



Crossroads Monthly Report

March 2023



Supervisor's Message

March was a busy month at Crossroads, we had so much to celebrate! March is International Women's Month and Claudine Tantillo, Carrie Dattilo, and I were honored to present at the NJASA/ERF & NJPSA/FEA Women's Leadership Conference on the topic, "Women Leaders: Embracing Challenges through Authentic/Strength-Based Leadership". In addition, Elaine, our social worker presented to the students at Mt. Saint Mary's Academy about the student population of Crossroads. The young women made gift bags for each of our students that included a hand-made sensory toy, art materials, and a personal note from

each student.

March 10 was National SEL day, Crossroads students participated in an "SEL" photo booth. Students were able to choose various props depicting their feelings, and emotions, and take pictures with friends. Students also practiced group social skills and using kind gestures like walking younger students to their classrooms.

Read Across America was in full swing at Crossroads with a visit from a Dragon and his table full of tacos and toppings. All of our students were able to sample the food, listen to a story and socialize with their friends. Several UCESC staff came to visit and read to our students. Shoutouts to Valentina, Gina, Will, Marianne and our own principal Matt. Each class read stories, made crafts, and were exposed to a variety of authors during the week.

On St. Patrick's Day, a sneaky visitor came while the students were at home and left some footprints that lead to a special treat 🍀. The students had a blast following the footprints and trying to figure out who the visitor was that left them treats.

The Commission selected a UCESC Teacher of the Year for each school, and our very own PE/Health Teacher, Mr. Rich was given the honor. We congratulate Mr. Rich for all of his hard work, dedication, and passion for teaching all of our students.

Crossroads School is dedicated to providing students with an excellent educational experience. In order to ensure our school is meeting your needs and to identify areas where we could potentially address unmet needs, we have developed a feedback survey. We would greatly appreciate you taking 10-15 minutes of your time to provide us with your valuable insights. Your input will be vital as we ensure that we continue to provide the services that make us strong and work to improve in areas that need our attention.

You can access the survey at the following link: [Union County ESC Feedback Survey](#).

General Information

Enrollment as of March 29, 2023

Actual: 50

Changes: Entered: 1 Exited: 0

Referrals: 7

Intakes Scheduled: 2

Accepted: 1

Fire Drills: 3/15/23

Emergency Drills: 3/22/23 (Active Shooter)

Upcoming Dates

April 7 2023 - April 16, 2023 - School Closed - Spring Recess

April 20, 2023 - PTO and Parent Ed/Support Meeting

June 1, 2023 - Crossroads Carnival



Honors and Accolades



Congratulations to Rich Horn, Crossroads School's Teacher of the Year!!

Crossroads Staff and Student Spotlight



Student of the Month - Tanzi

Tanzi is a super happy and sweet young girl. She has been part of the middle school program for two years now, and she has truly made huge gains. She continues to progress with her expressive language, reading, and math skills. Behaviorally, Tanzi has adapted really well to her teachers and classmates; she enjoys playground time, Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, puzzles, and coloring. Her favorite color is pink!!! Tanzi also enjoys her community-based- instruction trips; she particularly enjoys going food shopping at Shoprite and attending the Cranford Movie Theater. We are so proud of Tanzi!! I



Certified Staff of the Month - Peggy Barsa - Preschool Teacher

1. How long have you been working at the commission?

This is my first year working at the commission, and I love teaching preschool!

2. What would we be surprised to find out about you?

You might be surprised to know that I am obsessed with German Shepherds. As a child, shepherds were my favorite animal and I always wanted to have one. I am now lucky enough to have a 100 pound German Shepherd of my own. Her name is Emma. I also have German Shepherd coffee mugs, glasses, socks, pajamas, t-shirts, magnets, and key chains.

3. What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is to go on an African safari! I want to ride in a jeep to see lions, elephants, giraffes, etc. in their natural habitat. Ever since I saw the movie, *Born Free*, this has been my dream.

4. What is your favorite meal?

My favorite meal is a dry aged NY strip steak (grilled medium rare) with a small side of lobster macaroni and cheese, and creamed spinach.

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment is my family. My husband and I have 3 children. Life is busy with a 20 year old college student and 2 active teenagers, but whenever possible we still have our Sunday family dinner together. This is a tradition we've had since they were very young, and although they sometimes come to the table begrudgingly, we always have a lot of laughs...and NO PHONES ALLOWED!



Staff Member of the Month - Christina Cruz - School Secretary

1. How long have you been working at the commission?

I'm actually pretty new here, I've been working at the Commission since October of 2022, it'll be 6 months in April.

2. What would we be surprised to find out about you?

Before working in education, I was a cosmetologist. I went to Empire Academy in 2006 and my first job as a hairstylist was at Supercuts, I was 18 years old.

3. What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be a Mediterranean and European Disney Cruise. My family and I are Disney obsessed and I would love to experience Europe immersed in Disney aesthetics.

4. What is your favorite meal?

This is a tough question, but my favorite meal has to be Pasteles. They just remind me of the holidays and making them from scratch with my grandmother. These are usually pork stuffed and wrapped in a banana leaf.

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

Being a mom is by far my greatest accomplishment. Considering all the versions of myself, parenthood has required me to be. The life of a military wife can be quite lonely when your spouse has been deployed 6 times. So you can only imagine how undeniably challenging some days have been, but my children are well rounded independent loving individuals and I wouldn't change a thing.

Classroom Spotlights

Ms. Hannah's Classroom

Read Across America Week

During the month of March, students in room 104 got to enjoy a visit from Miss Gina Hidalgo. The kids were able to practice their listening skills as well as help read the book with our guest reader. We also enjoyed other fun books like *Dot* by Peter Dinklage and *Get In The Kitchen* by...

Dr. Seuss. The kids got to create their own unique spotted animals and red and white stripe snack hats.

Social Emotional Learning Day

Students also used Social Emotional Learning Day on March 10th as a time to practice their social skills. This included things like taking turns while playing together and holding our friends' hands down the hallway.

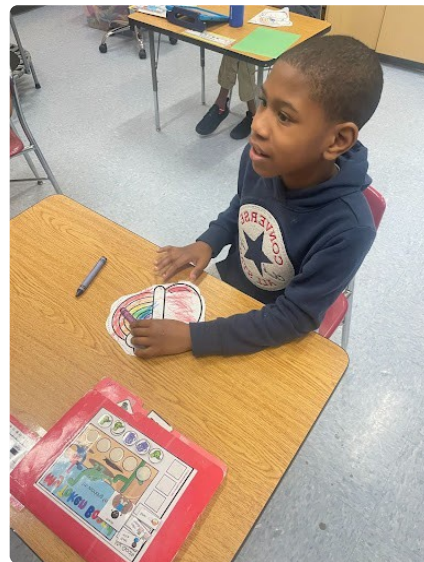




Ms. Anna's Classroom

During the month of March our students celebrated Read across America. Students had a great time listening to Mr. Matt read *Dragons Love Tacos* and enjoyed eating tacos after. We also had a guest reader, Ms. Valentina. Our students introduced themselves by waving and using their AAC device to tell Ms. Valentina their name. She read short stories from the Disney collection, the favorite story was "Just Keep Swimming."

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day by making crafts and cooking. Students made a Pot of Gold at the end of the rainbow. During this craft they spelled their name with the letters on the gold. Students identified the colors of the rainbow as they colored each stripe in the rainbow. They also enjoyed making and drinking their shamrock shakes in OT and Lucky Charm treats in Speech.



