



PRESS RELEASE
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School Psychologists Nationwide “Get in Gear” for National School Psychology Week

National School Psychology Week is November 8-12, 2021

NEW YORK —The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has designated November 8-12, 2021, as National School Psychology Week with the theme “Let’s Get in GEAR”. The theme acronym, (Grow, Engage, Advocate, Rise), highlights how school psychologists can empower children to grow in areas such as social skills, empathy, and compassion for others, as well as problem solving, goal setting, and academic skills. Throughout the week, schools across the country will be taking part in events and activities designed to highlight how school psychologists, teachers, and other school personnel work with students to “get in gear” and encourage them to learn and grow even in the face of difficulties. As part of National School Psychology Week, school psychologists across the country will be adapting resources and activities provided by NASP to show how they get in GEAR!

“This past year and a half have been challenging on many levels for almost everyone,” explains NASP President Laurie Klose. “We have a responsibility as school psychologists and educators to help our students navigate these challenges and engage in learning and the school environment to grow both personally and academically. School psychologists are particularly skilled at working with all members of the school community to create the capacity to support students’ social, emotional, mental, and behavioral health as well as their academic success. This comprehensive approach is critical to ensuring all students thrive.”

The benefits of “getting in gear” applies to adults as well. “It is important that we also focus our efforts reinforcing and uplifting the resilience of ourselves and our colleagues, particularly during these stressful times,” notes Klose. “Being engaged in the work, having opportunities to learn and grow as professionals, and taking time nurture positive relationships is critical to our effectiveness. We work better as a team and are better able to create positive individual and systemic changes when we move together. At its most fundamental level, we are engaging hearts and minds when we truly get in gear.”

NASP has put together a variety of resources members and other partners can access through the NASP website in order to coordinate National School Psychology Week events and activities for their own schools and practice settings ([https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy/national-school-psychology-week-\(nspw\)](https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy/national-school-psychology-week-(nspw))).

In addition, several NASP programs are in place to reinforce aspects of this year’s theme. School staff can use the Student POWER Award to recognize those students who work to make a difference through hard work, personal optimism, and dedication of others. The Possibilities in Action Partnership Award recognizes the contributions of teachers, administrators, other staff, and parents make to support the needs of the whole child. The Gratitude Works program is designed to help students focus on positive relationships, mature socially, and grow an understanding of the world by fostering gratitude through a variety of activities.

About NASP—The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) represents 25,000 school psychologists throughout the United States and abroad. NASP empowers school psychologists to promote the learning, behavior, and mental health of all children and youth.

About NYASP—The mission of the New York Association of School Psychologists (NYASP) is to serve children, their families and the school community by promoting psychological well-being, excellence in education, and sensitivity to diversity through best practices in school psychology.

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Respectfully submitted by Courtney Huguenin, NYASP Public Relations Chair