



LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY

November 2025 Monthly
Report



For me, every hour is grace. And I feel gratitude in my heart each time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile."

- Elie Wiesel

Administrators' Message

As we close out the short but meaningful month of November here at Lamberts Mill Academy, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work, growth, and positive momentum happening across our school community.

Our Work-Based Learning (WBL) program is in full swing for both our post-graduate students and our seniors. Students have already begun engaging in real-world experiences that build confidence, responsibility, and essential career skills. We are proud to see them take these important steps toward independence and post-secondary success. Working in Chili's Restaurant, Walgreens, Cranford Book store and on-site as Maschio's Food Service provide our students with real world work experiences.



Across the academy, students have also been participating in a variety of academic and behavioral field trips, expanding learning beyond the classroom and strengthening social-emotional skills in authentic settings. Additionally, many of our high school students have been touring local college

campuses, exploring future pathways and gaining firsthand insight into the opportunities ahead. Their curiosity and maturity during these visits reflect the determination we see in them every day. As the first marking period comes to a close, we extend our congratulations to all students who earned academic honors. Your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to growth are truly commendable. We are proud of each of you.

Throughout November, our school community also spent time celebrating gratitude and gratefulness—themes woven into both academic lessons and therapeutic groups. Students and staff reflected on the importance of appreciation, connection, and recognizing the good in ourselves and others. These moments remind us of the strength and resilience that make LMA such a special place.

While reflecting on what we are thankful, the LMA Administration is thankful to have the support of parents/guardians, sending district staff, LMA student pride and all the different staff members who help support and run LMA on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Reed, Danielle & John

Upcoming Events

December 2025 Important Dates

December 23rd - Early Dismissal
December 24th - January 2nd - School Closed for Winter Break
January 5th - School Open



Monthly Data

1. Enrollment - 46
2. Acceptances - 1
3. New Students - 2
4. Intakes - 1
5. Referrals - 5
6. Disenrollments - 2
7. Fire Drill - 11/3/2025
8. Other Drill EM: 11/11/2025 (Shelter in Place)

Staff Spotlight - Educational Support Professionals

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our incredible Educational Support Professionals. From Administrative Assistants, Registered Behavior Technicians and Teacher Assistants to Safety and Security Monitors, Custodians, Food Service Staff, and Technology Specialists, your dedication ensures a safe, functioning, and supportive environment for every student. The important work you do every single day does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for being the foundation of our school community!

Students made thank you cards in the shape of lions for all of the amazing Educational Support Professionals that work at The Mill!



Student of the Month - Liam

Liam has been an excellent student since he started LMA last Spring. He comes into class and is always ready to work. He knows all the different class routines, and is a self-starter. His grades are exceptional, and he has earned Academic Honors this marking period. He consistently participates in class and gets along with his peers. Liam is a wonderful addition to all classes and to the LMA school community!



Halloween Celebrations

Students and staff celebrated Halloween with a party filled with treats, costumes, and scary stories!

Halloween Volunteering at Crossroads School

LMA students had the wonderful opportunity to visit Crossroad Schools on Halloween to help some of the younger students. While dressed up in costume, and spreading the Halloween spirit, LMA students had the unique experience to work with younger students with a hands-on activity and Halloween craft. These experiences are valuable for our older students as it gives them great experience working with younger students, and allowing them to utilize skills learned at The Mill. LMA is thankful to continue this wonderful tradition with Crossroads School!!





November at The Mill



LMA hosted its annual Turkey Trot again this year! Students and staff walk laps outside to kick off Thanksgiving with exercise and fresh air.

Turkey Trot

Josie

Creature Comfort Pet Therapy with



Feeding the Fish in Science Class



Decorating for Fall at The Mill



Practicing cartography skills



Preparing the Winter Shout Out Board



Setting up new science equipment



Sharing appreciation for Nurse Pelaez



Food Drive Collection



Students participated in a mock election to vote for the new NJ Governor. Students learned about the history of Veterans Day and made appreciation cards for Veterans in our community.

Election Day!

Veterans Day!

We are very proud to announce our Academic Honors Students for the First Marking Period. All of the students worked hard in their academic classes to earn top grades and maintain their attendance record. We look forward to seeing them achieve their academic goals as the year continues!

High Honors

Liam DF
Blake V
Vanessa D
Brandon B
Sienna P
Elena D
Maria H

Honors

Nathan M
Anastasia S-G
Taylor V
Sam L
Carah W
Jay'Shaun C
Alex C
Jasson H
Angelise P
Na'Kier B
Emma S
Evette L-C
Kayla S
Ma'Kiah H
Sara M
Lydia K

Honorable Mentions

Jamaal B
Aiden S
Jayden L

LMA Field Trips in November

Splatter Craze

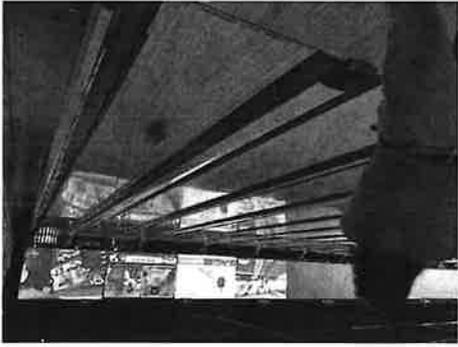
A group of students attended a trip to Splatter Craze on November 3rd. Splatter Craze is an innovative recreational art studio that promotes artistic expression through the unique activity of

paint splattering. This hands-on art form is considered highly therapeutic, providing participants with a valuable outlet for creativity, stress relief, and emotional expression.