Therapy Spotlight

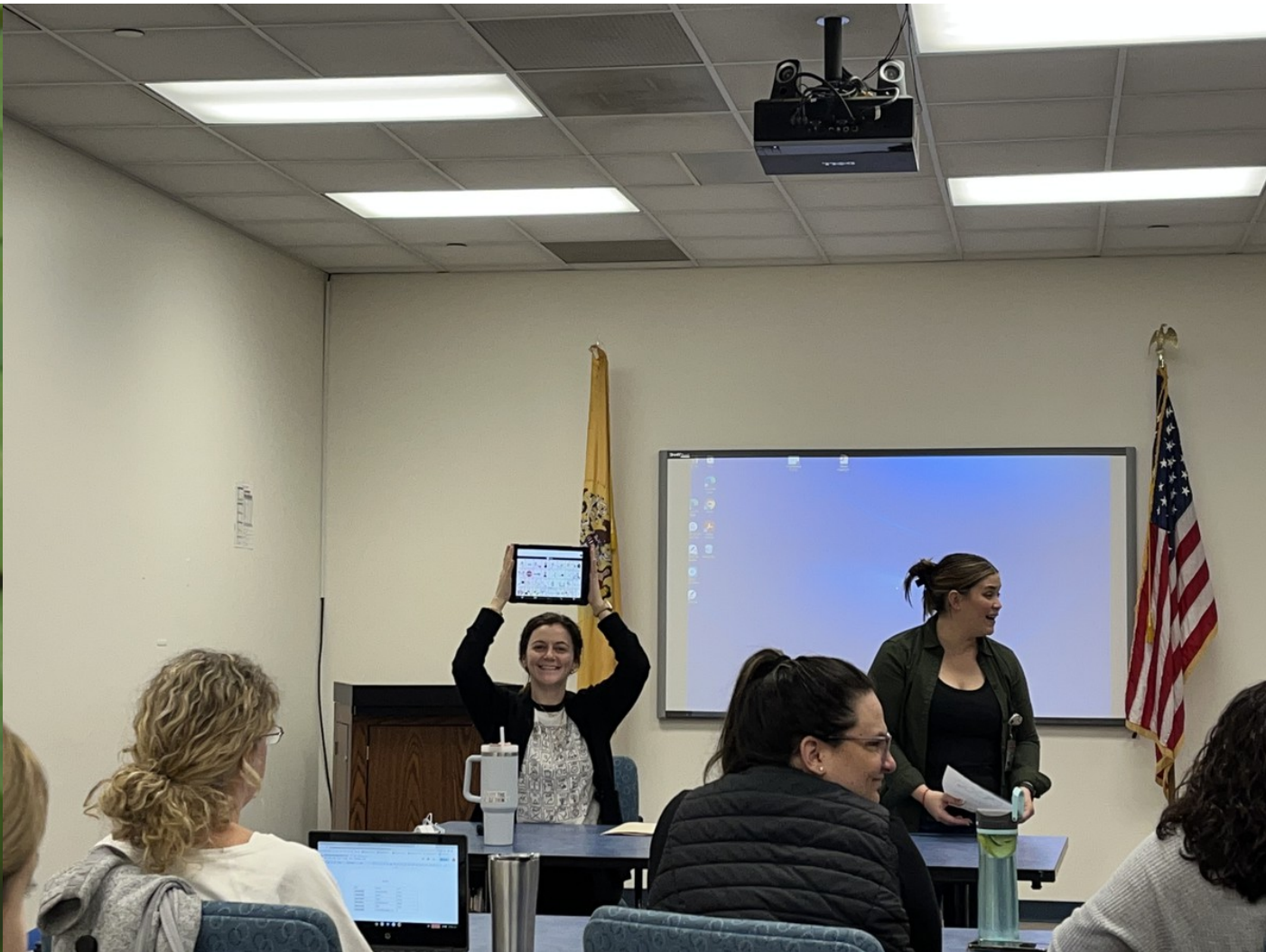


Ms. Alayna Quattrocchi - Speech Therapist

Each month, the speech-language pathology department with the classrooms focus on a new set of core vocabulary words. “Core” vocabulary words are commonly used for a variety of functions, such as requesting, commenting, and labeling. The core words of the month are highlighted during our sessions, interactions with students, as well as incorporated into classroom activities. This month, the core words focused on question words: who, what, where, when.

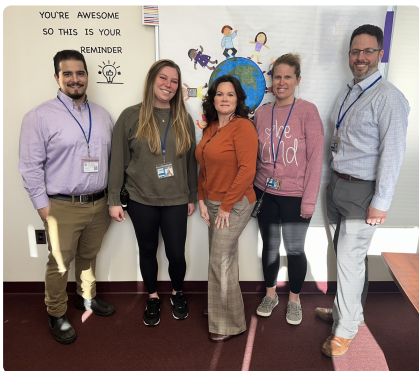
To keep speech-language therapy sessions dynamic and engaging, we like to develop themes based on holidays/celebrations occurring throughout the month. For Read Across America Week, our students read *A Bad Case of the Stripes* by David Shannon. They worked on answering questions based on the story.

In preparation for St. Patrick’s Day, our students made “leprechaun bait”, a sweet treat to lure in leprechauns. They were able to follow directions, take turns mixing, pouring, and measuring, and passing out plates and napkins. The students were also able to identify the ingredients needed for “leprechaun bait”. Our students enjoy learning to communicate, practicing social skills, and increasing their expressive and receptive language skills through hands-on activities!

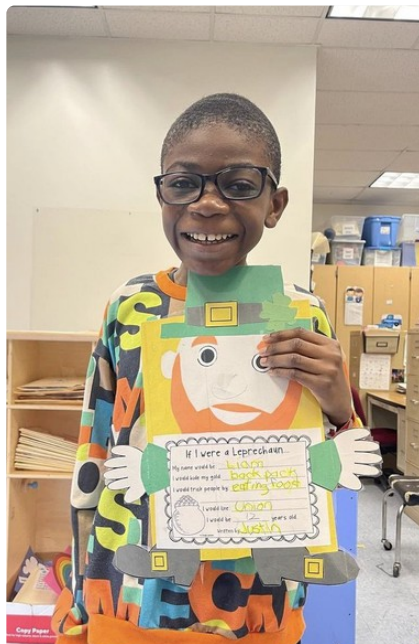


Therapist Tell It Thursday: Core Words/Tips & Tricks
Staff workshop presented by Dana & Alayna

March at Crossroads

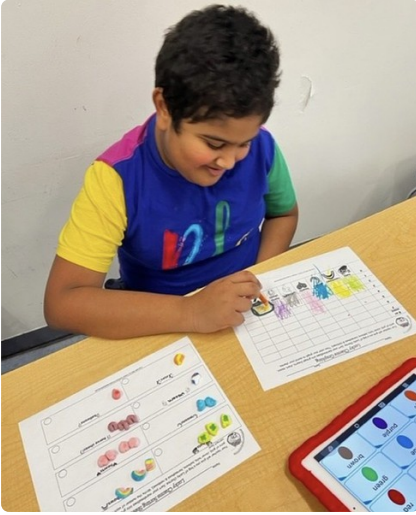


Crossroads BCBA's and RBT on World Behavior Analysis Day



Prepping the garden on the first day of Spring.

Making leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day!



Graphing with Lucky Charms ♣



Skittles science experiment. 🌀



Celebrating World Music Therapy Day with Mr. Patrick

Empowerment and Women's History Month



Students creating a banner while learning about influential women in history.

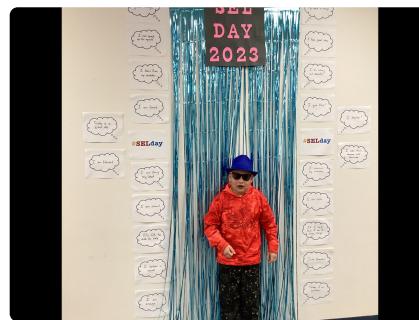
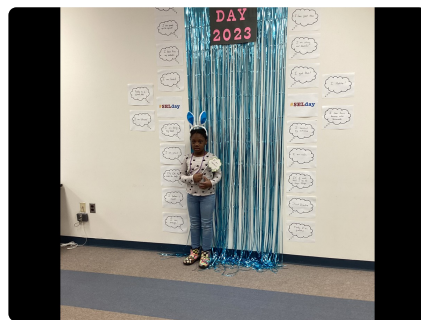
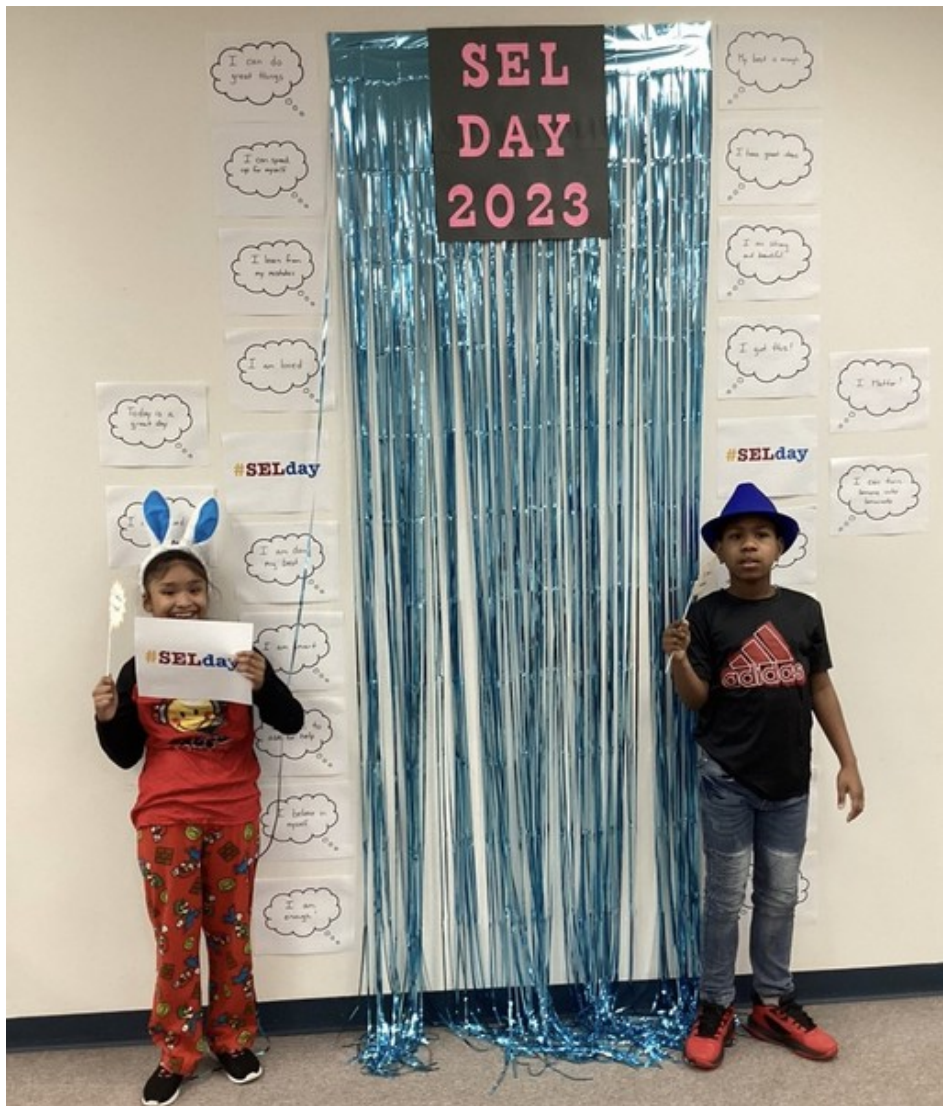


UCESC Superintendent Carrie Dattilo, Westlake Principal Claudine Tantillo, and our own Crossroads Supervisor of Instruction, Danielle Cicaese, presenting at the 2023 Women's Leadership Conference



Crossroads Social Worker Elaine, presented information about our school to the students at Mount St. Mary's Academy.

