



# **Student Success at New Buffalo Area Schools**

**Presented by the Wellness Team:  
Caroline Fortunato, Lisa Price, Keri Haskins,  
Angela Robertson, Megan Smith**

Board of Education Presentation  
May 12, 2025

**Thank you for inviting us. We are happy to share how we each contribute to help support students' social, emotional, behavioral, academic and career needs this year at NBAS.**

<b>1</b>	<b>MS/HS Student Advocate</b>	Caroline Fortunato (6th-12th)
<b>2</b>	<b>Secondary Social Worker</b>	Megan Smith (6th-12th)
<b>3</b>	<b>Elementary School Counselor</b>	Keri Haskins (PK-5)
<b>4</b>	<b>Secondary School Counselor</b>	Angela Robertson (6th-12th)
<b>5</b>	<b>College and Career Counselor</b>	Lisa Price (9th-12th)

# Caroline Fortunato, MS/HS Student Advocate

## My Role

- Track PowerSchool & Munetrix Data - Grades, Attendance, Log Entries
- Lead Weekly At-Risk Meetings
- Regular Check-Ins with At-Risk Students
- Monitor 504 Plans
  - Testing Accommodations
- Oversee Credit Recovery Program (Educere)
- Threat Assessment Team
- Crisis Response Team

## Attendance Data

- MS & HS ADA = 94%
- Strengthening attendance supports in MS/HS
  - Contact home when attendance concerns arise
  - 2 HS students on attendance contracts (One improved from 11 absences, 8 tardies → 3 absences, 0 tardies)
- 25/26 Focus: Expand early MS interventions; strengthen chronic absenteeism strategies
  - Bloomz reminders
  - Attendance contracts
  - Address school anxiety
  - PBIS

## Academic Interventions

- 1:1 Support
  - Academic Essentials
  - Study Skills
  - Guided Academics
  - Advisory/WIN Time
  - ESL Essentials (Thanks Maria Lozano!)
  - ELA/Math RTI
- Daily CICO Check-Ins
  - 2 MS students
- Daily Homework Trackers
  - 2 HS students
- Credit Recovery
  - 1 HS student currently enrolled
- Personal Curriculum
  - 1 HS student
- 200+ interventions since March

# MS/HS Social Work -Megan Smith

<b>1:1 Sessions</b>	On average, I saw about 8-10 kids per day in the MS/HS  Have standing appts with 7 students in MS, about 5 in the HS (have mostly walk-ins for HS)
<b>Community Circles</b>	Done during the last 30 mins of the day, saw entire student body twice. Focused on building community, proactive sessions
<b>TRAILS groups</b>	Group focused on anxiety/depression- 4 students
<b>Social Skills Groups</b>	Ran a group Thursdays during MS lunch for those struggling with basic social skills-5 students
<b>BIP/FBA's</b>	Assisted in creating BIP's for students with behavioral needs in district
<b>Restorative Practices</b>	Trained in Restorative Practices both proactive and reactive. Performed Restorative circles with students often. Being trained to train staff on how to run circles in the classroom.
<b>Other Duties</b>	Crisis Response Team, Threat Assessments, Bullying Task Force Team, SIP Team member, SADD Club for Middle School, Student Support Team Member MS

# Keri Haskins, Elementary School Counselor

<b>PBIS Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tier 1 Silver Award-State Recognition</li><li>• Lead Monthly PBIS team meetings, student assemblies, class compliments competition, students of the month</li><li>• 71% increase in parent contacts since last year, 108% increase in positive parent contacts (more than doubled from last year)</li><li>• Increased behavior needs, suggest social work services in the future at NBES</li></ul>
<b>Tier 1 Counseling Lessons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver counseling lessons to 237 NBES students, weekly: K-5, 2x/month Pre-K</li></ul>
<b>Tier 2 Small Groups/Interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead, organize, and facilitate small groups for the 24-25 school year</li><li>• 46 students received small group services</li></ul>
<b>Tier 3 Individual counseling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 355 sessions, 105 students-School Counselor</li><li>• 15 students have seen BRESA Mental Health Therapist</li><li>• 3 ELL students have seen BRESA Spanish-speaking mental health therapist</li></ul>
<b>Child Study Team Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 students/families, meet approximately every 6 weeks</li></ul>
<b>Restorative Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Received 2 grants-United Way and Whole Child Award for new Sensory Room</li><li>• Added Restorative Parapro Position</li><li>• Practice community circles daily, and restorative practices building-wide</li></ul>
<b>Other Duties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crisis Response Team, Threat Assessment Team, Wellness Team, Bullying Task Force Member, SIP Member, Elementary Powerschool Scheduling, Bison Boutique Coordinator, Kindness Month, Career Month, Bison Ambassador Advisor, NBES Facebook Collaborator, Class Catalyst</li></ul>



# Angela Robertson, Secondary Counselor

## *Data Stats*

### **Tier 1:**

**CC, Xello, CAC, SOS, Mellow Mondays, \*PBIS**

Tier 1 Lessons- 58

CC Replies- 5,000

Hosted Collabs-17

Assemblies- 2



### **Tier 2:**

**Lory's Place, H2O, Social Skills Lunch Groups**

Student Group Participants: 30

### **Tier 3:**

Ongoing Counseling- 22 students

Parent Consultations- 27

Successful Outside Referrals- 4

Referrals to SSW- 5 students

\*SST Process- 5 students

Mid March/April- 41 student self referrals MS



## *MS Initiatives*

### **PBIS Lead:**

TFI 1 grew 5 to 17

Monthly Team Meetings

Powerschool Changes

HERD Expectations Est.

PBIS Awards- Digital System

Over 4,000 points awarded by staff!

HERD Hut (PBIS store- 8th grade)



### **Student Support Team Lead:**

At-Risk students, online form, protocols to start parent meetings (4-6 weeks), documentation of interventions, NB Trust promoting

### **Additional Responsibilities:**

Testing Coordinator: PSAT 8/9 & M-Step (April/May)

Scheduling- Advocate for more Blue & Gold choices

Student survey results: Cooking, STEM Building, Study Skills, Experimental Science

SIP Member, Crisis Team Member, Bully Task Force Facilitator, Mentor, Bison Boutique Owner, Facebook Content Manager

# Lisa Price, High School Counselor

## Scheduling

Develop master schedule (crossover teachers, singleton courses, AK Smith, Math Science Center, CTE, Band, AP all make for concerns in scheduling)

## Seniors

Applications, College Visitation days from reps, trips to SMC/LMC, FAFSA, scholarships, orientations, Senior Honors Night, apprenticeships

## Testing

SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, Workkeys, M-Step, PSAT 9, PSAT 10, AP, CLEP, Accommodations

## Other

Credit audits, transcripts, report cards, at-risk biweekly meetings, Career Pathway Day, tenth graders to visit AK Smith, BRESA Student Advisory, Wellness Group

**We would like to thank the following community members and organizations for their generous donations and valuable resources for our students.**

The Pokagon Fund, Berrien Community Foundation, PTO, Harbor Country Toys for Tots, Lory's Place, Lions, Club, Water's Edge Church-Blessings in a Backpack, Hollis Oselka, Rotary Club, Women's Service League, Children's Advocacy Center, Miss NB Scholarship Pageant, David's Deli, Brewsters, Nancy's, High School Student Senate and many additional community members and organizations.

Amber Smith, Nick Dietrich, Ali Talbott, Julie & Jamie Flick,  
Barb Coffman, Alex Ott, Darlene Heemstra