Bowling

Students enjoyed a Bowling Field Trip! 🎳 We are so proud of our students' enthusiasm and effort this month—keep up the great work! cheering on their classmates, working together, and enjoying some friendly competition. This was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to be active outside of school while applying the sportsmanship and coordination skills practiced in class. Bowling is a great lifelong activity that encourages physical coordination and social connection, and students had a fantastic time



Kean University Tour

On November 12th, LMA took a field trip to see Kean University in Union, NJ. Juniors, Seniors and Post-Graduate students of LMA first met with the Office of Accessibility in the Wellness Center. Ms. Lyles (Director) and Ms. Lawhorn (Coordinator) presented to the students the different services and support available to students at the college level. All students appreciated and respected their knowledge and expertise on how to be a successful college student. We then took an opportunity to eat lunch at the Student Center, and see what everyday college student life looks like. Two current Kean students met us at the Student Center and then proceeded to take us on a tour of the campus and inform us about all the different programs available, as well as various recreational opportunities. They shared their own personal experiences which allowed LMA to get a peek into college life. Here is a few students' at LMA's perspective on the trip:



"I felt very welcomed when I came to Kean. The people there showed me that everything and anything is possible when you put your mind to it and nobody is different. I really enjoyed that everything was walking distance and I could get to things easily".

-MH

Touring Kean University was a great experience that offered me some great insight. I was able to see how a more local college looks, and it gave me an idea of what I want. It also allowed me to ask important questions regarding my IEP. There is a lot of information we don't know going into college so I think it was helpful to be able to ask questions before graduating.

-ED



Classroom Spotlights

Health and Physical Education

November was an active and exciting month in Health and Physical Education!

In Physical Education, students worked hard to master their sport-specific skills in the Volleyball Unit. They practiced bumping, setting, spiking, digging, and both underhand and overhand serving. Through a variety of lead-up activities and small-sided 2-on-2 and 3-on-3 games, students strengthened their teamwork, communication, and game strategy while improving their overall volleyball technique.



We also continued our Floor Hockey Unit. To start, students learned the fundamentals through the lead-up game Pillow Polo, using soft, cushioned sticks to develop control and confidence. Classes explored the history of floor hockey and the origins of the NHL before transitioning to full-length sticks. Students practiced passing, stickhandling, and shooting, and began learning goaltending techniques and gameplay strategies as we headed into the final weeks of the unit.

In Health class, students wrapped up our Personal Hygiene Unit and learned about common illnesses that often circulate this time of year—such as the flu, colds, mononucleosis, and conjunctivitis. They explored how each illness affects the body and, most importantly, how to prevent and manage them through healthy habits. We also reinforced hygiene concepts in a fun

way by playing "Personal Hygiene Bingo", emphasizing how good hygiene supports both physical and emotional well-being.

English Language Arts and Literacy

Students ended the marking period strong by completing their argumentative essays. We continue to introduce weekly

vocabulary terms through word clusters finishing each week on Friday with a quiz to increase their terminology. The vocabulary quiz scratch and sniff stickers have been a big incentive with a new scent each week. We recognized Native American Heritage month by reflecting on the various animal images of totem poles and their meanings. Then the students chose the animals that

represented them and created their own totem poles. Students have participated in book groups exploring classic novels including Fahrenheit 451, Bad Boys, Hatchet, The Outsiders and Crossover. We reviewed the importance of written expression and communication and by the end of the month students will be able to create and send their own Thanksgiving cards.



Science

We are working on hands-on activities, and kinesthetics into the Science Classroom. Biology class will engage in a Cheek Cell Lab where they will learn how to gather and dye (Human) animal cells, place them on a slide and view under our new electric Compound Light microscopes. Our 8th Grade Earth Scientists are creating colorful posters of the Deep Water Cycle which is a deeper look at how the earth's water moves on, above and well below the surface. Juniors will be making Atom Models in Chemistry, and Seniors are exploring careers in Marine Biology.



Clinical Corner

The November monthly theme at LMA is Gratitude. Expressing gratitude is important because it strengthens relationships and improves mental health. Here are 5 tips on how to express gratitude to those around you.

Group Therapy

During the month of November, we focused on gratitude and kindness. Students are learning to implement active listening skills and being respectful and supportive of others. Students also created Thankful grams to give to staff expressing their gratitude and appreciation for all they do. We were excited to welcome new students to our groups, and everyone worked together to help them feel included and connected.



