

Article Section for publication: Special Services
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Northviews Special Services department offers the 'best of both worlds' according to Mrs. Michewicz, one of two teachers who recently won the School Bell Award, given to her by colleagues.

Northview is unique because we have a community based instruction program, and offer a peer to peer support group where, "some student government kids pair up with some of our higher needs special ed. kids, and they do a couple lunch-ins a year, and then they'll do like a basketball game, and a football game, trying to work on some social skills for our students" Karen Michewicz said, a Special Services/English teacher.

Northview is the Region 1 Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, which means that if a secondary student in the Kent County area needs an interpreter for school or is hearing impaired they are bused here. Most schools in the area aren't equipped to deal with those types of student needs, but Northview is.

Even though an average student or faculty member doesn't realize just how much the Special Services department does, they aren't looking for any extra publicity. They are the "ninja department" according to Michewicz.

The humble staff works hard to let the students know that even if they have a learning disability, they are a part of the Northview Community. The department isn't tucked away in its own corner, Michewicz is in the middle of the English Wing.

Karen Michewicz isn't confined to one department; she teaches both special ed classes, and regular high school classes. She teaches a different class every hour, which is one of her favorite parts about her job.

Another reason she loves her job is the people she works with, who seem to love working with her just as much as she loves working with them. Michewicz was one of two 2016 School Bell Award Winners.

"I was totally surprised, I kind of always thought sitting out in the audience when they gave those away, that the people knew in advance that they were getting the award, but I did not, I had no clue" she said.

Caring, humble and vibrant teachers like her are what make up the Special Services Department at Northview. Sending a student here will ensure that they get a good education, learn social skills and won't be judged solely by their differences.