

## Student support services offered to all students

- Multisensory classroom teaching
- Frequent checking for understanding
- Visual and auditory clues
- Activity-based and hands-on learning
- Predictability and sense of structure
- Students primed for transitions
- Non-competitive classroom atmosphere
- Permission to work standing up
- HOKKI Stools, wobble cushions, focus tools
- Pencil grips, tilt boards for writing
- Adjusted homework loads

## Who we are

### **Betsy Cory, M.A., LPCC**

Director of Student Support Services  
K-8 School Counselor

### **Vera Balarin, B.S.**

Fifth Grade Math Teacher  
Lower School Math Specialist

### **Jen Levy, M.S.**

Lower School Learning Specialist

### **Amy Gordon Risz, M.S.**

Upper School Learning Specialist

## How to reach us if you have concerns

**Lower school** | Contact classroom teacher or  
Betsy Cory at [bcory@blackpinecircle.org](mailto:bcory@blackpinecircle.org)

**Upper school** | Contact your child's advisory lead  
or Betsy Cory at [bcory@blackpinecircle.org](mailto:bcory@blackpinecircle.org)



A SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

2027 7th Street

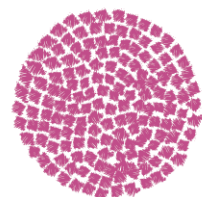
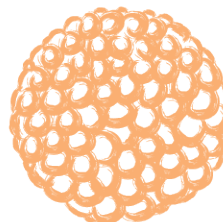
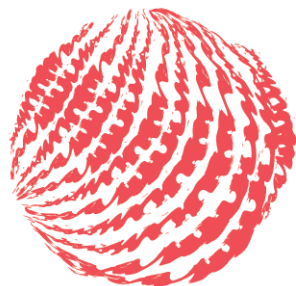
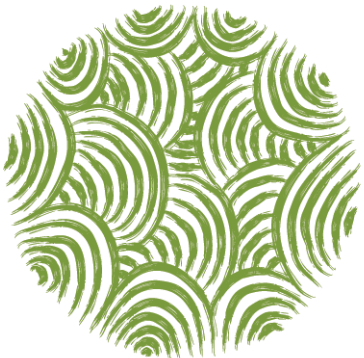
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**BLACK PINE  
CIRCLE SCHOOL**  
Student Support  
Services



## Student Support Services at Black Pine Circle School

We have a diversity of learners, learning styles, and academic achievement at Black Pine Circle School. In each classroom, through differentiation, we strive to have each student work in their zone of proximal development—the difference between what a learner can do without help and what they can do with help. With just the right amount and kind of support and intervention, our faculty guide students forward in all areas of learning as they work towards subject mastery. This is an ever-changing process and our students make progress in ways much like their physical growth; at different rates, sometimes slowly and sometimes by leaps and bounds.

Our Student Support Services work in concert with our teachers to provide support for the whole child, with the knowledge that academic growth goes hand in hand with social and emotional development. The goal is to help students develop a positive sense of themselves as learners and classroom citizens and to encourage self-advocacy so that every child can seek out more help when they need it.

Black Pine Circle's Student Support Services works with students, teachers, and families to address a student's individual learning differences in the following ways:

- Observation and basic screening
- Consultation and case management, working with teachers, families, and outside specialists, and monitoring progress
- Direct services with students in small groups and one-on-one sessions during the school day
- Connecting families and students to outside services such as educational therapists, tutors, and other specialists as need



### How do we determine if a student needs additional support?

- Teacher observations in the first few weeks of school are key to identifying learning differences that might be impeding or accelerating a student's progress. Information is gathered from the previous school year and from parents/guardians. When appropriate, learning plans are carried over.
- Learning specialists observe classes and discuss a student's needs with teachers and aides, if one is assigned.
- Student Support Services will discuss findings, determine an action plan, and begin interventions. Partnering with parents/guardians is crucial and parents/guardians are included in the decision-making process that may include recommendations for vision or hearing screening, neuropsychological testing, or referral to an occupational therapist or outside educational therapist.
- At the end of this time, a student may not need to continue receiving additional support, or additional evaluations, testing, and interventions may be necessary.
- At the end of the school year, meetings between parents/guardians and Student Support Services will help determine plans for summer and for the next school year.