November Behavior Tips from the LMA Behavior Team:

Responding Effectively to Back Talk- The Cycle of Effective Communication

As our teens grow more independent, it's normal for them to test limits and sometimes, that shows up as back talk. While it can feel disrespectful in the moment, what's really happening underneath is usually frustration, overwhelm, skill deficits, or a need for control. The good news is, with the right approach, we can turn those moments into opportunities to teach communication, problem-solving, and emotional regulation.

1. Coach the Communication, Don't Just Correct the Tone

- Instead of saying "Don't talk to me like that," try modeling a better way to say it:
- "What you're trying to tell me is, 'I'm feeling frustrated.' Try that."
- Your child needs real-time communication coaching and not once, but over and over again. It's like learning a new language of respect and self-advocacy. The more they practice, the more natural it becomes.

2. Address the Need Behind the Words

- When back talk shows up, try getting curious before reacting. Curiosity often softens defenses and opens the door for connection.
- "It sounds like this isn't working for you right now. What do you need?"
- Behind most back talk is an unmet need. It may be for control, attention, or understanding. Meeting the need doesn't mean giving in, but showing that you're listening.

3. Match Your Response to Their Daily "Window"

- Behavior isn't random. It's connected to stress and energy levels throughout the day.
- Morning attitude? Minimize decision-making. Keep things short and structured: "Shirt or hoodie today?"
- After-lunch sass? Offer a calm, quiet activity to help bring their energy down before tackling demands.
- Matching your response to their regulation level helps prevent escalation before it starts.

4. Add Action to Your Words

- Repeating yourself rarely works. Try pairing words with gentle, supportive action.
- Move closer (proximity control).
- Offer help: "Let me help you get started on this."
- Sometimes your calm presence communicates more than words ever could.

5. Set Expectations Before Trigger Moments

- Don't wait for the conflict. Frontload the expectations and make sure they are clear.

• "Screen time ends at 5. I expect you to say 'Okay, Mom' when it's time to turn it off. If you

argue or yell, screens are off tomorrow."

• When expectations and consequences are clear ahead of time, kids feel more secure and less surprised in the moment.

6. Hold Boundaries and Acknowledge Feelings

• Empathy and structure can exist together.

• "I know it's hard to stop playing video games. We still need to clean up because it's time for

dinner. Let's do it together."

• Acknowledging the feeling doesn't erase the boundary. It helps your child feel seen while still

learning limits.

7. Notice and Reinforce the Respectful Moments

• What you notice grows. When your child uses a calm or respectful tone, catch it and name it:

• "I love how you said that. Thank you for using a respectful voice to tell me you were

"disappointed."

• Kids repeat the behaviors that get noticed. By praising the positive communication, you help it

take root.

Final Thought

Back talk is communication... just not the kind we want. Our job isn't to shut it down, but to shape it. When we model calm, curiosity, and consistency, we teach our teens the lifelong skills of emotional regulation and respectful communication.

With Appreciation,

The LMA Behavior Team

Students Outside the Classroom

For the month of November LMA is proud to announce that student Vanessa has applied to, and got a job working at Starbucks. LMA is proud to support Vanessa in the hiring process at Starbucks. She received various coaching and interviewing tips from all LMA staff members to help with the hiring process. If you are in the Warren area, and are getting Starbucks, please be sure to say Hello to Vanessa, who is always sharing a positive attitude and large smile!



Upcoming Community Events

Click on the flyers below for links to fun events happening in our community.



Teen Support Group 14-19 (Virtual) - National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City , Inc.

Join us A support group for teens ages 14-18 living with mental health challenges, facilitated by near peers (someone close in age with lived experience). This group is a safe space to develop coping skills, share common experiences, build self-advocacy ...
Teen Support Group 14-18 (Virtual) [Read More »](#)

naminycmetro.org

Community Resources

<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/dcsc/CSOC.brochure.pdf>

<https://naminj.org/>

<https://988lifeline.org/>

<https://nj4s.nj.gov/s/>

School in the Community

1. Post Graduate Students working at the Cranford Bookstore, Chili's, and Maschio's Food Service.
2. Students earning a trip the Westlake School Cafe
3. Field Trips to Splatter Craze and Bowling Alley
4. College Campus Tours at Kean University and Union County College

About Us

Contact Information:

Phone: (908)-233-7581

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

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

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/uccsc_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 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.



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LMA Smore

LMA is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters.



Westlake November Monthly Report



Message from the Administrators

Celebrating Our Students & The Power of Gratitude

Dear Families, Students, Staff, and Community Partners,

As we move through this season of reflection, we want to take a moment to shine a light on what makes our school truly special: **our students**. Every day, we witness their curiosity, kindness, resilience, and creativity. Whether they are helping a classmate, engaging enthusiastically in lessons, or showing determination in overcoming challenges, our students remind us of the incredible potential within young people.

Over the past few months, we've seen:

- Students collaborate by working in groups during work projects and in social emotional lessons.
- Acts of kindness that show maturity by holding doors, offering help, or simply giving a word of encouragement.
- A growing commitment to responsibility, with many students taking leadership roles in classrooms, socially and in their working skills.

