



2018 Rookie ESE Administrator of the Year



Ashley Pennypacker-Hill, Ed.D. is the Director of ESE and Student and Family Services at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School. Ashley is a graduate of the University of Florida where she received her B.A. in elementary education, and Arts in Education, Masters in Special Education and her doctorate in curriculum, Teaching and Teacher Education with a Specialization in Teacher Leadership in 2013. She holds certifications in elementary, ESE, and ESOL in the state of Florida. Her experiences in education range from Associate Professor, Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports Specialist, Interim Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, to Florida Reading Initiative Master Trainer. Dr. Pennypacker-Hill has presented extensively across the state as well as other regions in our country in an array of areas that include, but not limited to, Teacher Leadership, School Reform, Action Research, Social Emotional Learning with Literacy Instruction, Universal Design for Learning, Response to Intervention, Multi-tiered System of Supports, Case Study of Elementary Science Teachers' experiences in a Science Learning Community, and accepted to be a Co- Presenter at the National Council of Teachers of English in Boston, MA. In addition, Ashley has several publications including a Blog post on "Learning can be messy and that's okay! Being a Reader RtI/MTSS Guidance," and "I Met My Goal!" The Use of Self-Regulated Learning with Students Receiving Tier 3 Instruction in Reading", *The Journal of Practitioner Research*: Vol. 2: Iss. 2, Article 6.

Ashley began her career at P.K.Yonge in 2004 and was recently appointed to supervise ESE in January 2018. Since this appointment, Ashley has been working diligently and in less than four (4) months has put into place the following practices and processes to support students with disabilities and families:

- Conducted a collaborative inquiry with one of her middle grade ESE teachers on how to transform IEP meetings to become student-led to increase student agency.
- Based on feedback from parents/guardians, streamlined the reporting/staffing process for stakeholders, especially the guardian(s). Developed a two-step process where, step 1, the guardian meets with the psychologist to review the full-evaluation, has an opportunity to ask questions, and think through the evaluation privately. Then, step 2, is when the guardian and the psychologist meet with the rest of the team for the reporting/staffing meeting. This allows the guardian more time to process the information that is being presented to them by the team.
- Strengthened the collaboration between the school psychology team and administration and arranged to meet weekly to discuss and review evaluations, track the 60 day timeline, and any student cases of concerns.
- Designed a re-entry process for when a student returns to school after experiencing a Baker Act.
- Leading weekly student and family services team, including deans, counselors, school psychology, nurse, SRO, and administrators, in editing, finalizing, and enacting emergency threat assessment protocols. These include: Administrative Decision Tree for School Emergency Incidents, Abuse/Neglect Response Procedure, Substance Abuse Response Procedure, Suicide Threat Response Procedure, Homicidal – Harm to Others Response Procedure, School Tragedy Response Procedure, Release of Information Consent Forms, Self-Harm Prevention Contracts, Behavior Contracts, Parent/Guardian Notification Letters, and Incident Documentation Forms.

Dr. Ashley Pennypacker-Hill is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), American Educational Research Association, Coalition of Essential Schools, Phi Delta Kappa International, Association for Curriculum Development, and Florida CASE. Her favorite quotes exemplifies her love in supporting students with disabilities; "Just do it with love and compassion." ~ *Dr. David Bole* and "You've always had the power my dear, you just had to learn it for yourself." ~ *Glinda from the Wizard of Oz*

Congratulations

Dr. Ashley Pennypacker-Hill