



August 2025 ~ Board Report

Special Education and Preschool

1. Welcome to our new Special Education Staff Members



- **Christina Localameto** **Middle School Special Education Teacher**
Christina comes to Southgate with many years of experience in both Special Education and General Education and is a great addition to our Special Education team.



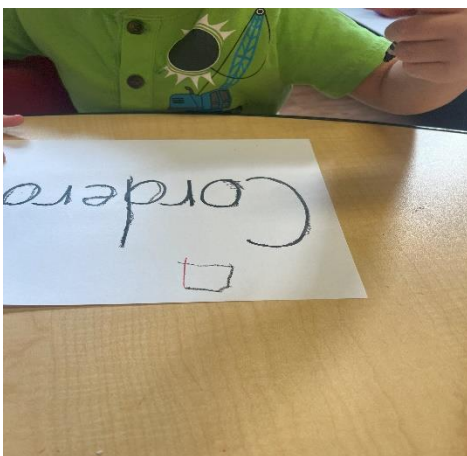
- **Malia Melville** **Elementary Special Education Teacher**
Malia is not new to Southgate, but she is new to Special Education. She is currently going through the Option 6 Program to get her Master's in Special Education. She too is a great addition to our Special Education Team.

2. I am requesting to submit the Application for Medicaid Certification for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Medicaid SBHS program is designed specifically to allow school districts to act as health care providers and be reimbursed under Medicaid. School districts may be reimbursed by approximately 70 percent of the state and local funds they spend on some related services in the individualized education programs (IEP) of children with disabilities who are eligible under both IDEA and Medicaid.

The funds generated go into the general fund. KSBA will be our third-party billing agent.

3. The Little Lions Camp ended their program with a trip to the Wilder Splash Pad. Our littlest lions learned so much this summer!





4. **Preschool screenings are scheduled for August 18th. The screenings include speech & language screening, cognitive screening, social emotional screening, and motor skills screening.**

Key Purposes of Preschool Screenings

Early Identification of Developmental Delays

- Screenings provide a snapshot of a child's progress in domains like language, motor skills, cognition, and social-emotional development
- They help identify children who may be at risk for developmental delays or disabilities—critical because early intervention is proven to greatly improve outcomes

Facilitating Timely Intervention

- Early intervention supports include speech-language therapy, occupational therapy (OT), and other specialized services. These interventions capitalize on the brain's high plasticity in the early years, boosting developmental progress

Referral for In-Depth Evaluation

- While screenings are brief and not diagnostic, they indicate if a child should be referred for a comprehensive evaluation by specialists like speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, developmental pediatricians, or psychologists

Promoting School Readiness

- Skills assessed—such as communication, motor coordination, self-regulation, and cognitive understanding—are foundational for success in preschool and kindergarten environments
- Screenings support smoother transitions into school, helping educators tailor support early

Supporting and Informing Families

- They empower parents by highlighting their child's strengths and any areas that might benefit from practice or support

5. **Students with special needs required related services for occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision support, psychological evaluations, and behavior therapy. I am requesting approval for the following related service contracts for the 2025-2026 school year:**

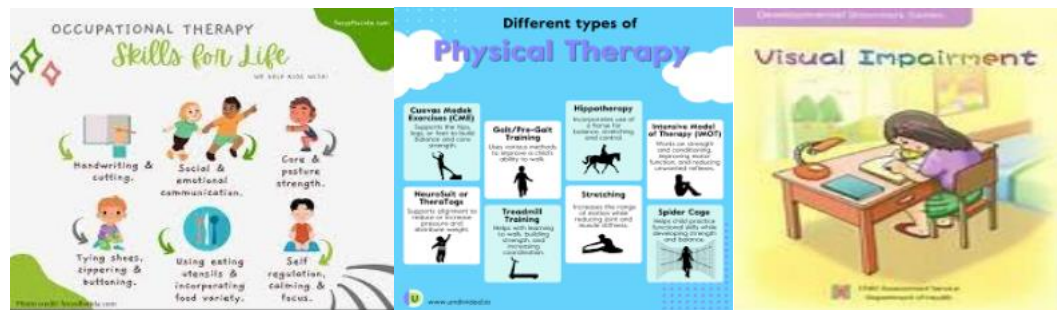
Fast Forward Psychological Associates

Pediatric Therapy Specialists DBA Power House

Speech/Language Therapy Services, LLC

Cindy Goetz, VI Consultant

Keys to Success Music Therapy



6. **2025-2026 is going to be a great year! I am looking forward to working with the Southgate Board of Education, Administration Team, and Special Education Staff to provide our students with special needs the things they need to make them successful and reach their full potential!**

*Pursuing Academic Excellence and Developing Strong Character for **Every Student.....Every Day!***

