

## MEET THE STUDENTS' FIRST TEAM

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Sandy or any of the following team members with any questions regarding Students' First:

**Mrs. Wendi Cathcart**– Math Coach

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**Mrs. Janice Cirone**– Literacy Coach

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**Mrs. Kim Gilmore**–1st grade teacher  
(Inclusion)

x. 4104 klong@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

**Mrs. Jo Ann Kiessling**– 1st grade teacher

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**Mrs. Tori Magsam**– 1st grade Special Education Teacher

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**Mrs. Samantha Plasky**– School Counselor

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**Dr. Kathleen Pilarz**– Child Study Team

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**Mrs. Jamie Sweeney**– 2nd grade teacher  
Inclusion

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## OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## Intervention & Referral Services – Students' First

“Every Student. Every Day.  
Whatever It Takes.”

## What is the Students' First team?

The Students' First team, also known as the Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) team, is a school-based, problem solving committee selected to assist staff members with intervention strategies for meeting individual student academic, behavior, and social/emotional needs.

The team seeks creative ways to maximize the use of all available school and/or district resources and offers staff members specific ways to effectively utilize recommended strategies/resources. Our Students' First team recognizes all students learn in different ways and approaches each student case individually to best meet the particular needs of each student referred.

The Students' First team at Oakview Elementary School provides an important avenue for staff members to work together to explore all services available for our students. We hope you find the information in this brochure helpful in understanding the role of the Students' First team and how it works to help your child.

## When is it appropriate for a staff member to seek assistance from the Students' First team?

Assistance is requested when the child is experiencing difficulties which are affecting his/her academic, behavior, or social/emotional progress. Teachers will explore various classroom interventions to help the child be successful in the classroom and include documentation of these interventions when submitting a student referral to the Students' First team.

## Who serves on the Students' First

It is important to be represented by staff who have different areas of expertise and experience on the Students' First team so the most effective strategies can be developed to help your child. Please refer to the contact list in this brochure for our current team members.

## What happens when the Students' First team meets?

The requesting staff member is asked to briefly describe the student being referred and any issues that may be occurring in the classroom. Strategies currently being used in the classroom are identified; alternative means of intervention are discussed and new approaches/strategies are agreed upon. A timeline is established for implementing new recommendations and monitoring their effectiveness. Each referred student is assigned a case liaison, who is a member of the Students' First team, and keeps in communication with both the teacher and the parents during this process.

## What is the role of parents in the Students' First process?

Parents/guardians are an integral part of this process. Parents will be informed by the teacher of concerns regarding their child's progress and will be contacted prior to the teacher submitting a Students' First referral. The parent will then receive a parent questionnaire to complete seeking their input at the start of this process. After the initial Students' First meeting, parents will receive a letter summarizing the meeting results, highlighting students' strengths/weaknesses, and outlining a plan of action with specific intervention strategies to be implemented. The Students' First team will then meet again to determine the extent of student progress and response to intervention. Parents will be invited to participate in this follow-up meeting to provide additional input and receive feedback regarding the intervention plan and further recommendations by the Students' First team.

