



Greetings Aspen Families,

One of the greatest components at Aspen Academy is the ability for our teachers to meet the needs of all students. This is accomplished through rigorous curriculum aligned to state standards, small class sizes and data used to drive our instructional decision making.

At Aspen, we incorporate the MTSS, Multi-Tiered Support System, model which helps us identify any gaps or missing skills early in a child's education. We have an SST, Student Support Team, which meets weekly to review data and progress to close gaps and solidify those skills needed for success. The ultimate goal of early intervention is to get a student back on grade level track and reduce the need for special education referrals.

SST is led by Principal, Melanie Jiskra, and consists of representation of all areas throughout a child's educational day. This is strategic as we get an idea of how students' are performing and responding to instruction, connecting with different teaching styles and strategies, and what is noticed throughout a child's full day. It is a full problem solving team!

Here is how the process works:

Teachers are in communication with parents regarding progress and growth, along with any concerns.

If there are concerns, teachers will visit with parents to let them know they would like to take the child to SST to gather ideas and interventions to implement. All interventions are evidence-based and are proven effective supports.

Following the meeting, teachers will connect back with parents on what is being implemented and also progress on the intervention. Research tells us we need at least 6 weeks of progress monitoring data on the one intervention being utilized.

SST is not a special education referral, does not 'label a child, nor does it focus specifically on just academics. Behaviors and social emotional needs are addressed, also. It truly is a team to offer ideas and support for the student and teachers based on best practices. It is amazing when you gather a table of experts, with experience and research, and a deep love for children and their success, what can be accomplished.

If you have any questions regarding the SST process or committee, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Melanie Jiskra
Principal