

OT and PT and Speech, Oh My!



It's a team effort at Gwynedd Square! Speech therapists, Amy Francek and Julia McCann, occupational therapists, Jennifer States and Gail Sugerman, physical therapist Sue Zipfel, and inclusion facilitator, Maria Pfeiffer, were caught being inclusive over the first few weeks of the school year. Inspired by Julie Causton's Convocation presentation, they met as a team to take inclusion at Gwynedd Square to the next level. With the support of building principal, Bill Bowen, and Supervisor of Special Education, Tiffany D'Amore, the related services team

jointly planned their schedules for the year. They focused on: 1) providing classroom-based services whenever it would best serve the students, 2) scheduling regular opportunities to collaborate with grade-level planning teams, and 3) having frequent opportunities to meet as a team and with administrators throughout the year to improve communication about successes and challenges. Inclusive related services help reduce missed instructional time due to pull-out services, and can positively impact all students, even those who do not receive specialized programming. Gwynedd Square is in the early stages of implementing this new model but they are confident there will be positive outcomes for students and staff alike.