These moments reflect who we are in a school community—and who our students are becoming.



The Importance of Gratitude

This season offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the value of **gratitude**. Research shows that practicing gratitude not only strengthens emotional well-being but also fosters empathy, improves relationships, and builds resilience.

Throughout the month, our teachers have been helping students explore gratitude in age-appropriate ways:

- Writing thank-you notes to staff and community members from holiday express
- Learning how gratitude can help us respond positively to challenges
- Sharing "gratitude moments" during morning meetings

We encourage families to continue these conversations at home. A simple daily practice—asking your child, "*What's one thing you're grateful for today?*"—can make a profound difference.

Gratitude for Our Families, Staff and Community Partners

We also want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our families for your continued support, trust, and involvement. Your partnership strengthens our school in countless ways. To our dedicated staff, thank you for your passion, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our students' growth.

With much gratitude,

Claudine, Bobby and Stacey

Westlake Information

DATES:

11/26 – 1:00 pm dismissal

Enrollment as of November 25, 2025

Actual: 55

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 1

Referrals: 5

Intakes Scheduled: 2

Accepted: 0

Drills

11/3/25 - Fire Drill

11/11/25 - Shelter in Place Drill

Union County Educational Services Commission

2025-2026



District Calendar

September '25

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October '25

		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November '25

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December '25

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January '26

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February '26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March '26

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April '26

1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May '26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June '26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Sep 1 Labor Day
- Sep 2 - 4 Staff Development Day
- Sep 5 School Opens (Students & Staff)
- Sep 23 - 24 Rosh Hashanah
- Oct 2 Yom Kippur
- Oct 13 Early Dismissal (1pm)/Staff Development
- Nov 6 - 7 NJEA Convention
- Nov 26 Early Dismissal (1pm)
- Nov 27 - 28 Thanksgiving
- Dec 23 Early Dismissal (1pm)
- Dec 24 - Jan 2 Winter Recess
- Jan 12 Early Dismissal (1pm)/Staff Development
- Jan 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb 16 President's Day
- Mar 6 Staff Development Day
- Apr 3 - 10 Spring Recess
- May 11 Early Dismissal (1pm)/Staff Development
- May 25 Memorial Day
- Jun 19 - 23 Early Dismissal (1pm)
- Jun 23 Last Day of School

Total Days for Students: 180**

Total Days for Staff: 184**

**Three emergency days are built into the calendar. Should extra days be needed they will be added at the end of the year.

If all emergency days are not used the days will be reduced at the end of the year.

Emergency Closing Information

- First Day of School - Students
- School Closed - Holiday
- Early Dismissal
- School Closed - Staff Development

In the event of a delayed opening, all UCESC Schools and Programs will be delayed by 90 minutes.
Delayed opening, early dismissal and school closing announcements will be posted online at www.ucesc.org and sent via the First Alert system.



September Spotlight!

Student of the Month!

Principal Award Winner!

Our Student of the Month for November is L.K.. He embodies the true spirit of gratitude in everything he does. He consistently shows appreciation for their teachers, classmates, and opportunities, creating a positive atmosphere wherever he goes.



*Student
of the
Month*





Principal's Award



Our Principal's Award winner for November is A.A.! He shows gratitude to his classroom staff by saying Thank You.

Staff of the Month!

Sunshine Cafe Employee of the Month!

Our Speech Teacher Ms. Sara is the perfect example of gratitude in action, making her November's Staff of the Month. She celebrates every student's progress—big or small—and always takes time to acknowledge the hard work of those around her. We are truly grateful for the dedication and compassion she brings to our school each day.





