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PIKE NEWS

THE REAL WORLD

Students gain life skills by operating coffee shop

Students would line up during passing periods in H Hallway to get their morning coffee or snack fix. It became a popular place for students to get their morning pick-me-up, but changes are coming to what some have referred to as the Pike Coffee Shop.

When Life Skills Teacher Toni Wilson left at the semester after being elected to the school board, Exceptional Learners Teacher Victoria Miller reviewed the program with Principal Jeremy Wolley and decided to make a few changes.

According to Miller, some changes were necessary to make sure the line did not cause students to be late to class.

Besides that, "The nature of selling during passing periods was difficult for many of our students as it requires them to process information and count money quickly. This increases the need for staff to take over often," Miller said.

They are evaluating how to bring the service back to students, but it will look different. The current plan is to do a reboot by offering pre-ordering and delivery services to teachers a few days a week.

The shop is operated by the



Junior Ricky Ervin and Mr. Davis interact with customers during passing period at the coffee/snack table in December. Changes are coming to the way the coffee shop operates. NEWSPAPER STAFF PHOTO

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Principal Wolley

exceptional learners and life skills classes, helping the students to develop real world, essential skills.

Miller said the plan is to start by offering delivery to teachers and possibly expand from there.

"By using delivery, students will be able to review the orders and prepare in advance of delivery. This approach will also have a wider range of jobs students can complete

based on their abilities," Miller said.

Some of these skills will include: processing orders, reviewing orders and organizing them based on what was ordered, as well as determining an effective delivery route. They will also continue to make the coffee and fill the orders prior to delivery. The delivery itself will allow students to practice interacting with customers and providing

the correct order.

Despite the changes, Mr. Wolley acknowledges the benefits of the program.

"The coffee shop is good because it gives kids in the program the opportunity to learn how to transact money and interact with other people," he said.

This shop has been open for many years, starting in the library. Before Covid, they were making about \$200 a day. The money raised goes to many different places. They donate some of the money they earn to many different places. They purchase prom tickets, sponsor families, help with scholarships, and even donated \$300 to the girls basketball team. They also use money to go on field trips. With the money raised last semester, they went to the Indiana State Fair, Newfields, and the movies.

Before taking her seat on the school board Wilson said, "These field trips give the kids the chance to be with the community. When they aren't in school, most students don't get out often."

Miller said there are several possibilities but the goal is to provide the students will as much real life experience as possible.



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