

Services at Spicewood

The social, emotional, behavioral, physical, academic, technological, and artistic needs of our students are met in various ways at Spicewood Elementary. We are fortunate to be able to offer a wide range of services for our students.

Advanced Placement

Students may qualify to place out of a grade and advance to the next grade through a process developed by the school district. Special provisions exist for students who are in kindergarten and must be 5 years old when they begin school. To learn more about this service, parents should contact the Spicewood Counselor.

Clinic

Spicewood has a full-time registered nurse who runs a busy clinic that supports our students and staff. Besides providing care to the sick and injured, she makes appointments for exams and dental sealants. She works with parents who need assistance with health insurance and/or Medicaid. She promotes wellness and contributes to the health education program in individual classrooms, coordinates the maturation films for fourth and fifth grade girls and boys, and performs screening procedures for hearing, vision, and scoliosis. The school nurse is also the contact person for our students who have "health plans." Health plans are developed for students with life-threatening allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.

Clubs and Activities

Many opportunities abound for the students who want to participate in school activities that occur before, during, or after school. Spicewood students can be library helpers, friends of the atrium, safety patrols, mediators, broadcast announcers, running club members, chess club participants. The Scouts have strong affiliations with our campus and offer programs that meet at our school after school, in the evenings, and on special weekends. It is not uncommon for a Boy Scout to "graduate" from our school and earn credits to become an Eagle Scout by doing a special project for our campus. After school clubs that are sponsored by our teachers are listed on a separate document that parents may want to peruse.

Counseling Services

Students, parents, and teachers have access to our full-time School Counselor. The entire school benefits from her open-door policy and the wide variety of services that she offers. She supports the school in four basic areas: guidance curriculum, responsive service, individual planning, and system support. The PYP attitudes are imbedded in our expectations for good citizenship and bullying prevention is specifically taught through classroom visits. The counselor meets with some students on an individual basis, and has regularly scheduled lunch dates with a few students several days a week. She also coordinates our Mediation Teams, our Parent Mentors, and our High School Mentors. Our Counselor is also the contact person for students with Limited English Proficiency, and the advanced placement program.

Dyslexia Services

Students who are identified as having dyslexia are served by a Dyslexic Itinerant Teacher. Services are for 45 minutes a session and typically planned for a minimum of three days a week. To learn more about dyslexia, parents should ask their child's teacher.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

A full emersion ESL program is offered to students whose native language is not English or who are assessed as Limited English Proficient (LEP). This program is in the general education classroom and is staffed by teachers who are ESL certified. Most of the teachers at Spicewood have their ESL Certification.

Intervention Team Services

Each Monday the principal, assistant principal, counselor, Interventionist teachers, parent support specialist, and a Collaborative Teacher meet to discuss students who have been referred to the intervention team. Typically, academic, behavior, social, and/or emotional needs are addressed. The team looks at any data provided, discusses options, and makes a plan for each student that is then shared with the teacher. A "case manager" is assigned to each student and he/she is responsible for reporting the progress of the plan at the next meeting. In order for a student to receive any special service(s) at Spicewood, he or she must have gone through this intervention process. It is possible for a student to not be referred by a teacher, but be brought up by an Intervention Team member because of poor performance on an assessment, frequent referrals to the office or clinic, attendance issues, or concerns expressed by a parent, tutor, or truant officer.

Intervention

Students identified as not making satisfactory progress on a state or district-administered assessment or who have not met promotion standards qualify to receive services with our Interventionist. A teacher assistant and a special education teacher are available for instructional support.

Library Services

The students, parents, and teachers have access to on-line resources that include talking books, science trivia, and much, much more. These on-line services are highly used during the evenings, weekends, and holidays. The library is considered the hub of the school and is used for inquiry by students in all grade levels. The library is staffed by a Library Media Specialist who has her Masters Degree in Library Science and an instructional aide.

Literacy and Math Support Groups

Students who are identified as at-risk due to their performance on a pre-determined assessment can qualify for a literacy and/or a math small-group intervention. The teacher who works with these students is considered highly qualified and has multiple certifications, including ESL, Special Education, and Gifted and Talented. She is also trained in Cognitive Guided Instruction, Dyslexia and Reading Recovery.