International SEL Day



Read Across America



Dragons Love Tacos read aloud and Taco Table!!



Crossroads in the Community



Specials Report - Mr. Rich - GYM

During the past month, students have continued working hard on their daily health and physical education activities. Students have done a great job with their daily activities and are improving weekly. Stressing things such as: structure, getting into a routine, and reviewing classroom expectations have been constant and have made lessons very successful.

In gym, we have focused on a wide variety of activities. These activities include: walking, running, stretching, relay races on foot and scooters, agility obstacle courses, letter, number, picture and color matching activities, striking a beach ball with 2 hands, striking a balloon with a tennis racquet, catching, kicking and following single and multi step directions. Moving forward, we will continue to build on the above mentioned activities and slowly add new and more challenging ones.

In health class, we recently finished a unit on community helpers and are now learning about safety signs you might see in school, at home or out in the community. Students have participated in multiple social stories, matching activities, interactive lessons on the computer/touch screen and completed various group activities along with worksheets, according to ability level.

Sports groups and individual fitness sessions have been successful and are giving students a chance to participate in some activities they might not necessarily get to in a typical physical education setting. Students have been engaged and are enjoying the extra time in the gym. They have also had the chance to be more independent and practice making choices on what they participate in for the day. Activities range anywhere from cardiovascular endurance to practicing individual skills that are used in team sports.





Survey Reminder

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You can access the survey at the following link: [Union County ESC Feedback Survey](#)

About Us

Website: https://www.ucesc.org/schools/crossroads_school

Location: [45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: [908-233-9317](tel:908-233-9317)

Visit us on Instagram



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Hillcrest North March Report

March 2023

Principal's Message

The month of March was an exciting time at Hillcrest Academy North. Students were very productive in the classrooms and enjoyed learning the content. Career Day took place here at North on March 24, 2023 which was a great success. Students commented on how much they liked hearing and speaking with the professionals that participated that day. The students filled out a pamphlet of career interests which included their experiences and takeaways. They were all engaged and can't wait for the next school-wide activity; they are always very meaningful to students and staff.

Community Service Projects continue to be attended at the Elizabeth Public Library by numerous students especially those looking to graduate.

Please look to the link found at the bottom of this page for our feedback survey. We are always interested in getting better!



Great job, HAN Students and Staff!
Mission, Teamwork, and Communication!

Upcoming Dates

April 6 - Roller Skating Field Trip!

April 7-April 14 - Spring Break!

April 21 - UCC Trip!



Monthly Data:

Enrollment: 90

Enrolled: 5

Disenrolled: 2

Fire Drill: 3/29/23

Lockdown: 3/30/23

Unsung Hero Recipient - Phadnerson



Phadnerson was named Hillcrest Academy North's recipient of the Union County School Boards Association Unsung Hero Award! Phadnerson is in his second year at Hillcrest Academy North. This school year, Phadnerson has already earned various awards in the school – perfect

attendance, honor roll, and Best Attitude, to name a few. He is a leader in the building and is often a student we speak to in order to continue to strengthen school culture. The progress Phadnerson has made since last year is truly remarkable. Despite having faced challenges in his life, Phadnerson has not only survived, but he has thrived. He is kind to everyone he encounters and we feel privileged to have him as a student. We are confident that Phadnerson will be successful in anything he sets his mind to in the future.

Students of the Month

Luis & Nakryah

HAN had two Students of the Month! Luis is a returning senior and has grown in both academics and confidence over his time at HAN. He is a leader among the seniors and increases the school climate by constantly modeling what a Hillcrest North student should be.



This is Nakryah's first year at HAN and she quickly became a stand out in the classroom. She adds thoughtful and intelligent comments to class discussions and has helped new students feel welcome at HAN.

Both students embody all the qualities of an exceptional HAN student and everyone is excited to see what they will accomplish after they graduate in June!

Teacher Spotlight



Mr. Kaplan, Social Studies Teacher

Mr. Kaplan is the HAN Teacher of the Year! Mr. Kaplan has been teaching Social Studies at Hillcrest Academy North for seven years. When students were asked about Mr. Kaplan, some of the responses were "Mr. Kaplan is very nice, he greets everyone in the morning!" and "I look forward to Mondays because I know Mr. Kaplan will have his homemade breakfast sandwiches!" On top of all the selfless acts Mr. Kaplan regularly performs, he truly is an incredibly skilled classroom teacher. Every single day in his Social Studies classes, students are intellectually challenged. Mr. Kaplan has created an environment where students feel both emotionally safe and scholastically prepared to participate in class discussions. These discussions cover a wide range of social studies topics, all of which are applicable directly to student lives. Furthermore, Mr. Kaplan has helped students make huge strides as writers. Each week, students are assigned a writing task. Mr. Kaplan writes personal feedback to each student and then asks students to make edits to their writings in order to facilitate growth. These classroom activities give students the tools to become more informed, empowered and responsible members of society.

Classroom Spotlights

Ms. Miller, Social Studies Teacher

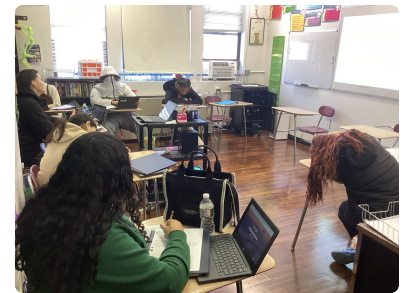


Economics students have been focusing on their future finances this month by learning about credit scores, banking systems, and budgeting. Students researched careers and places to live that interested them and created monthly budgets based on the salary and cost of living. Students have increased their financial literacy skills to help increase their level of independence. World History students have been studying the Medieval Ages and how society

has changed. Students compared and contrasted the rules that Europe had to follow during the Black Death and the procedures that were put in place due to COVID-19. Students then analyzed the reactions to the Medieval and Modern day pandemics. All Social Studies students have continued studying Current Events every week by watching short, 10 minute videos and engaging in class discussion about what is happening around the world. Students have increased their critical thinking and analytical skills along with building upon their Social Emotional Learning skills.

Ms. Lederman, English Teacher

In English students read their own short story and made a presentation finding multiple literary elements to put on their slides. They had to find the element, a quote that proved that element, as well as an analysis of the element. They also had to answer the question of how the literary elements they found for the slide show supported the theme of the short story. In Media Literacy students have been looking at how the First Amendment and journalism work together. We've been discussing facts, opinions, and false facts. We have just started to look at how advertisements use different psychological concepts to manipulate its audience to behave a certain way.



March at HAN



School Culture

Mr. Kaplan spends one day a week reviewing individual assignments with students and providing feedback on how to improve their Claim, Evidence, Analysis Writing skills. Students are familiar with the routine in Mr. Kaplan's



Student Leadership

HAN seniors, Kenia and Lizbeth, volunteered to go to the UCESC Office and work on the HAN Bulletin Board. Students helped design and create the bulletin board to show off HAN's Superpowers!



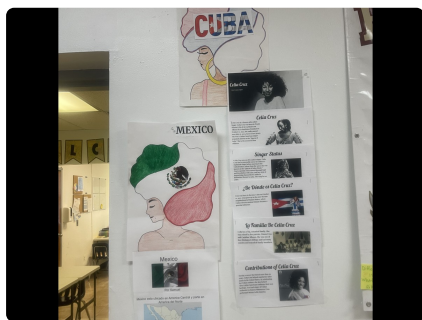
SEL Activity

Students working on communication and cooperation in Ms. Killeen's class while playing various games. Social Emotional Learning is an important part of the school climate at HAN and teachers are very creative

classroom and are able to see their writing skills increase as the school year goes on!

at creating new ways to integrate SEL skills into their lessons!

Theme of the Month: Empowerment



Spanish Class Projects

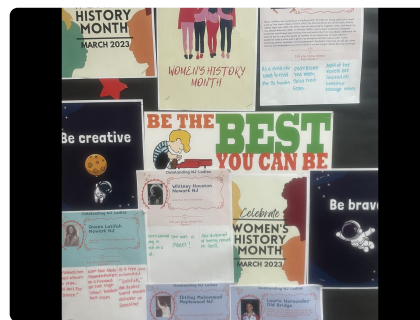
Mrs. Flores' Spanish classes created posters that celebrated Hispanic culture and Women's History Month! Students first had to research a Hispanic country and focus on the culture and customs of that country and then research an influential woman from that country and the impact they have made. The posters now decorate all the hallways of HAN!

