

Life Skills Special Education Program

Serving Students with Intellectual Disabilities



Oostburg High School

Program Goal

To facilitate students with disabilities through the transition process from school to adult life.

Overview

This program is designed for young adults who are working on completing their high school degree or have completed high school requirements for graduation, but need additional programming to prepare for the transition into adult life. The 2015 Authorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has called upon states to set measurable targets for progress of students with disabilities. Schools are being held accountable for making sure students with disabilities achieve higher standards. Schools must now ensure that individuals with disabilities graduate from high school with skills they need to successfully transition into post-secondary education and the workforce. Youth with disabilities face significant challenges as they transition into adulthood, both at school and in the community. This is why this program is so critically important.

Today, competitive or supported employment, supported living and lifelong learning are expectations for students with disabilities. Schools across the nation, including Oostburg High, need to provide transition programs in school and in the community. These programs provide the vital link from high school to adult life for students with disabilities.

Based on these standards, Oostburg's Life Skills Special Education Program has implemented a host of opportunities to meet the needs of individuals within our programs.

About Our Programs

School Based Programs

Students participate in practical work experiences in various areas of the high school and middle school. This includes projects such as working in the kitchen tray room, collecting recycling materials, shredding projects and completing copy orders for teachers.



Our Daily Living Skills Program provides students with opportunities to develop and refine social communication and daily living skills, such as grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, and leisure activities. Field trips allow students to learn and practice social skills in public settings, while lunch outings provide opportunities for ordering in restaurants, as well as paying a tab and making change.

Lunch Meal Deals

Students shop for ingredients and prepare lunch in our program kitchen which is then offered to middle and high school staff. Staff sign up and pay in advance, then self-serve the meal available in the staff lunch rooms on the designated day. Designing and printing sign-up sheets along with the collection of money provides areas for budgeting and meal planning.

TASTY SOUP THURSDAY

When: Thursday October 15

During lunch

Cost: \$2.00

Serving: Lasagna soup with French bread and pumpkin bars

Chef: Christine

*sign- up sheet in teacher lounge

(Self-served)



Pop, Pop, Popcorn!

Every morning our students pop and bag popcorn, which is then available for purchase to students and staff at the middle school and high school. This provides an opportunity for our students to learn a sense of small business skills, such as inventorying, preparing goods to sell, sales techniques, money collection and counting, plus it is a great way to interact with other students and staff.



Resume / Employment

Teachers and staff assist students in creating a resume, teaching them how to fill out a job application and practice interview skills. Working with local agencies, students are then matched with employers for interviews and possible job placements.

Community Based Programs

Community Catering is available as needed for meetings within the school, such as STEM Workshops, group meetings or other local groups. Menu options vary, food is delivered and clean-up is included.

Helping those in need: our program coordinates a food collection drive for the Salvation Army in the fall, as well as a UNICEF drive every year. Giving back to the community teaches our students how volunteering is an integral part of being part of a larger community.

Transition Checklist

Below is a list of transition activities to be accomplished while completing the Life Skills Program at OHS:

1. Apply for Supplemental Social Security (SSI)

The government has funding available for people with disabilities that is meant to help supplement incomes. If your son/daughter has received SSI as a child, he/she must reapply for adult benefits. **You must wait until your child is 18 to apply for benefits.** This reapplication may lead to an initial denial of eligibility for adult benefits, but you have the right to appeal. The Sheboygan Social Security office is located at 606 N. 9th Street in Sheboygan or can be reached at 877-635-3549 (if you live in Sheboygan County) or go online at <http://ssa.gov>.

2. Contact the Disability Resource Center of Sheboygan County

Once your child exits the school system, all services from the school district cease, and the adult service system may be available to provide funding. This funding may assist your son/daughter in paying for needed programming, housing, transportation, employment services and more after exiting the school system. Please contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center at 650 Forest Avenue, Sheboygan Falls or at 920-467-4100 for further information.

3. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Wisconsin's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a federal/state program designed to obtain, maintain, and improve employment for people with disabilities by working with DVR consumers, employers, and other partners. They provide employment, training, and counseling services to people with disabilities. A DVR representative should attend your son/daughter's IEP approximately three semesters prior to exiting the school system. A signed permission form will be needed to invite a DVR representative to the meeting.

4. Wisconsin State Identification Card

Wisconsin state identification cards can be obtained at one of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices. Having officially recognized identification card is important if your son/daughter will not be obtaining a driver's license. Sheboygan's DMV is located at 3603 Kohler Memorial Drive - refer to the DMV website for hours.

5. Transportation

Transportation for individuals with disabilities may be provided by the Aging & Disability Resource Center through Regional Transit Connection, a County and City of Sheboygan Shared-Service provided by Sheboygan Transit. Contact them at 920-459-3420 or 800-924-0408 or www.shorelinemetro.com.

6. RCS Empowers, Inc.

RCS Empowers, Inc. (RCS) is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower individuals with disabilities and special needs so that they may work, live and function within the community with dignity and respect. RCS provides production services to over 60 area businesses, as well as partnering through employment with more than 100 local companies. For more information on employment options, as well as assisted living availability, please contact RCS Empowers, Inc. at 1607 Geele Avenue in Sheboygan, or 920-458-8261 or www.rcscommunityservices.com.

7. HearthStone of Wisconsin, Inc.

HearthStone is a self-help and advocacy organization providing information, guidance, and support to individuals with disabilities, their parents, guardians, and advocates in support of community opportunities. Their objective is to help provide support in order for individuals with disabilities to become an integral part of our communities, focusing in the areas of assessment and referral services, residential facilities, and personal and vocational development. Learn more at www.hearthstonewi.org.

8. Legal Guardianship

Options for guardianship have changed, allowing more options and flexible arrangements depending on your situation. Guardianship is a decision made by parents and students; the school district has no role or responsibility in the process. Students must be 17 years, 9 months old before the guardianship process can be initiated. There are programs that offer guardianship services at no or reduced cost to families. Please contact your son/daughter's special education teacher for more information.

9. Talk About Future Goals and Network

Keep the lines of communication open with your son/daughter regarding their career goals. Continue to network and advocate for students in our community.

10. Post Secondary

Student with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to realize the dream of being a college student. These post-secondary programs provide opportunities for students to prepare for future growth and success. More information is available at:

- Bethesda College of Applied Learning on the Concordia University Wisconsin-Mequon campus. Contact Carol Burns at carol.burns@cuw.edu or 847-224-0637.
- <http://www.shepherdscollege.org>
- <http://www.minnesotalifecollege.org>
- <http://www.edgewood.edu/prospective/undergraduate/cuttingedge/default.aspx>
- <http://thinkcollege.net/databases/programs-database>

Oostburg High School

Transforming knowledge into wisdom, Oostburg High School promotes intellectual discovery, inspires creativity, embraces diversity, and encourages students to become enlightened, humane, responsible citizens.

*"Preparing students to be positive contributors
to our society and the world."*

For additional information, please contact:

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