Math Enrichment Programs

Students in Kindergarten through fifth grade are given the opportunity to participate in the math *club*. This service is organized by our Parent Teacher Association and is focused on

enrichment and higher-level thinking skills. Many of our students find this program to be both fun and challenging.

Mediation Teams

The counselor and three fourth grade teachers developed Mediation Teams a few years ago attending extensive summer training. Based on an identified need, we decided that mediation teams could assist our students in how to deal with conflict. About twenty students in fourth and fifth grade participate in training at the beginning of the school year to practice anger and conflict management in a safe and structured process. The training process honors individuality and self-efficacy, and gives recognition to each person's capability for being a responsible part of a team. Mediation Teams have specialized t-shirts and often do broadcasts on our school network show and help with Principals' Pride ceremonies.

Music, Art, and Physical Education (P.E.)

All students at Spicewood have classes in music, art, and P.E. The teachers of these classes are certified in these special areas. Children are not only exposed to the history of music and art, they are given multiple opportunities to participate in various learning activities. Students learn how to play the guitar and keyboard, sing music, and participate in musical programs. In Art, students are exposed to using various mediums, such as clay, paint, and chalk. The P.E. teachers create various activities that support health and wellness. Students experience fun and challenging opportunities that range from running to bowling. Students also learn from a health curriculum that is taught and then modeled throughout the year.

Panther Buddies

A few students from our feeder high school come to Spicewood each semester to help tutor students who have been identified as needing additional support in reading, writing, or mathematics.

Parent Resource Specialist

Spicewood has a Parent Resource Specialist! We were allocated ten hours a week for this person to help support our parents and students who may be at risk and/or have special needs. This has been an invaluable service for many of our parents. This person can help find insurance for a parent, get transportation to a shot clinic for a child in need of vaccinations, and procure a scholarship for a summer camp for a student who is to be alone at home for an entire summer. Parents can contact our Parent Resource Specialist by voicemail or stop by her office that is in the Parent Resource Center (located outside our library).

Parent Mentors

Spicewood had many parent and community adult mentors who came to school once a week to meet with a "special student." In their 30 minutes, they are often seen playing board games or eating lunch. Students who are assigned mentors are identified each year through the counseling program.

Peers Reaching Out (PROs)

Westwood High School, our "feeder" school provides us with PROs each year. We usually have 5 to 10 high school students who came to school each week to meet with a "special friend." In their 30 minutes, they are seen talking, listening, reading, or playing a board game with them. Students needing Special Friends are identified each year through the counseling program.

Principals' Pride Celebrations

Throughout the year students are recognized for modeling one of the PYP attitudes in the Principals' Pride Assembly Celebrations. Parents of the students are invited to attend the ceremony, where children receive a certificate and a small token of congratulations. Every student at Spicewood participates in these ceremonies that are intended to ensure every child receives individual special recognition.

Spanish

All students at Spicewood have Spanish classes each week. The Spanish teacher is certified in Spanish and brings a wealth of knowledge to her classroom. Children are exposed to the Spanish language and also learn information that pertains to the Spanish culture.

Special Education Services

A Licensed School Psychologist is available at Spicewood each week to discuss students who may need to be assessed for a disability. A full time Speech Pathologist is at Spicewood to assess and serve students with articulation or language delays. Students who qualify for Special Education services may receive a broad range of services that are listed in the Individual Education Plans. Most of the students who are in Special Education at Spicewood are served in the general education classroom with "Inclusion" support. Students in special education may also attend Resource or Content Mastery for support. Content Mastery is located in the Student Assisted Instruction Lab (SAIL), which is also available to students who do not qualify for special education services. Special Education Teachers at Spicewood are certified in Special Education and are considered "highly trained."

Student Teachers

Through a partnership with the University of Texas, Spicewood is assigned about a dozen student teachers each year. These college-aged students play a major role in supporting our students. Besides learning from some of the best teachers in the state, they allow their cooperating teachers opportunities to work with small groups of students while they are doing their "full-teach assignments."

Talented And Gifted (TAG) Program

Students who are identified as Talented and Gifted receive support through both an inclusive and "pull-out" model. All teachers at Spicewood have their Gifted and Talented certification; in addition there are three "TAG" teachers who serve identified students in grades kindergarten - fifth.

Tutoring Services

Many teachers at Spicewood offer after-school tutoring to their students. Spicewood also has mentors from the local High School who tutor some of our students during the school day.