

On the move

IU prepped to move several classes to former Watson town Elementary School

BY KEVIN MERTZ
Staff writer

WATSONTOWN — The Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) will be relocating several different programs to 8.5 classrooms it will be leasing at the former Watson town Elementary School building.

The Warrior Run School District and CSIU boards both approved an agreement that will see CSIU lease the classrooms for the 2018-2019 school year.

At the March 26 Warrior Run

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Photo provided by CSIU

Jessica Glen, a teacher with CSIU's Head Start program serving students in the Warrior Run School District, worked with a student on a project. The Head Start program will be relocating to the former Watson town Elementary School building.

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board meeting, it was noted that CSIU will pay the district \$53,046 to use the space.

Superintendent Dr. Alan Hack said the lease agreement includes wording that CSIU can lease additional space for \$7 per square foot if it so chooses. He said that's the rate CSIU will be paying for the space it initially plans to use.

The former elementary school has been vacant since the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Since the start of the 2016-2017 school year, students in kindergarten through third grade have been attending classes at Turbotville Elementary School, while fourth graders have been educated at the middle school.

Jennifer Williams, CSIU's director of Special Education and Early Childhood Services, recently highlighted the programs CSIU will relocate from various locations to the former elementary school building.

In relocating to the former elementary school, Williams said CSIU's 5 Star Elementary program will be able to expand beyond the 10 students it currently serves.

"By moving to the building in Watson-town, we are able to increase the 5 Star program from one classroom to two," Williams said. "To date, we have a waiting list, so we are hoping that with the addition of another classroom, we will be able to serve more students across the region who have specific behavioral needs."

The program is open to all 17 districts served by CSIU. Williams hopes the program is able to increase to serving 15 to 20 students.

Eighteen students involved with the Pre-K Counts program for Warrior Run School District students will also be moved to the building.

In addition, programs serving 18 Head

Start students from the Warrior Run School District, and 18 from the Milton Area School District will move to the building.

Head Start is for children ages 3 through 5.

"We are so excited to have the opportunity for our students and staff to be in a school building," Williams said. "This will allow us to better prepare the preschool students for the school environment."

Intervention itinerant services provided by CSIU — such as speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy — will also utilize space in the building in Watson-town.

"Being in a community like Warrior Run will allow our programs to utilize all the services our neighbors can provide," Williams said. "It will also allow us to give back to the community through service projects."

"One of the things we're looking at is providing space that can be used more for the community," Hack said about the lease, at a March 23 school board meeting. "This has the opportunity to bring in some revenue to the district."

The CSIU programs won't be the only ones operating out of the former elementary school.

On April 23, the Warrior Run board approved the district's Transition Services department to have a student-operated consignment shop, to be called Defender's Trading Post, to operate out of the school's former music room.

The shop will be located in a part of the building that will be separated from the CSIU classrooms.

Staff writer Kevin Mertz can be reached at 570-742-9671 or email kevin@standard-journal.com.