EMPOWERMENT DO NOWS

What do you do to encourage yourself when going through hard times? Does it work?
Who do you talk to for encouragement and inspiration? Why?
What are some ways you feel you can make a difference in this world?
If you had lots of power, what would you do with it?

Empowerment Do Nows

Ms. Lederman focused her English classes' Do Now questions on the monthly theme of Empowerment. Students were able to answer the question individually and then discuss their thoughts as a group.



Women's History Month Project

Students created posters of influential women from New Jersey for Women's History Month. Students worked with Ms. Rivas to research women from New Jersey and wrote a brief summary of the impact they have made on society.

School in the Community



Career Day

Career Day 2023 was a complete success! Professionals from various industries volunteered their time to speak to the students about their careers and the paths they took to get there. Professionals included Police Offices, Military Personal, Real Estate Agent, Tattoo Artist/Shop Owner, Entrepreneurs, Business Owners, Financial Advisors, College Academic Advisor, and a VP of a Credit Union. Students were able to ask questions and engage in discussion with each professional to help take steps in thinking about the post graduation plans!

UCESC Bulletin Board Contest!

HAN students and HAN Paraprofessional Ms. Rivas went to the UCESC Offices to decorate the HAN Bulletin Board! The contest theme is centered around the superpowers and what makes HAN unique. Students were able to volunteer to work on the bulletin board and earn Community Service hours!

PowerBack Assembly!

PowerBack is an outreach group that focuses on teaching teens about dating violence and what healthy relationships are. Students listened to a presentation and then received information about healthy teen relationships. Students continued the conversation about teen dating through discussions about what they learned with some of the teachers!

Union County Educational Services Commission Feedback Survey

Click the link above to complete the UCESC Feedback Survey!

About HAN



Hillcrest Academy North assists students from the Elizabeth Public School District in reaching their full potential by providing an alternative to the traditional high school setting. We offer smaller class sizes with a rigorous and challenging high school curriculum that is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and prepares students for college and career. Our goal is to provide a safe, supportive, and empowering school

environment that fosters lifelong learning, mutual respect, creativity, and the joy of learning, with an effective, caring, innovative staff, in partnership with home and the community.

Mr. Thomas Van Cleef, Supervisor of Instruction
Location: [2630 Plainfield Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2630+Plainfield+Ave,+Scotch+Plains,+NJ+07076)
Phone Number: (908) 233-9366
Website: https://ucesc.org/schools/hillcrest_academy_north

Visit Us On Instagram



Mission Statement

It is the mission of Hillcrest Academy North that all graduates have demonstrated the following attributes: Responsibility and accountability for themselves by routinely producing quality work through high academic standards now and in the future A sense of pride in who they are and what they can contribute as a

ucesc.org



John Marquet

John is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Hillcrest Academy South Campus

March 2023 Monthly Report



Dr. Balsamello's Message

Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) staff and students introduced Empowerment and Women's History Month themes throughout March. HAS students enjoyed visiting the Westlake Can-Do-Cafe every Tuesday and a student-led science 'slime' project with Ms. Palmer's students. The main office staff was excited to have moved back to their designated location after being displaced due to an HVAC flood. This will bring a sense of normalcy back to the school.

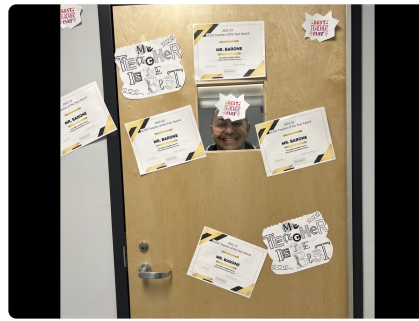
March 2023 Enrollment Data

1. Enrollment-98
 2. New Students-4
 3. Intakes-7
 4. Disenrollments-4
 5. Fire Drill-3/7/23
 6. Other Drill (Emergency Drill: Bomb Threat with a Suspicious call and roll play at WL)-3/10/23.
-



March Student of the Month

Congratulations to our Student of the Month for March, Marvin L! History is his favorite subject in school but outside of school he loves to write. When he is not learning or writing, Marvin likes to dive into the world of comic books. His favorite food is Chicken Parmesan, his favorite season is winter, and Marvin likes listening to almost any type of music.



Mr Barone: Teacher of the Year at HAS!

Congratulations to Mr Christopher Barone for being voted Teacher of the Year at HAS! Not only does Mr Barone teach Phys Ed and Health, he is also rides the bus with the downtown students. Mr Barone was voted for by his peers and colleagues at HAS and is loved by the students which makes him very deserving of this honor.



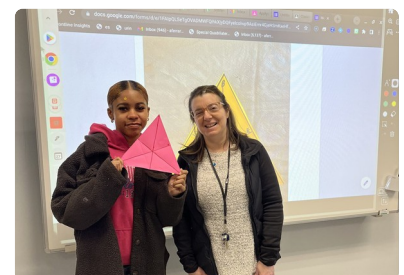
Teacher Spotlight

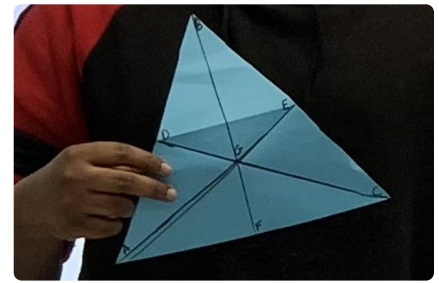
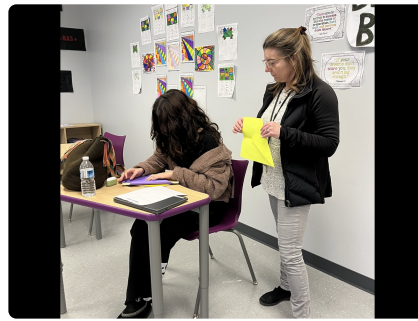
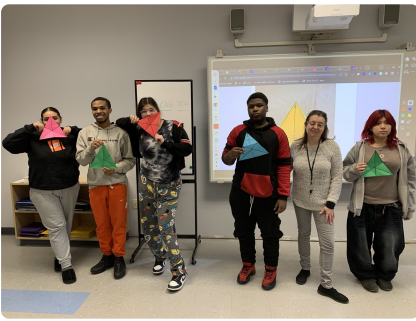
Ms Arora is the Science teacher at HAS. The classes she teaches consists of Biology, Forensics, and Environmental Sciences courses. Ms Arora's passion for science really comes through in her classes. Because of this she has a real love for STEM projects. Most recent projects included creating invisible messages and the different phases of mitosis.

Classroom Spotlights

Ms. Ferrari's Classroom

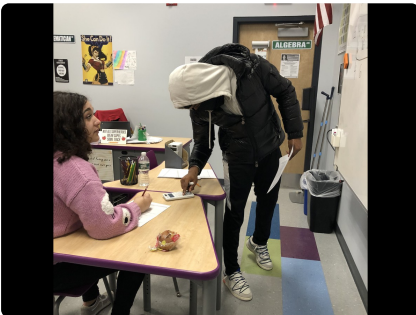
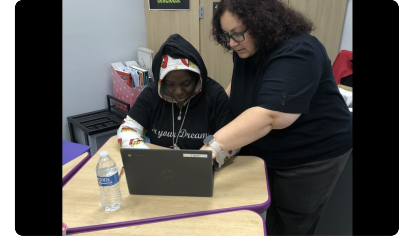
In Ms Ferrari's math classes, the students start each lesson with a Do Now that relates to real-life. The Algebra skills the students worked on this month included solving systems of equations using substitution, graphing and elimination. They particularly enjoyed it when they utilized graphing Desmos, graphing calculators, to solve systems of equations and learned about the technology available to assist them with doing Algebra classwork. Geometry students worked on the properties of triangles. They used the concepts of similar triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem to solve the missing dimensions of triangles. In addition, they worked on Special Right Triangles and got a glimpse of basic Trigonometry.





Ms Fernandez-Siejack's Classroom

During the month of March, Algebra 2 students discovered that there are imaginary numbers in math. They were able to identify what an imaginary number was, the different answers achieved when raising these imaginary numbers to exponents, and then performed different operations using imaginary numbers. The operations completed were reviews of operations done when working with polynomials but now applied to the concept of imaginary numbers. As March drew to a close, students then transitioned to graphing quadratic equations in both vertex form and standard form while identifying maximum/minimum, domain, and range. In Probability and Statistics, students worked on descriptive statistics; how to construct a frequency distribution, how to construct a frequency histogram, how to construct a frequency polygon, and a relative frequency histogram.



