

Mattawan

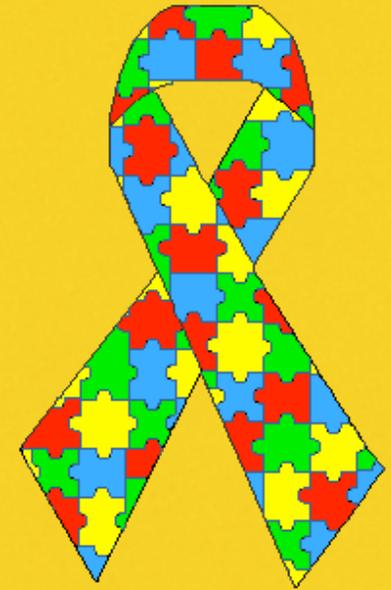
Autism Resource Team Guiding Principles

We believe that all individuals have the right to a high quality education and services that enhance their potential to become fully participating citizens within our society. We believe individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder need parents and professionals in the fields of education and health who recognize and appreciate their individuality and their need for highly skilled and knowledgeable champions of their learning and development.

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder have a neurobiological impairment that affects their social interaction, ability to communicate, patterns of behavior, interests and activities. Autism is a pervasive developmental disorder with a life-long impact for diagnosed individuals, their families and society as a whole. The pervasiveness of Autism Spectrum Disorder requires collaboration across disciplines in developing state-of-the-art resources and training. We strongly believe that all children can learn and succeed with appropriate support.

To positively impact the quality of life of individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the Mattawan Later Elementary Autism Resource Team has established the following guiding principles:

1. We will build supportive and respectful relationships with families.
2. Every student will have social opportunities designed to improve interactions with peers.
3. Every student will feel connected with members of the school community.
4. Every student will be given opportunities to integrate into general education settings for social and/or academic experiences.
5. An individualized functional communication system will be provided throughout the school environment at all times for every student.
6. Every student's behavioral and sensory concerns will be addressed with a team approach.
7. We respectfully support students to promote functional independence.



PARENT GUIDE

STRATEGIES & ACCOMMODATIONS



56720 Murray St Mattawan, MI 49071

269.668.3361

How your Mattawan School Family can support your child with Autism or Asperger Syndrome

At Mattawan Consolidated School, we have an 'open door' policy regarding communication with parents. We encourage parents to work directly with teachers to create the best environment possible for the child. Teachers are easily reached either by phone or email and are willing to support all children in the classroom.

At both the Early Elementary and Later Elementary, an Autism Support Team has been established. The purpose of this team is to assist in educating staff about autism and aspergers as well as supply materials and advice for teachers as needed. All buildings in the district have access to Board Maker, a software program designed to create visual cues for students who may need a more visual schedule or prompting system. A professional library is available in each of the building libraries offering resources to parents for themselves or to share with others who may need them.

More importantly than materials, both the early elementary and later elementary are equipped with 'coaches'. These coaches are available to problem solve with teachers should they have students on the spectrum and are needing support.



Coaches are trained on an on-going basis through the Statwide Autism Resource Support Team (StART).

Outside of the classroom, each building offers a counseling department which offers (depending on the building), one-on-one counseling, Friendship Groups, or Engine Groups. This support system offers a child on the spectrum opportunities to work with and socialize with peers in a safe environment with the hopes of giving them strategies for

creating their own friendships and social supports independently.

In order to support the sensory needs of a student on the spectrum, all buildings are supplied with fidgets, wiggle seats, therapy balls, and weighted pillows, snakes, vests, and back packs. Our own occupational therapist is available to make recommendations of how to use these as well.

Mattawan does not view behavioral issues in a student on the spectrum as being typical. Our first line is to make sure that we have the sensory supports, clear communication tools, and positive relationships in place to prevent any behavior problems from happening.

Thanks to our Autism Support Team as well as the Van Buren Intermediate School District for their support and education regarding Autism.

We look forward to supporting your family and wish to work with you to make your child's education here at Mattawan the best it can be.