



## Welcome to the Learning Support & Counseling Services department at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School!

We are blessed to be such active members within the school community here.

We currently serve students who have *documented learning differences* by way of Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) and/or counseling and consultation services to address a variety of exceptional needs.

Based on the policies and procedures in the *2015 Diocesan Diversified Education Handbook*, we offer the following support to students and families as part of St. Serra's mission to meet the unique potential of the whole child:

**Consultation:** This includes meetings with teachers to develop strategies to enhance the whole learning experience for a specific child; meetings with parents to discuss concerns and to design and implement solutions; and classroom and playground observations to help understand student behaviors in a natural environment.

**Learning Support:** Our philosophy is that we ALL have strengths and weaknesses. Even Einstein himself was rumored to have failed his math classes! What this unique program provides is additional support for students who have academic, behavioral, emotional, and/or physical differences that affect their learning in a typical classroom environment. As Director of Learning Support, I collaborate with teachers, families, and administrators to develop and implement ILPs to meet the students' individual needs and help them achieve their full potential in all areas.

**Counseling:** Sometimes children can benefit from talking to someone about their feelings and the events of their lives, which is provided through short-term, solution-focused, confidential counseling (subject to scheduling availability). Examples of topics addressed include improving emotional and/or behavioral control and regulation; coping skills for family/environmental changes; strengthening social skills; reducing emotional distress; and enhancing self-esteem. Referrals for outside professionals are also available. Mr. Erik Christensen, our School Counselor, is also available to consult with parents and/or meet with students who have social or emotional concerns that may impact learning or relationships with others. He can be reached at [echristensen@serraschool.org](mailto:echristensen@serraschool.org) or ext. 8708.

**Resource Lists:** We can also provide you with an extensive referral list of local and community-based, assessment and psychotherapy providers upon request. Questions? Concerns? You've come to the right place! Please contact me – I look forward to hearing from you!

*Lori Quigley, Ph.D.*

Director of Learning Support

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