Women's History Month



Reading of Milestones made by Women in History

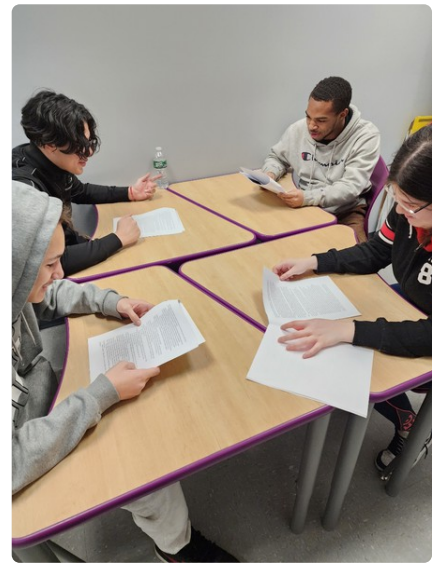
March 8th was International Women's History Day so at HAS the contributions of women in our country's history and also in today's contemporary society were recognized by recapping historical milestones. Milestones read started with Sojourner Truth, went through women's suffrage, Shirley Chisholm being elected to Congress, Katie Sowers becoming the first woman coach in the Super Bowl, and ended with Kamala Harris being sworn in as the first woman and woman of color as Vice President of the United States. We have much to be proud of!



Movie Time!

HAS had another movie day but this time movies were picked with strong female stories based in history. Students earlier in the week filled out a survey to pick from the following list of movies to celebrate Empowerment and Women's History Month:

- *Harriet* - about Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and her leading the underground railroad
- *Selena* - about the famous singer that paved the way for women in the Tejano music industry
- *Hidden Figures* - about the female African-American women that were a critical part of NASA
- *Erin Brokovich* - about a single mom who became a legal assistant and uncovered a pollution scandal
- *A League of Their Own* - based on the All American Women's Baseball League
- *The Help* - based on African-American maids of the 1960's and the hardships they went through



Women Authors

In celebration of Women's History Month, Ms Vlastaras's English classes read short stories by influential female authors. These short stories include *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin, who is considered to be the forerunner of feminist authors, and *The Possibility of Evil* by Dhirley Jackson, whose horror stories have been adapted for plays, tv, and movies.

Month of Empowerment



APFC Assembly

On March 16th, A Partnership For Change came to HAS to present about Teen Dating Violence. Students listened attentively as the presenters talked about the signs of abuse, what to do in an abusive relationship, and the list of ways to get assistance.



HAS Bulletin Board

Teachers Ms Vlastaras and Ms Fern went with a group of four students on a trip to the UCESC Central Office to decorate their assigned bulletin board for the first time since the pandemic. This year's theme for the bulletin boards at the Commission was "What is your super power?" This seemed fitting based off of the past three years. The mission of HAS is to ultimately give students a second chance to graduate with a high school diploma and plan for their future. In sticking with the theme of second chances, the phoenix became the inspiration for the board. Like the mythical bird, students come to HAS to rise from the ashes of their previous life to start anew and conquer their future.



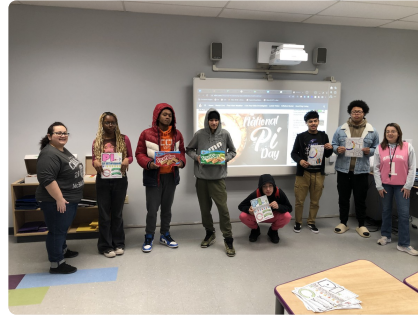
Unsung Heroes Award

The Unsung Heroes Award goes to students who typically do not qualify for traditional awards. This year our Unsung Hero was Heavenlii R. Heavenlii began her journey here at HAS before the pandemic. With working remotely for a majority of her high school career and overcoming a lot of personal hurdles, Heavenlii has come a long way and is very deserving of this award.



Black History Month Wrap Party

The HASCSP hosted its 11th annual Black History Month celebration to cap off our school's month of projects and activities. Both students and staff were able to sample and enjoy a number of culinary creations and music, while reflecting on all that they had learned and accomplished.



Pi Day

Pi Day was called as such because the first three numbers in pi are 3.14, and the date itself, March 14, is also 3.14. Every year, math teachers Ms Ferrari and Ms Fern bring in small pies to celebrate the day (as well as it is a play on the word pi/pie) and assign math activities that help students better understanding the meaning of Pi. The students analyzed the ratio between the diameter of a circle and the circumference using yarn to measure the circumference of their project. Here at HAS, "Our circle keeps getting greater!"



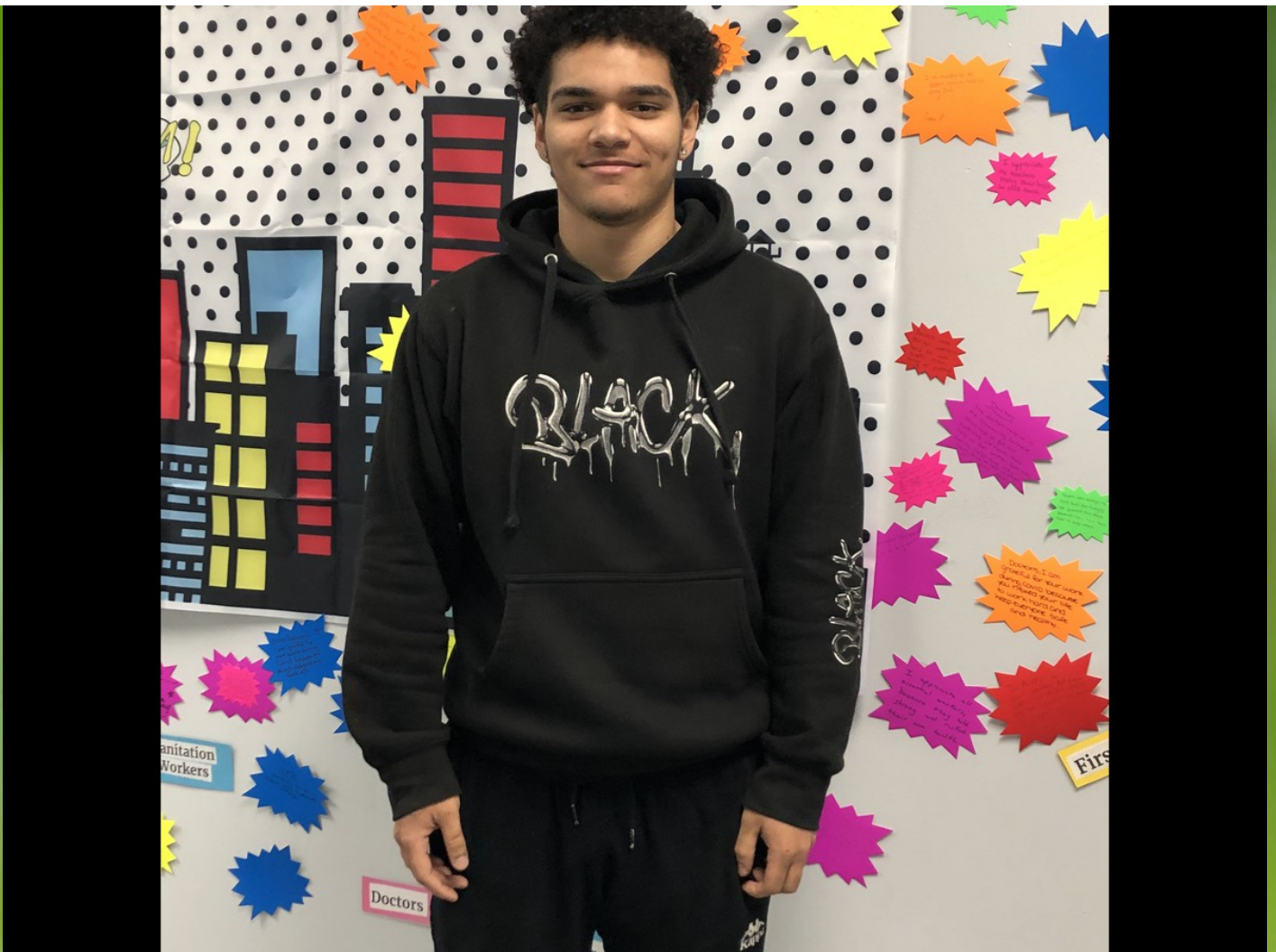
Gerry Cooney Visit

Lamberts Mill Academy received a wonderful treat this month when Gerry Cooney, a former heavyweight champion boxer, came to visit. As it turns out, a couple of HAS students are huge boxing fans and were graciously invited to the assembly. Not only did the students, Darryl C and Jacob L, get to listen to Mr Cooney's message, they were also lucky enough to get to meet him and take a few pictures. Darryl, being a boxer himself, who has won multiple trophies/belts in this sport stated it was a very special time for him.

Our Students In and Out of School

Pumping the Breaks

Jaydin F has always been interested in cars; how they work, how they look, and now that he has his driver's license, how they drive. Growing up, he has always been around the race track scene. It is because of this time at the race track and assisting his father work on cars that helped evolve his interest and skill. Working with cars and being able to make them look better provides him a great feeling of accomplishment and pride.



About Us

Hillcrest Academy South is an alternative high school for students from the Elizabeth Public Schools. Students are referred to HAS by their Elizabeth Academy guidance counselor and administration for an interview at HAS. We provide a small educational learning setting with opportunities to make up courses through our Credit Retrieval Program in a caring environment in order to meet Elizabeth's graduation requirements.

