

## WHY DO WE NEED SOFT SKILLS?

Soft skills are crucial for everyone, including individuals with special needs. These skills enhance personal and professional development, improve relationships, and support independence. Soft skills help individuals navigate the world more effectively, gain confidence, and foster meaningful connections. These skills are especially important when promoting Independence. Skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and time management empower individuals to live more independently. They can handle daily activities and challenges with less reliance on others.

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### MELISSA THOMPSON

Melissa has dedicated 14 years of service to Gramon School, working in various roles including classroom assistant, job coach, and driver. As a true team player, she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure her students are engaged in meaningful activities throughout the day. Melissa is highly adaptable, always ready to step in wherever needed—whether at an off-site job location, in the classroom, or behind the wheel of the van. On a daily basis, she transports students to the business office, where she helps them develop independence through clerical and custodial tasks. If necessary, Melissa takes the initiative to create additional tasks for students to work on during their time there and supervises them at our restaurant job sites. Back on campus, she contributes to seasonal craft projects that enhance the school's environment and brings her infectious enthusiasm and school spirit to every aspect of her work.



## COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION

This month, students embarked on an exciting journey by train to explore the world of transportation! The trip gave them a hands-on opportunity to learn about how transportation connects our communities. The experience was a fun, interactive way for students to gain confidence in navigating public transportation. It was a day filled with learning, adventure, and new experiences that will stay with them long after the trip!



## QUICK INFORMATION

The Gramon School  
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**Principal:** Lisa Mulhall  
**Supervisor of Special Ed:** Jodie Corforte

