

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Director of Special Education



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Dear Families,

It is with great excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the new Director of Special Education for Stoneham Public Schools. I am honored to have been invited to join a great school community and to lead a talented department devoted to serving students and their families. Since my start in early August, I've met and spoken with administrators, principals, program supervisors, faculty, staff, our SEPAC co-chair and parents. A theme I've heard repeated is that in Stoneham, decisions are based on what's in the best interest of students. In just a few short weeks, I've learned about the systems and structures in place to support students and their families, as well as faculty and staff suggestions and wishes for strengthening our practices and processes. In upcoming weeks and months, I look forward to continuing these conversations, listening and learning more, and through close collaboration with colleagues and with you I'll prioritize areas of focus as I create an entry plan for our work together.

This Wednesday, September 1st, we look forward to welcoming your children back to school, in-person. Please reach out to your child's teacher and special education teacher if you have questions in these first days and weeks of school. They will be happy to respond to your questions or, if necessary, will direct you to someone who can. As the school year gets underway, we appreciate your assistance in helping us to comply with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with respect to mask wearing and safety procedures. Regarding special education team meetings, we will continue to hold team meetings virtually, and will reassess as the school year progresses. I'll share additional information about SEPAC meetings and other gatherings we plan to host for families, in the next few weeks.

Best wishes for a smooth and happy start to this new school year! Please contact me by email or phone with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. I look forward to meeting you and to our ongoing collaboration to ensure an engaging, happy and successful school year for your children.

Sincerely,

Anne Zernicke
Director of Special Education

www.stonehamschools.org