Website: www.ucesc.org

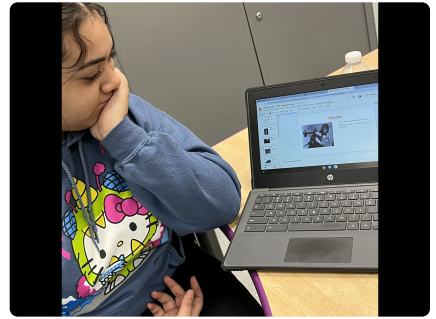
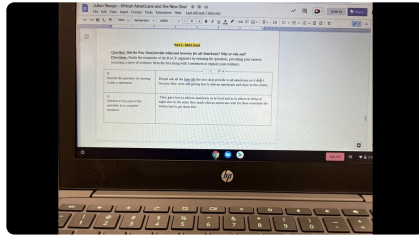
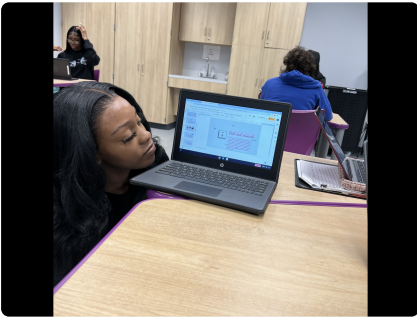
Instagram: [ucesc_has](https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_has)

Facebook: [Hillcrest Academy South](https://www.facebook.com/HillcrestAcademySouth)

Location: [1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, USA-Door 3B](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1571+Lamberts+Mill+Road,+Westfield,+NJ,+USA-Door+3B)

Phone: [908-233-9317](tel:908-233-9317)

[Visit us on Instagram](#)



HAS Smore

HAS is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters





LMA Monthly Report

March 2023

"Each of us is carving a stone, erecting a column, or cutting a piece of stained glass in the construction of something much bigger than ourselves." -Adrienne Clarkson

Supervisor's Message

Greetings,

The month of March has been filled with wonderful themes and activities here at Lamberts Mill Academy! The month of March has been dedicated to Women's History and Empowerment, in which students have been actively engaged in assignments and projects in academic classes, and therapeutic groups. In addition to focusing on Women's History and Empowerment; the LMA school community spent time focusing on SEL themed activities and discussions in honor of SEL Day this month. Finally, the month of March included Pi Day 3/14; and the successful completion of the state test, NJGPA, for our 11th grade students. Some of these different activities and events will be showcased below.



As LMA completes the month of March back at our home facility (1571 Lamberts Mill Road), and all staff and students are becoming more settled into the building, I am looking towards warmer Spring weather to begin the 'rebuild' of the LMA garden. The LMA garden was established in 2016 with the collaboration of students and staff to give an outdoor space for students to work 'hands on'. My mission statement as an educator has always been, "How can we use the skills learned in the classroom in the real world?" I've held this mission statement true from my first day of teaching; and it's a valuable essential question I ask my students regularly. Teaching and guiding

my students in the past to help apply mathematical skills learned in the classroom to creating, and expanding in the LMA garden is a proud accomplishment I will always have. Tropical storm Ida didn't spare the LMA garden after producing water damage to our building. Even though the LMA garden sustained heavy damage; the skills and lessons learned from my students still remain strong.

As the Supervisor of Instruction it's my priority to lead teaching staff with more hands on activities and lessons to not only rebuild what was lost from the storm, but to expand and improve upon the LMA garden, continuing to provide learning experiences and a tranquil place for students to spend time at the 1571 campus.

John Lopreiato
Supervisor of Instruction

Monthly Data

Enrollment - 42
Acceptances - 5
New Students - 3
Student Intakes - 7
Referrals - 10
Disenrollment - 2
Fire Drill - (3/7/2023)
EM (Bomb Threat, Suspicious call) - (3/10/2023)

LMA Student of the Month March 2023

Shai Allen

Lamberts Mill Academy is proud to announce our March student of the month, Shai Allen. Shai has been attending LMA since November 2021, and is currently on the path to graduating with us in June. She has made tremendous progress and growth both with her academic studies, and therapeutic goals. Every month LMA staff meet to discuss the student that they feel has made the most progress and growth during the month, and Shai received a majority of the votes. LMA is proud of Shai's accomplishments, and how far she has come since starting with us!



Staff Spotlight - Ms Barbara Fort-Hollstein

2022-2023 UCESC Teacher of the Year (Lamberts Mill Academy/New Point) recipient

Ms Fort-Hollstein, in her own words:

I've had an amazing opportunity to start up with New Point Residential over 17 years ago. I have enjoyed meeting wonderful and talented people with UCESC. Traveling the world is and has been my passion. For the first time in 12 years I have my daughter Chelsea state side, which is such an extreme pleasure. Without laughter I never would have made it this long on the NP unit 😊



Classroom Spotlights



Students Learn about Pi day on 3/14 in Math Class

All students at LMA learned about Pi day on March 14, 2023. Students were exposed to the history behind Pi day, the significance of the number, and how it relates to real world mathematics. In recognition of Pi, students created creative posters to display throughout the hallways of LMA. Gaining exposure on the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter; along with its Greek origins are just some of the many things discussed about in math class; while enjoying a piece of a pie!



SEL Day is celebrated with the Zones of Regulation

March 10, 2023 marked the 4th annual SEL day celebrated around the globe. LMA being a therapeutic high school with the UCESC educated students on the importance of SEL for the entire week leading up to March 10. Social Emotional Learning is an essential skill all LMA students are taught through their daily group sessions, and countless individual sessions. For SEL day, students were taught the Zones of Regulation, and discussed how they act and feel in the different zones. Students demonstrated their knowledge of the Zones of Regulation by viewing popular film clips describing the



Mr. Bell's Postgraduate students begin working with Maschio's

LMA students enrolled in the Post Graduate program have been continuing to work on their Food Handler's Certificate through SafeServe. Students have been learning about different career opportunities once they have their certificate; along with the current job market demand. As students complete their certificate they also have a unique work based experience on the 1571 campus helping assist Maschio's food services. Maschio's utilizes the kitchen at 1571 to prepare breakfast and lunches for all the Commission schools. This experience will give LMA

different zones they watched it, and justifying it in an appropriate discussion. To top of SEL day, students read motivational quotes throughout the day on the school's overhead speaker.

students the opportunity to see all the daily responsibilities and operations that Maschio's food services completes in order to consistently serve all Commission students their daily meals.

Month at School



OT Therapist Ms Trellis provides LMA student Emili with unique 1:1 sessions.

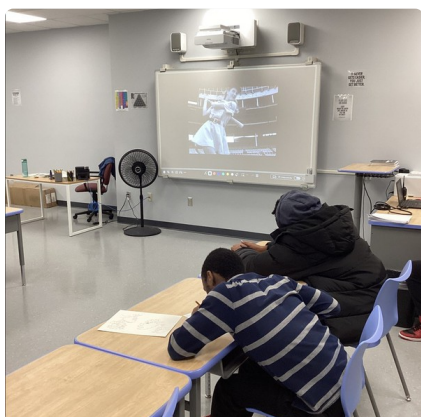


PG student Blake joins Maschio's preparing meals for the day.



Students who received High Honors on their Report Card receive a special breakfast coordinated by Mrs. McMahon

Women's History Month & Empowerment



Mr. Peter's Classes Integrate Women's



Life Skills Embrace Women's History Month
For the month of March each Life Skills group decided to



History into Sports

Mr. Peter's spent time learning about the History of sports, and how the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was created through discussions, and the video, "A League of Their Own". Students participated in meaningful discussions about how far women have come from the past in the world of professional, organized sports. Students also had important lessons on how there are still differences in professional sports among male and female athletes regarding pay differences presently, and what they hope for the future.

learn about, and honor Women's History Month differently. Ms Ruchaevsky's group decided to acknowledge all the female staff members working at LMA with positive trait acknowledgements displayed throughout the building. Mr. Leal's group took a page out of Mr. Peter's book and focus on women in sports. This group will learn about, create posters and present about influential women in professional sports. Students working Mrs. Thomas's group will re-create a decorative door, this time using influential women as their inspiration. Finally, Ms. Charlette's group decided to pick and research their own influential women and create informative PowerPoint presentations to share with each other.

Boxing Great Gerry Cooney Empowers LMA

Ms Finver, LMA's ELA teacher, has spent weeks coordinating with Boxing Legend Gerry Cooney to visit the students of LMA, and on March 8 that became a reality. Students and staff had the pleasure to listen to Gerry Cooney's 'real advice' on his accomplishments and failures in his personal life. Gerry Cooney made it his priority to empower all the students of LMA by sharing his personal, and relatable stories to students. Mr. Cooney finished with a 1-2 combo; empowering all students to utilize resources available to them, answering questions from students about his personal life and providing meaningful feedback and guidance. Mr. Cooney reassured the LMA student population that all the staff working here are 'in their corner' and to utilize the staff to help them set and achieve their goals in life.

School in the Community

1. Mr. Bell and our Post Graduate students have started to work with Mashcio's food service.
2. LMA students who earned High Honors for 2nd marking period grades received an exclusive breakfast banquet.
3. Assemblies - Community Meetings spotlighting student of the month (LMA overall) as well as student of the month in each classroom, and the growth they have made academically.

