech \* School Social Worker \* juttech@excellacademy.org \* 763-533-0500 x141**

I'm looking forward to my third year with Excell Academy! I graduated with my Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of St. Thomas/St. Katherine's University and I am a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW). In addition to providing special education services for some students, I work with all students and families at the school to provide support and resources.

**Amy Bergsbaken \* Speech Therapist \* abergsbaken@bywordofmouthltd.com \* 612-200-2003**

**Victoria Holmquist \* Occupational Therapist \* victoria@advancetherapy.org \* 651-784-7007**

**Theresa Christoferson \* Developmental/Adaptive Physical Education \* theresac@mpls.k12.mn.us**

Our special education leadership:



**Joy Fehring \* Special Education Coordinator \* jfehring@excellacademy.org \* cell: 651-206-8233**

I am excited to be returning to the Excell Academy special education team this school year! I have a BA Degree from Hamline in Psychology and English and Masters Degree from Saint Thomas in Special Education/Autism Spectrum Disorders. For most of my teaching career, I have taught students with autism and other disabilities in Saint Paul. I have a strong passion for providing opportunities to students with special needs to allow each student to reach their full potential. Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.



You may also contact:

**Carina Abate-Wright \* Special Education Director \* cabatewright@indigomn.org**