

*I am concerned about my child...*

**How do I access Kindergarten Connections services for my child?**

If you are concerned about your child's behavior and/or social-emotional adjustment to their classroom, please contact Ms. Grceski to discuss your concerns.

Please Note: Academic concerns should be addressed directly with your child's teacher. However, if you feel there are social-emotional difficulties that your child is experiencing, which are affecting their ability to learn and function in the classroom, these are concerns you should share with the Social Worker as well.

**What happens next?**

The Social Worker will assess your concerns based on the information you provide along with relevant history.

Your child's eligibility for services will be determined, and an initial plan of action will be determined by the Social Worker based around your child's needs.

The parent/guardian, teacher, and Social Worker work together as a team to develop and implement this plan in order to maximize gains in your child's social and academic functioning. The plan is then modified throughout the school year in order to meet the changing needs of your child.

Each Classroom has an assigned Kindergarten Connections Social Worker:

Kindergarten:

Mrs. Borlace  
Mr. Buckley  
Mrs. Donald  
Mrs. Kessler  
Ms. Portelli  
Ms. Reest  
Ms. Siwik  
Ms. Tanner  
Ma. Williams

GSRP (Pre-K):

Ms. Jankowski  
Mrs. Kordie  
Ms. Lafferty  
Mrs. Loritz  
Mrs. Smith  
Ms. Theis  
Ms. Westra  
Ms. Williams  
Ms. Wilson

**Please contact Ms. Grceski to voice your concerns and needs regarding your child.**

*Telephone 734.762.8490 ext. 9295*

*Facsimile 734.762.8539*

Lathers Elementary and Kindergarten Center  
28351 Marquette  
Garden City, MI 48135

Lathers Elementary



Kindergarten Connections Program

Parent Guide

School Social Workers  
Contact Information:

Danica Grceski, LMSW

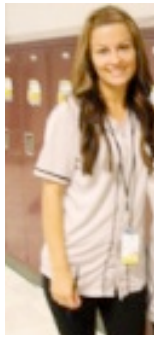
Hours: M-F 8:50-4:10pm

734.762.8490 ext. 9295

[grceskd@gardencityschools.com](mailto:grceskd@gardencityschools.com)

\*This is an informative guide on all Kindergarten Connections services that will be available to *eligible* Lathers students and families.\*

\*Eligibility for individual and group services will be determined by the classroom Social Worker.\*



## Lathers Kindergarten Connections Program

### School Social Workers:

*Meet Ms. Grzeski!*

#### **WHAT** is the Kindergarten Connections Program?

Kindergarten Connections is a program designed to connect students, families, teachers, and community with supports that promote social-emotional growth and academic success.

*Each classroom has an assigned Kindergarten Connections Social Worker*

#### **WHY** do today's schools need School Social Workers?

Children today are increasingly impacted by many social factors that may negatively affect their role as students. The family is in a state of change and until it becomes stabilized, in whatever form, children's unmet physical and social-emotional needs will continue to interfere with their ability to learn and adjust in school.

#### **WHO** are School Social Workers?

School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a Masters degree in Social Work (MSW) that provide services related the student's social, emotional, and life adjustment to school, family, and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families, and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

## **WHAT** Kindergarten Connections programs and services are available?

#### **Classroom Services:**

- Push-in services in classrooms
- Classroom presentations (i.e. bullying prevention, good touch/bad touch)
- Social stories developed and taught; shared with students and teachers to help teach/guide students that have difficulties with adjusting to school social situations (i.e. lunch time, sharing, recess, conflict resolution, etc.)

#### **Individual Student Services:**

- Individualized counseling for students in need to build specific skills

#### **Group Services:**

- Small support groups (social skills, friendship groups, impulse control, anger management, character building, grief and loss, family changes, and coping with anxiety)

#### **Behavior Intervention:**

- Development of plans for individual student's needs that require additional behavior support.
- Includes use of behavior charts, rewards, movement breaks, visual supports, and sensory interventions such as bumpy seats, sensory strips and tactile items.
- Positive Behavior Support focused - May include daily positive reinforcement/rewards for behavior improvement.

#### **Crisis Intervention:**

- Crisis plan development for students identified as being suicidal/homicidal, victim of child abuse/neglect, or crisis issues such as recent divorce, death in the family, serious illness, etc.

#### **Parent Education/Outreach:**

- Monthly parent education workshops on a variety of topics (Love & Logic, Reading & Math with Kindergarteners, etc.)
- "Kindergarten Connections Corner" inside of Lathers newsletter, providing information about program details local community events, workshops and resources
- Kindergarten Connections link on Lathers website, detailing program and service information

## Services Continued...

#### **Community Resources / Partnerships:**

- Connecting families with needed community resources
- Community Resource brochure stand (Location: school lobby)
- Partnership with Lathers PTA offering FREE Monthly Parent Education Workshops/Read-Ins
- Partnerships with local agencies to better service the needs of families

#### **Homeless Liaison Services:**

- Assisting homeless students/families with needed resources and supplies (i.e. free lunch, clothing, school, supplies, etc.)

#### **Health Related Services:**

- Partnership with Mobile Dentist to provide in-school dentist visits
- Health-related referrals to local doctors/dentists/community agencies
- Assistance with Medicaid/MiChild insurance application

#### **Holiday Assistance:**

- Connecting families to various community holiday assistance programs for clothing, coats, food, toys, etc.
- Partnerships with various local agencies/organizations and businesses to provide children and families with winter coats, Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance
- Lathers Adopt-A-Child Christmas holiday assistance program

#### **School Improvement:**

- Kindergarten Connections program surveys/professional input to determine school needs, share information, guide intervention, and evaluate/improve program effectiveness