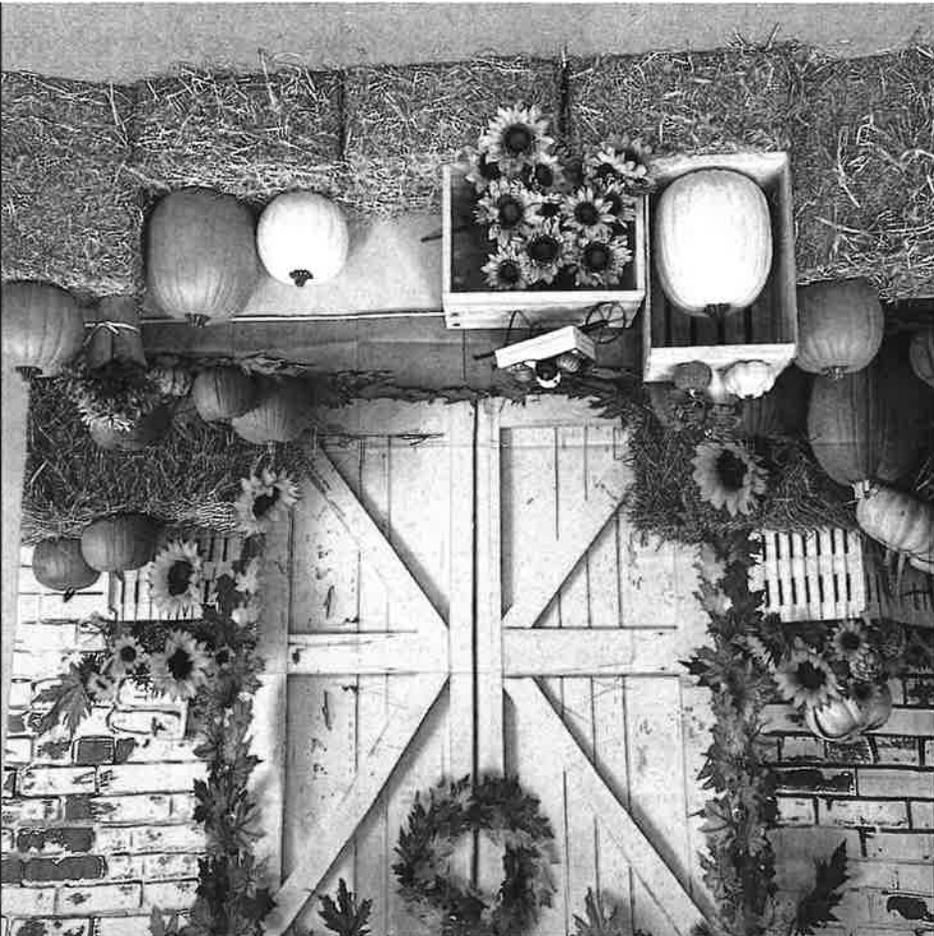
The Sunshine Cafe would like to announce our November Employee of the Month... J.B! She is a hard worker who always has a smile on her face! She is respectful and kind to everyone. She is an amazing employee and friend to all! We are lucky to have her in The Sunshine Cafe!

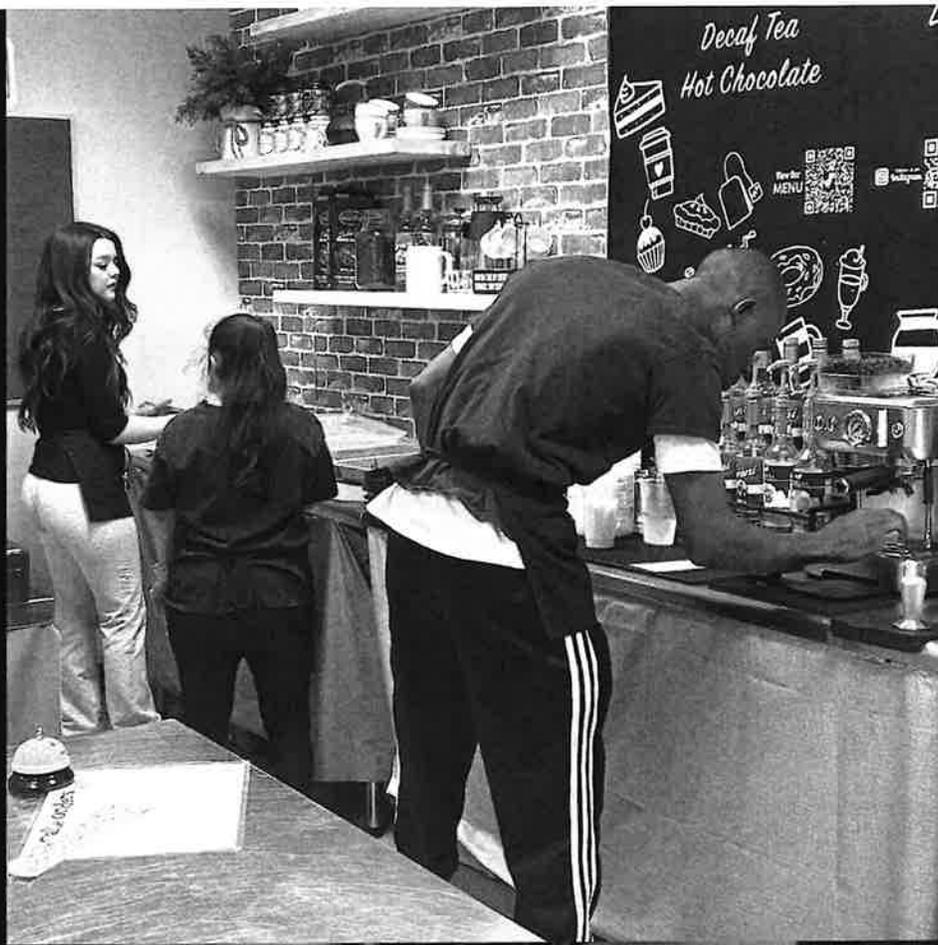


Sunshine Cafe!

The Sunshine Café, proudly run by our Westlake staff and students, not only served drinks and pastries but promoted gratitude this month. Visitors were invited to write something they were thankful for on slips of paper shaped like coffee cups, creating a growing mosaic of gratitude on the wall outside the café. As the collection expanded, it became a vibrant reminder of community, kindness, and the unique strengths each student and staff bring to the café each week. The café not only served coffee and treats—it served connection.

