



# 18-22 STRIVE Secondary Transition Program

## OVERVIEW

The Woodstock Academy **STRIVE (Structured Teaching Reinforcing Individualized Varied Experiences)** Secondary Transition Program is a platform for students who continue to be eligible for educational services as they transition to adulthood (ages 18-22). STRIVE blends educational opportunities within real-world settings in the community.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Our passionate and specialized staff work collaboratively with students, families, and the community to provide each student with a comprehensive and individualized program that utilizes their strengths and abilities to foster increased independence. STRIVE is designed to give students a voice and a choice in developing their plan for transitioning into adulthood. Our programs and services include:

## SPECIALIZED STAFFING

STRIVE's team of staff includes a Transition Coordinator, school social worker, school psychologist, board certified behavioral analyst, speech language pathologist, job coaches and mentors.

## SPECIALIZED OPPORTUNITIES

Students are provided unique opportunities within and outside of the classroom to include leadership, functional academics, internships, skill development, and social skill development.

## INDIVIDUALIZED TRANSITION PLANNING

We bring together the student's family, school community and community service providers to support and collaborate with the student to develop and implement plans for adulthood. Using Person Centered Planning, students define their dream or vision for their future and identify the support they may need and steps they must take to reach their goals.

## TRANSITION ASSESSMENTS

Ongoing transitional assessments are conducted to identify student strengths, interests, needs and preferences, and to guide programmatic and individualized learning opportunities. Assessments are conducted to identify individual performance and growth in multiple domains such as daily living, employment and learning.

## COMMUNITY-BASED WORK EXPERIENCE (CBWE)

Students engage in a variety of internship opportunities to explore vocational options. Using the Customized Employment approach, partnerships are developed with local businesses to develop internship opportunities. Training objectives, student-targeted skills and student responsibilities are developed and defined. After a period of training and observation, students become eligible for paid employment opportunities. Students develop interview skills, workplace readiness skills and are provided with performance feedback and reviews to refine their employability skills.

## COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION

Through community based instruction, students engage with their community and world to develop essential life skills. Providing hands-on learning experiences, students practice their skills in community settings such as stores, parks, restaurants, or workplaces. Students work on daily living skills in addition to communication, social interaction, time management and problem solving in the context of daily life. Activities are geared towards putting transitional and vocational skills into practice, developing peer relationships, modeling appropriate behaviors in a variety of settings and fostering a sense of community belonging.

## VOCATIONAL COACHING

Job coach support is provided, tailored to the student's needs and natural supports available at the job site. The level of support can range and is designed to fade gradually over time. Vocational coaching includes data collection on skills, goals and outcomes.

## TRANSITION PORTFOLIO

Each student will generate a collection of resources and tools to guide them in their future educational, vocational and adult living pursuits. This includes but is not limited to community agency partnerships, self-disclosure and self-advocacy tools, resume/letters of recommendation, employee profiles, and Summary of Performance.

## PHILANTHROPIC & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

In the spirit of reciprocity, students will participate in opportunities to build community and give back to their local community. The staff support students in developing the skills to respond to requests and plan to meet observed needs within their community.

## THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

We provide and support the work of consultative individual and small group counseling services and consultative nursing services. We collaborate with community based service providers to meet the ongoing and future needs of our students.

## CONTACT

**Shannon VanderSwaagh**

*Director of Student Support*

[svanderswaagh@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:svanderswaagh@woodstockacademy.org)

**Karin Hughes**

*Dean of Student Affairs*

[khughes@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:khughes@woodstockacademy.org)