LMA Students Outside of the Classroom

Gabe helps out in his local Church community

Gabe is a student who has been attending LMA for years, and is presently enrolled in the Post Graduate program at LMA. In addition to attending classes at LMA, Gabe is an integrated member of his local Church community in Roselle. As a member of his Church community he helps assist

with the local Pastor, and Church staff members with community events throughout the year. Some responsibilities Gabe help out his Church community include creating and running different social peer groups and team building groups.



About Us

Contact Information:

Phone: (908)-233-7581

Address: 1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ, 07090

Website: https://ucesc.org/schools/lamberts_mill_academy

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ucesc_lma/?hl=en

Lamberts Mill Academy is a school within the Union County Educational Services Commission. We are an out of district public school for students with psychiatric disabilities. We continue to partner with RWJ Trinitas Regional Medical Center to provide clinical services for our students. Our school community prides itself on our relationships with all stakeholders: students, staff, parents, families and community partnerships. Being a public school, we adhere to all NJDOE assessment and curriculum mandates. Our professional learning community strives to increase student achievement and improve classroom instruction to provide students with the most effective educational, social and emotional learning environment possible.



LMA Smore

LMA is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



WESTLAKE'S

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER -

March 2023



Supervisor's Message

"The more that you read the more things you will know, the more that you learn the more places you'll go!"-Dr. Suess.

The month of March "tipped" off with the National event, Read Across America, to remind students that whether reading to oneself, listening to a story or thumbing through a book to explore the colorful pictures, even in this day and age of technology, there is no better experience than getting lost in a book. Special "guests" such as administrators, UCESC staff members and classmates read and engaged students with stories and interactive activities to promote the joy of reading.

As a month long celebration of all the influential and incredible contributions women have accomplished throughout history, meaningful lessons that embraced women from all walks of life, history, and diversity in race, religion and cause were the focal point of active classroom discussions, research and visual presentations that addressed gender biases and the movement towards gender equality.

In honor of Read Across America, I'll leave you with my favorite author Shel Silverstein:

"Listen to Mustn'ts, child, listen to the Don'ts.
Listen to the Shouldn'ts, the Impossibles, the Won'ts.

Listen to the Never Haves, then listen close to me.
Anything can happen, child, Anything can be."-Where the Sidewalk Ends

Till next time my friends, be good to yourself and each other!

Best,

Robert Peneno

"Mr. P"

Westlake School Data Download

Enrollment: 64

Acceptances: 1

Intakes: 4

Referrals: 2

Disenrollment: 0

Fire Drill: 3/7/23

Emergency Mgt. Bomb Threat Drill: 3/10/23



Westlake's March Spotlights!



Student of the Month

Student JB was selected by her staff and peers as student of the month. Congratulations!



Principal's Award

The Principal Award goes to a student selected by the principal who was nominated for student of the month but wasn't chosen. The principal selected Student AG based on his hard work and ability to overcome obstacles.



Teacher Spotlight A Tip from Ms. Barnum!

Stepping back and letting kids make art in the way that pleases them can be hard especially when it's messy or not done to look like the example. But it's honestly the



Paraprofessional Spotlight

Fun Facts About Ms. Jackie!

1. Her favorite color is burgundy.
2. She was a theater major in high school.



Behavioralist Spotlight

What does Ms. Gewirtzman

love about being a Behavioralist?

"What I love most about being a BCBA is getting the opportunity to work with teachers to support our

most rewarding when a student completed a piece all on their own.

3. Currently, Ms. Jackie is in school to become a social worker!

4. She loves to do puzzles and watch movies.

5. Family means everything to her.

students in moving past barriers in learning to reach their fullest potential. I enjoy working with teachers to help create meaningful individualized educational programs for each of the students we serve.”

Ms. Palmer's Classroom

The month of March is a very busy time in Mrs. Palmer's room. The spring holidays are rapidly approaching and that means it is time for Spring Holiday candy orders. The focus has been on vocational work this month as the students are in full blown work mode as staff and parents send in order forms for chocolate lollipops and pretzels.

There are many steps involved in completing an order for Spring Holiday chocolates. First the students review the order to verify how many lollipops and pretzels are needed. Students then gather the correct lollipop and pretzel molds and begin to prepare the next steps: the chocolate wafers are prepared; measured, melted, and poured scooped into the pouring bottle. The lollipop sticks and/or pretzels are placed into the molds and the chocolate is poured into the molds then placed into the refrigerator to harden. In the meantime students are busy measuring ribbons, cutting, tying and curling them to decorate each bag for every lollipop and pretzel.

Once the lollipops have hardened and been carefully decorated, each item is individually wrapped in a plastic bag, tied with beautifully curled ribbons and is collected for the correct order.

Taking orders for Spring Holiday lollipops and pretzels is a job that Mrs. Palmer's class has been doing for the last 21 years. It is an enormous undertaking but it is one that provides an invaluable learning experience for the students. This endeavor focuses on many work skills: reading order forms, following directions, setting up and cleaning up a work space, working with a partner or supervisor, asking for help, staying focused and on task and working until the task is completed. The students take great pride in their work and love knowing that so many families will enjoy the chocolates and pretzels that were so carefully crafted by them.

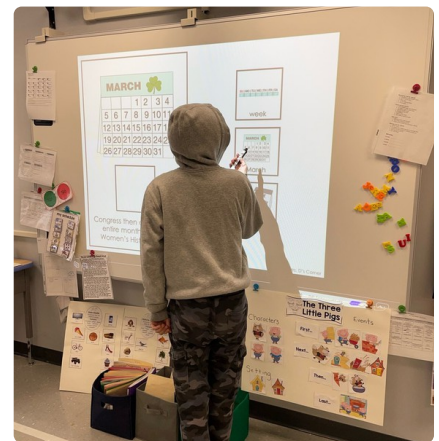
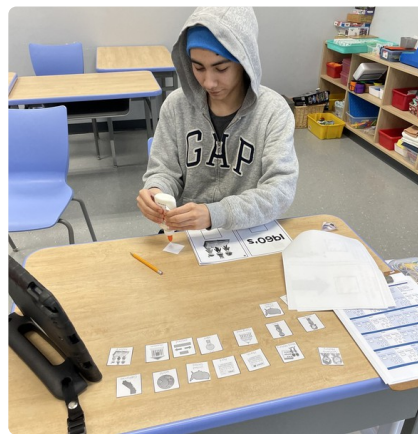




Mr. K's Classroom

This month, we focused on Women's History Month and Empowerment. Each day, we explored new ways to find our own empowerment and independence. Students were able to explore their own empowerment by having autonomy over our classroom space. They explored this through assisting with passing out materials, keeping their desk space clean and organized, and encouraging their peers during class activities.

For Women's History Month, we learned about many incredible women throughout history including Clara Zetkin (the organizer of the first International Women's Day), Jane Goodall, Amelia Earhart, Georgia O'Keefe, Malala Yousafzai, Maya Angelou, and so many more. We decided to build on last month's theme of Cooperation & Friendship as well in our celebration of Women's History Month. Through the help of all of the other classes here at Westlake, we created a collaborative quilt poster with a Maya Angelou quote on it. Every student helped contribute to the collaborative poster, encouraging cooperation across the school. Additionally, with the poster hung in the hallway, students feel empowered by their help in beautifying our school!



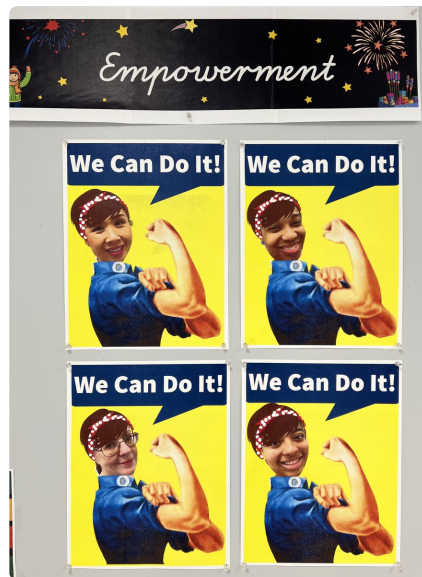
March at Westlake!



“We all have purpose even if we’re still striving to understand what that is.”AB



Students helping each other package!



Ms. Shaw's strong women!



Ms. Schiumo's class shared words of empowerment!

Westlake Out and About!



Ms. Swisher and a few students selling their wares!



Ms. Convery's class went to the grocery store!

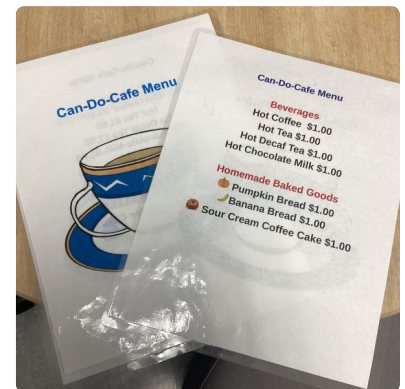


Ms. Papeika's student before they head off to recycle Westlake's plastics!

Can-Do-Cafe!