To say THANK YOU to all their customers at Westlake, the café offered a Friendsgiving promotion. Each staff member received a hot drink and a pastry!

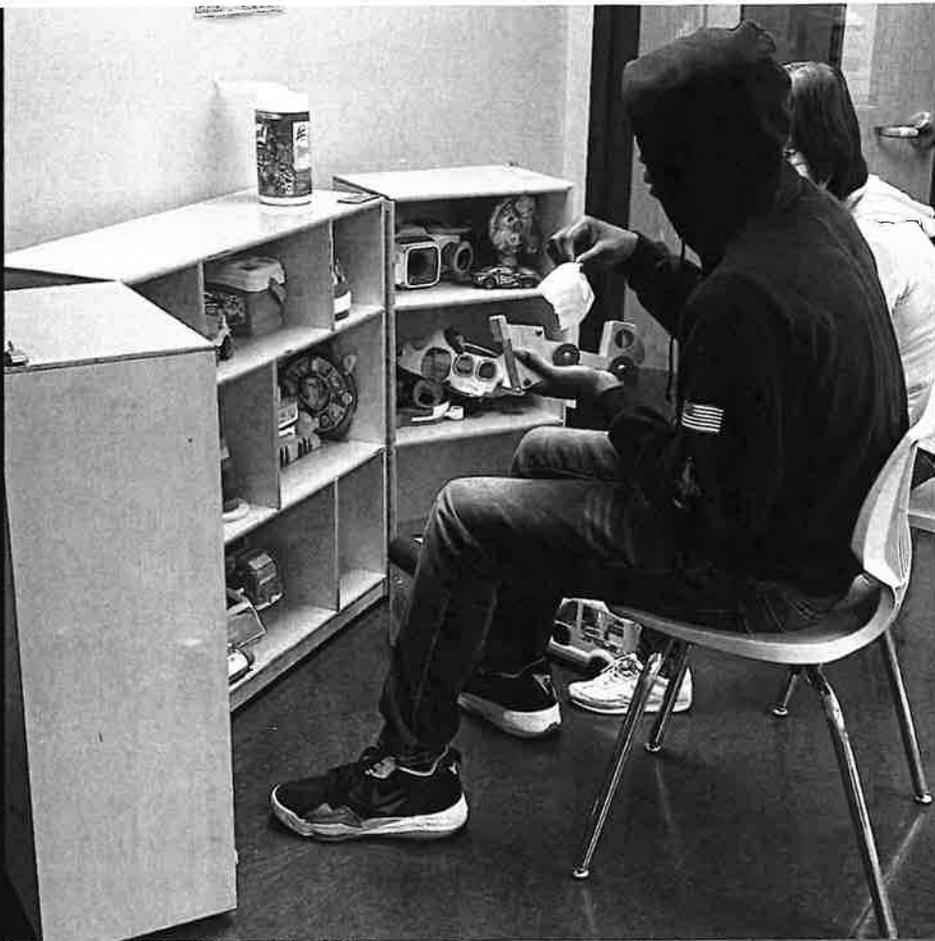




Work Based Learning!



Through Work-Based Learning, students at Westlake gain real-world experience while building confidence and independence. They run a snack cart at a local hospital, greeting staff and patients with friendly service and reliable teamwork. At the library, they help keep the children's area clean and welcoming by organizing toys and creating a tidy space for young readers. They also stock shelves at Walgreens, learning responsibility and workplace skills that prepare them for future employment opportunities.



November Tips from the Westlake

Behavior Team!

Supporting Communication and Cooperation in Adolescents and Young Adults

All behavior is communication, even when it doesn't come out in words. Many of our students express themselves through gestures, facial expressions, AAC devices, or behavior. When someone refuses, yells, or walks away, it doesn't necessarily mean they're being "noncompliant." Often, it means:

"I don't understand," "This feels overwhelming," "I need space," or "I want more control."
When we respond with calm curiosity and clear teaching, we help our students develop more effective and respectful ways to communicate their needs.

1. Coach Communication in the Moment

When a student communicates through behavior, focus on showing what to do instead of what not to do. Model or prompt the words, AAC messages, or gestures that can express the same idea in a more appropriate way:

If a student shouts "No!" when told it's time to transition, try:

"You can say, 'One more minute,' or press 'Wait' on your device. Let's do that together."

Repetition builds independence and helps students understand that communication, not

escalation, gets results.

2. Look for the Message Behind the Behavior

Behavior is a form of problem-solving. Before reacting, pause and ask:

"What is this person trying to tell me right now?"

Maybe they're tired, confused, overstimulated, or seeking control. You might respond with:

"Sounds like you need a break. Let's take two minutes and then come back."

Meeting the need doesn't mean giving in, it means honoring their communication and helping them

express it safely and clearly.

3. Match Your Support to Their Regulation Level

Behavior often reflects a person's current regulation or stress level.

- If the student is anxious or frustrated: Keep language brief, concrete, and paired with visuals or gestures.

- If the student is tired or overloaded: Offer sensory breaks, a quiet space, or movement before introducing new demands.

