

HOMETOWN HERO:

Robyn Healy

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Robyn Healy is the Speech Language Pathologist at Marley Elementary School whose professional skills assist our entire school community in supporting students on the autism spectrum. The fact that she so willingly shares her in-depth knowledge of pragmatic language and social skills instruction helps our staff to establish positive protocols that support the social and emotional growth of students on the autism spectrum. In addition, Ms. Healy was a contributing author to the Building Bridges project. She wrote lessons, created games, and established a vision for an encompassing approach to support ASD students. At Marley Elementary School, Ms. Healy uses these resources to conduct friendship empathy lessons in all classes where a student with autism is a member. Through her skillful presentation, all students learn empathy for students who are different. All students build a greater capacity to expand their friendships and ‘build bridges’ with better understanding for all individuals who may be perceived as different. These lessons give our entire school community a common language and vision for moving forward as a cohesive school community.

In addition, Ms. Healy is the ‘master’ of social stories at Marley Elementary School. Her proficiency with Boardmaker and other technology programs enable her to quickly adapt and personalize generic social stories to meet the needs of individual students. Often, our team brainstorms ideas for social stories, and Ms. Healy arrives with the story complete and illustrated. We are all grateful for her proficiency and team spirit as all students benefit!

In delivering speech/language services, Ms. Healy has a wonderful rapport with students on the spectrum. She patiently focuses on identified needs and does whatever it takes to support their growth. In addition to individual therapy, Ms. Healy collaborates with all staff members to embed services throughout the day. This collaboration and encompassing approach supports greater student achievement. We not only appreciate Ms. Healy’s vision, but also her efforts to establish a team approach to support our students.

I consider Ms. Healy a Hometown Hero for her vision of overarching services to students on the autism spectrum, as well as for her efforts to help her colleagues learn strategies to foster greater social and emotional growth of ASD students throughout the school day. Her efforts are appreciated by staff, parents and students!!