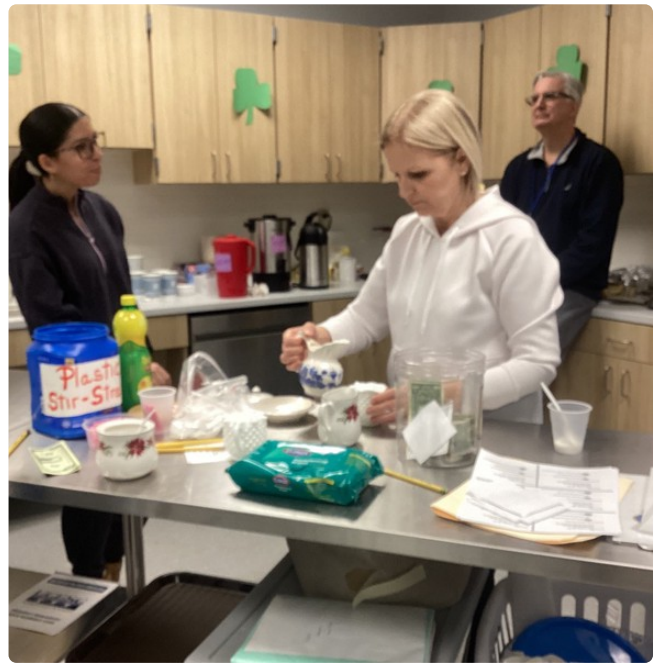
The Westlake Can-Do-Cafe opened its doors on February 7, 2023 and is open every Tuesday morning from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Staff and students from Westlake and Hillcrest Academy South come to the cafe. The students sell hot chocolate, coffee and tea. Along with the drinks the students also sell banana bread, pumpkin bread and sour cream coffee cake that they previously made in class as part of the Food Preparation program. All the jobs of the cafe are staffed by the students: seating the customers, taking and filling orders, bussing the tables, and taking the money and making change. A mobile cafe cart is also staffed by students and overseen by a therapist.

Mrs. Palmer's class is not only learning the specific skills needed to work in a food service setting but they are also learning valuable soft skills such as how to talk to customers, appropriate social skills, and cooperation with co-workers that will transfer to any job setting. Both the student workers of the Can Do Cafe and all of its customers really enjoy the experience of having a school run coffee shop.





Westlake student's, Tianna P and Kariem P enjoying the "sweet" rewards of working hard in the cafe!



Westlake Staff members enjoying a coffee in the cafe during break. Was that one lump or two you wanted?



Congrats to Joanna Schiumo for receiving Westlake's Teacher of the Year Award!!!

Visit us on Instagram!

Visit us on Facebook!



Contact Us

Website: www.ucesc.org/schools/westlake_school

Location: [1571 Lamberts Mill Rd, Westfield, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: [908-232-4181](tel:908-232-4181)



Robert Peneno

Robert is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

The Work Readiness Academy

March 2023 Monthly Report



Director's Message

Dear Families,

Below is a recap of some highlights from the month of March at the Work Readiness Academy. Other important updates will still be sent out via email or letters home with your child.

We wish you all an enjoyable Spring recess beginning on Friday, April 7th. Please make sure to let us know if your child will not be here any days next week.

Sincerely,

Josh Bornstein
Director at the UCESC Work Readiness Academy

March Data

Enrollment as of March 28, 2023

Actual: 27

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0

Referrals: 7

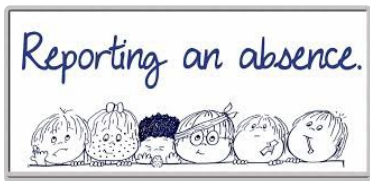
Intakes Scheduled: 6 (March '23)

Accepted: 5

March 16 - Fire Drill

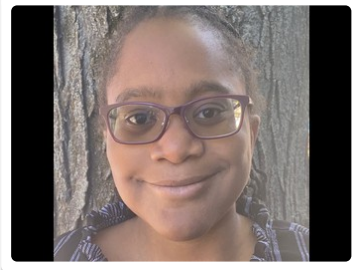
Scheduled for March 29 - Lockdown Drill (Active Shooter)





Student Absences, Late Arrivals & Early Dismissals

As a reminder, in the event that your child will be absent, arriving late, picked up early, please call our main number at (908) 633-2704 and speak with our secretary Maureen Wakeman. If it is before 8am, please leave a message.



WRA Student of the Month

Our Student of the Month for March is Breanna Xavier! "Bre" is both assertive and compassionate! She is always taking the pulse on our school community and can be counted on to advocate for a peer or advise staff of a concern. She is also very punctual and detail-oriented. Bre knows exactly who needs to be where and when! She will make an incredible personal assistant one day.

Congratulations Bre!



Staff Spotlight

Name: Karen Yoon

Position: Paraprofessional (Part-Time)

Years with UCESC: 1; This is Karen's first year with the WRA!

Interests/Hobbies:

Spending time with family, relaxing and catching up with her favorite TV shows.

Quote to Live By: "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless" - Mother Theresa.

Something Most People Wouldn't Know About Me: I have four sons!



Community Business Partner Spotlight

This month we spotlight **South Avenue Dental** located at 104 South Avenue East, in Cranford, New Jersey. Dr. Lajja Patel opened her practice in January of 2022. The practice signed on as a partner with the Work Readiness Academy this past Fall. The internship involves learning how to properly sanitize dental equipment, re-stock dental supplies, turnover rooms, and prepare patient packages. According to Dr. Patel, "The greater Cranford is special. We live here and we love it here. We want to make a lasting impact in our community and the lives of those we serve, so we actively find ways to give back." South Avenue Dental is the second dental practice to serve as a host-site for work-based learning experiences for WRA students, joining Springfield Orthodontics.

Hired!

After participating in an independent Work-Based Learning Experience at Walgreens Pharmacy in Springfield during the first half to the school year, WRA student Dennis Santos was recently hired as a part-time associate working 2-3 days per week to start. Way to go Dennis! We are all so proud of you!



Mock Interview Day

On March 24th students from the WRA's JETS group (Phil's class) participated in a Mock Interview Day. The students traveled to our former home at 45 Cardinal Drive in Westfield where they were paired with UCESC central office staff for the practice interview experience. We were very impressed with how the students performed! They will be reviewing the feedback provided using a standard rubric. We'd like to thank the Commission staff who participated & made this event possible!





March Pictures from our Work-Based Learning Experiences!





Find the WRA Leprauchan!

In recognition of St. Patrick's Day, the WRA students and staff participated in an Irish sodabread "Taste Test" challenge. Congratulations to our big winner, Bovella's Bakery Cafe in Mountainside!

Additionally, the students enjoyed a scavenger hunt that asked them to search around the school and find our staff leprauchans.

Thank you to WRA paraprofessionals Traice Wiebush and Betsy Whitehead for planning and facilitating these fun activities!



The "Can Do" Food Cart Opens at Children's Specialized Hospital!

We were thrilled this month to have launched the "Can Do" food cart at Children's Specialized Hospital's Outpatient Center in Union, New Jersey. This project is made possible thanks to a partnership between Children's Specialized Hospital's Center for Discovery, Innovation & Development & the Union County Educational Services Commission. Students from UCESC's Work Readiness Academy & Westlake School will be participating in work-based learning experiences helping to operate the food cart to support their development of employment readiness skills. The food cart will initially be open to CSH staff and patients (and their families) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 12:30pm.





"Can Do" Food Cart Menu

BEVERAGES	SNACKS	SNACKS
Snapple \$1.00	Smartfood Popcorn \$1.00	Cup of Oatmeal \$1.50
Vita Coco \$2.00	Lay's Baked Chips \$1.50	Welch Fruit Snacks \$1.00
Italian Coffee Pod \$1.00	Popcorners \$1.00	Fudge Stripe Cookies \$1.00
Donut Shop Coffee Pod \$1.00	Pop Secret Popcorn \$1.00	Hot Cocoa w/ Marshmallows \$1.00
Hazelnut Coffee Pod \$1.00	Nature Valley Granola Bar \$1.00	Pop Tarts \$1.00
	Cup of Cereal \$1.50	Chewing Gum \$1.25
	Cup of Soup \$1.00	

The "Can Do" Food Cart is made possible thanks to a partnership between Children's Specialized Hospital's Center for Discovery, Innovation & Development & the Union County Educational Services Commission.

Students with disabilities from UCESC's Westlake School & Work Readiness Academy "work" at the cart to support their development of employment readiness skills!



CDID
Center for Discovery,
Innovation and Development



UCESC
Building Partnerships for Tomorrow

**Located in the
lobby on the
first floor**

Initial Hours

Mon & Wed

10:00am-12:30p



About the Work Readiness Academy

The Work Readiness Academy serves students ages 18-21 with disabilities and provides a comprehensive employment training experience that incorporates both classroom-based instruction and community-based work-learning experiences. While in the training classroom, students work cooperatively with similar aged peers to learn critical skills related to employment and socialization. Students also work on career exploration and planning, including the development of a person-centered, post-secondary vision and plan with clear goals and action steps. Program staff remain on-site during the internships to provide and fade support and assistance as needed. Students also participate in field trips focused on career discovery, independent living skills, recreation and independent travel training.

📍 970 Suburban Road, Union, NJ, ...

✉️ jbornstein@ucesc.org

☎️ 908-633-2704

🌐 ucesc.org/schools/the_work_r...

[Click here to visit the WRA on Facebook!](#)

[Click here to visit the WRA on Instagram!](#)