

Greetings Parents and Students!

We are very excited about what is to come in the 2018-2019 school year! It is our personal belief that ALL students have a PhD in something, it is just a matter of finding out what that something is. Our job is to prepare every student for life after Transition. To do this, we will focus specifically on independent living, social pragmatic skills, recreation, job preparation, and vocational skills. It is our goal to give students the skills they need in order to become as independent as possible.

Below are just a few of the things we will do in Transition:

- Students will participate in our district's **Workability** program. They will be placed in job groups of 2-3 students and staff member. Students will rotate job sites each trimester in order to give students the opportunity to have a wide variety of jobs, to develop job skills and work preferences.
- Students will practice using **public transportation** with the support of a staff member.
- As students progress in the program, learn job skills, are consistent with appropriate behavior, and are able to navigate independently in the community using public transportation- they will be given the opportunity to independently go to job sites.
- Students will be rotating through groups working on the following **Independent Living Skills**: money management and consumer awareness, food management, personal appearance and hygiene, health, housekeeping, transportation, educational planning, job seeking skills, job maintenance skills, emergency and safety skills, knowledge of community resources, and interpersonal skills.
- Students will become acquainted with filling out **applications** (job, housing, etc)
- Students will conduct mock **job interviews**
- Students will explore their **vocational interests**
- Students will work on their **Communication Skills**. Once a day, they will pair up with a partner, discuss a specific topic for 3-4 minutes (During this

time, students practice having a two way conversation, staying on topic, maintaining eye contact and personal space, and behaving appropriately.) Students will rotate partners 3 times and then report back to the class.

- Students will **email their employers and aides** once a week, typically on Fridays, to “check in” – to find out how they are doing at their worksite and to see if there is anything they need to do anything differently.
- Students will collaborate to plan and budget fun, recreational, **leisure days** out in the community. MOST of these leisure days will be on Fridays.
- Our classroom will use a **Money Economy** system to encourage students to have good behavior, to make good choices, and to learn how to budget. Students can earn classroom money for being on task, completing an assignment, having a good attitude, helping a classmate/ aide / teacher, doing chores, and following directions. Students can also loose classroom money for being off task, having a negative attitude, using bad language, etc. (Students can use their class funds to pay their weekly bills: rent / utilities; and they can shop in our classroom store the last Friday of each month.)
- Every Friday, students will draw a card from the “**Bag of Life**” (Some refer to it as the “Bag of Doom”). Each card has unexpected circumstances (good and bad) that could alter the student’s financial situation. The reason for the “Bag of Life” is to 1) Help students deal with unexpected changes, and 2) Encourage students to budget and save their money.
- Our program will participate in **Special Ed Dances and Special Olympics**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your time and support!

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