

Hello Parents!

I apologize for not being present this evening at Parent night, however, I had a family emergency that could-not wait. What cannot wait is my excitement about joining the staff here at Stratton as the new Social Worker! I feel extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to work in this school and with your children!

There are a few things that I would like you to know about myself, my philosophy and what I would like to accomplish for programming this year. First, I have two children who attended Stratton School years ago and this school has always had a special place in my heart. It is a caring community where children can flourish and grow, where it is hard to fall through the cracks and people care about each other. I worked here many years ago as an Ed. Tech in the Special Education Dept. and thoroughly enjoyed my time here then and am so very happy to be back! I have been a Social Worker in the school setting for the past eight years, mainly at the elementary and high school level.

In terms of my philosophy, I believe that students do their best when they feel safe and secure in their surroundings. It is very difficult for anyone to learn or achieve when you are not feeling secure. I believe that students need to feel connected to their teachers, staff and school community. Developing good working relationships with students and their families is paramount to the work we do with your kids! Within the realm of the school day, students learn their academics but they are also learning how to be social beings as well. How to get along with others, handle conflict and put themselves in other's shoes are not skills that we are born with, they too are learned. With that in mind, I will be visiting classrooms on a weekly basis teaching a social-emotional learning curriculum which is evidenced based in the hopes of increasing prosocial skills. You may see some papers come home so you can take a look at what they are learning in these lessons. I will be developing some small groups working on friendship skills and healthy relationships as well. I will be working with some students individually on coping skills, managing anxiety as well as doing some check-in's. I am not a Clinical Social Worker, but I am a Licensed Social Worker. The difference is that I do not do formal counseling or therapy, rather I help students with problem solving and teach those ever important social skills.

I am available anytime if you need any resources or have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. I look forward to meeting all of you and working with your children. Thank you for sharing your kids with us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Drumstas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Andrea Drumstas, LSW