When we match our expectations to a student's regulation, we set them up for success and preserve their dignity.

4. Pair Calm Words with Gentle Action

When a student is dysregulated, less language and more presence can go a long way.

- Move closer quietly (use proximity support).

- Point or show visuals: "First clean up, then music."
- Offer shared assistance: "I'll start the first step with you."

Your calm, steady body language communicates safety and support.

5. Help Your Child Prepare for Challenging Moments

Transitions and changes in routine can be tough. Giving your child a heads-up about what's coming next helps them feel calm and in control.

You can:

- Use a timer or visual countdown to show when an activity is almost over.
- Give simple verbal reminders, like:

"In five minutes, we'll clean up for dinner."

"After we finish lunch, we'll get ready to go out."

Keeping routines clear and consistent helps reduce stress, builds trust, and makes daily transitions smoother for everyone.

6. Acknowledge Feelings While Maintaining Boundaries

It's okay to validate emotion and still hold expectations.

"I know you're frustrated that break time is over. It's hard to stop something you enjoy. Let's walk together to class."

Young Adults need both empathy and structure, it's how they learn to trust adults and manage emotions safely.

7. Reinforce Positive Communication

Notice and praise all efforts at appropriate communication, even small ones.

"You told me you needed a break, thank you for letting me know."

"I really appreciate how you asked for help instead of walking away."

Every time we acknowledge positive communication, we strengthen it for the future.

Final Thought

Refusal, avoidance, and strong emotions are forms of communication, sometimes challenging, but always meaningful. Our goal isn't to stop the behavior, but to teach and shape it into clear, effective messages.

When we respond with calm, curiosity, and consistency, we help our students build lifelong skills in communication, regulation, and trust, the foundation for success beyond school.

With appreciation,

The Westlake Behavior Team



The Holiday Express Charity brought the magic of the season to our school with a festive celebration full of joy and excitement. Students and staff enjoyed live Christmas music from a

talented band, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, a reindeer, a snowman, and even Elmo. Gifts, face painting, and a delicious lunch added to the fun, creating smiles and lasting memories for everyone. This special event truly captured the spirit of giving and holiday cheer for the entire school community.



Ms. Donna Social Worker!

Our Westlake students created a beautiful Gratitude Quilt, with each square showcasing something special they are thankful for. As they decorated their pieces, students shared heartfelt appreciation for their families, friends, and teachers who support them every day. There was a fun mix of what they are grateful for—from their siblings, a Nintendo Switch & ice cream!! Together, their quilt reflects a vibrant display of gratitude, community, and the simple joys that brighten their lives.

Mr. Kurt's Class!

Our students in W79 have really enjoyed the Fall season! We had a great time at Esposito Park on a beautiful day, walking around the path and playing soccer in the field. Fun was had by all at the Halloween Dance and Holiday Express celebration, which featured themed music and dancing.

The class has been very busy working as well! We have been put in charge of recyclables collection throughout the school and the class has been up to the challenge! The students successfully delivered 12 large bags of bottles, cans and paper to the Recycling Center on a recent class trip. In the classroom, we've completed many Science and Social Studies lessons, including one about Veterans Day.

The students and staff of Room 79 would like to wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels to all!

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Ms. Caryn BCBA!

Winter Routine Support Checklist

Strategies for Families

Morning Predictability

- Use a picture-based morning routine (dress → breakfast → coat → bus)
- Give a 2–5 minute warning before transitions

Dressing for Weather

- Lay out winter clothes (coats, hats, gloves) the night before
- Practice "layering race": put on coat + hat + gloves together, maybe using a timer

Navigating Schedule Changes

- Create a small "December preview" board to highlight special events or days off
- Use "First ... then ..." language for holiday events or changes (e.g., "First assembly, then art class")

Emotional Regulation

- Pack a preferred calming item or sensory tool in the backpack
- Practice a simple calming strategy (deep breaths, wall pushes, stretching) before any busy or new event
- Give choices when possible ("Do you want to put your coat on yourself or with help today?")

As we move through November, many students are adjusting to changes in routine brought on by Daylight Saving Time, shorter daylight hours, and the excitement of Thanksgiving activities.

These shifts can affect sleep, mood, and flexibility—especially for students who thrive on predictability. Families can help by using simple supports such as visual schedules, picture-based morning checklists, and consistent "first/then" reminders to prepare students for any changes.

Previewing upcoming events ("We have a special assembly today" or "There will be no school on Thursday and Friday") can help reduce uncertainty and increase comfort. With December around the corner—and with it, holiday programs, school-wide events, and potential weather-related schedule changes—it's a great time to practice coping skills like using timers, taking movement breaks, or choosing a preferred calming strategy. Building these routines now helps students feel supported, secure, and successful as we head into a busy season.



Occupational Therapy with Ms. Melissa!

🍂 November in Speech! 🌟

This month in the Occupational Therapy (OT) room, we've been working towards our goals with fun, hands-on Thanksgiving-themed activities! Two activities we are highlighting this month include the Feather Door Decorations and the Rolo Pretzel Turkeys.

