

# Welcome to Ms. Schwarze's Class!

**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore

This is a 1:8:1 (1 teacher- 8 students- 1 school support personnel) self-contained BOCES classroom sited at Vail Farm Elementary School. Related services are provided according to students' IEPs. Students mainstream for Lunch, Recess, Library, Art, Music, and PE with the support of classroom staff.

In addition to academic goals, there is a strong classroom focus on working as a team. Teamwork is encouraged to assist students in increased social awareness, respect, responsibility, and tolerance. Children learn that teamwork is a quality needed for success in all parts of life. Not only are students a part of the "team", but teachers, administrators, related service providers, outside agencies, and parents are all vital participants. Together, everyone achieves more, especially when it comes to the success of each of our students.

Instruction is centered on the individual needs of each student and their IEP goals/objectives. Instruction is provided on a one to one and small group basis. Opportunities are given to foster students' independence and to apply learned skills in real world situations. Themes of the curriculum coincide with holidays, seasons, and the Common Core Learning Standards and are differentiated to meet individual student needs.

The classroom functions on a positive behavior plan which encourages students to continually exhibit appropriate behaviors. Students work toward earning rewards and develop a sense of accomplishment when achieving their goals.