🍂 Feather Door Decorations 🍂

Students decorated colorful paper feathers to help create a festive Thanksgiving display for our door. While working on their feathers, students practiced:

- Fine motor skills: cutting, coloring, and gluing with control
 - Visual-motor integration: following patterns, staying within borders, and placing pieces accurately
 - Sensory exploration: using different textures and art materials
 - Executive functioning: planning their design, organizing materials, and completing a multi-step task
- Each feather turned out unique, and together they make a beautiful display welcoming everyone into our space!

🍂 Rolo Pretzel Turkeys 🍂

Students made Rolo pretzel turkeys, a fun and delicious activity that helped students build a variety of OT-related skills. During this cooking craft, students practiced:

- Bilateral coordination: stabilizing with one hand while assembling with the other
- Fine motor precision: placing small candy pieces and manipulating materials
- Sequencing and direction-following: completing the steps in order to make the final turkey treat
- Self-regulation and patience: waiting for materials to melt or cool and taking turns
- Life skills: simple food preparation, hygiene, and working safely with warm items (with adult guidance)

The finished products came out adorable, and students were proud of their hard work, which made ending the OT session with a tasty snack even better.

Wolf Pack Press!

The Sunshine Cafe is full of gratitude! To celebrate Thanksgiving, the Sunshine Cafe hosted a "Friendsgiving" event. Staff and students enjoyed cake and drinks while reflecting on what they were grateful for by writing it down. We had a lot of great responses. We are very thankful for our amazing customers in the cafe!

Halloween!

The Fall Fest Dance was a lively celebration filled with music, laughter, and autumn spirit. Students had the option to dress up in fun costumes, adding extra excitement to the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed taking playful photos to capture memories with friends. It was a wonderful way for students to come together, celebrate the season, and have a great time!

Mini Golf at Hyatt Hills!

Westlake students joined Crossroads School and had a fantastic day on their trip to a mini golf course, generously provided by the Union County Educational Services Commission Foundation. They enjoyed fresh air and plenty of laughs as they played. After the game, everyone gathered for a delicious pizza lunch, making the outing even more special. It was a fun-filled day of learning, friendship, and great memories.

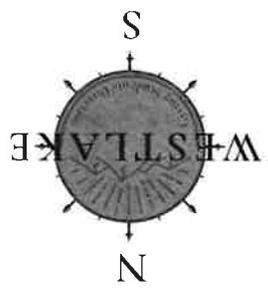
Parent Resources!

Contact Us!

Website: www.ucesc.org/schools/schools/westlake_school
Location: 1571 Lamberts Mill Rd, Westfield, NJ, USA
Phone: 908-232-4181

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Robert Peneno

Robert is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



CROSSROADS MONTHLY REPORT

November 2025

Message from the Administration

Dear Crossroads Community,

It's amazing how quickly time flies—it's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already upon us, and before we know it, we will be returning from the long weekend and heading straight into December and the heart of the holiday season. November has been a full and joyful month here at Crossroads, and we are grateful for the many opportunities we've had to learn, celebrate, and grow together.



We kicked off the month with our Election Day Activity, where students had the chance to sample and vote for their favorite cookie. In a heated and delicious battle, the Oreo *just* edged out the chocolate chip cookie for the win! It was a fun and engaging way to celebrate civic participation in a way that felt meaningful—and tasty—for our students.

This month also brought one of our most anticipated events: the Holiday Express Party. It was truly heartwarming to see all the smiling faces as students listened to music, danced, and enjoyed magical visits from Frosty, Elmo, Santa, and even the Grinch. The joy and excitement in the building were unforgettable.

I'd also like to express my sincere appreciation to the many families who joined us for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Your partnership and collaboration are essential to the success of our students, and we value every opportunity to connect with you. For those who were unable to

attend, it's not too late—please feel free to call the office anytime to schedule an appointment. We are always here to support you and your child.

Throughout November, we have also been reflecting on our monthly SEL theme of gratitude. In the spirit of the district's yearly theme, Paving Paths, this month's focus—Starting to Build—has encouraged us to recognize and appreciate the strong foundations we create when we work together. From the small daily moments of kindness to larger schoolwide celebrations, our community continues to build a path rooted in connection, joy, and shared purpose.

And as we look ahead to December, there is so much to look forward to. The holiday season always brings special activities, traditions, and opportunities to celebrate the progress our students make each day. We are excited to continue this wonderful momentum.

Wishing all of our families a warm, joyful, and restful Thanksgiving. We are truly thankful for each and every one of you and grateful to have you as part of our Crossroads community.

Warm Regards,

Matt, Danielle, and Stacey

General Information

General Information

Enrollment as of November 26, 2025

Actual: 57

Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 1

Referrals: 6

Intakes Scheduled: 2

Accepted: 0

October Drill Schedule

Fire Drills: 11/3/25

Emergency Drills 11/11/25 (Shelter in Place)

Upcoming Dates

November 26, 2025 - Early Dismissal for Students - 1:00 - Thanksgiving Break

November 27, 2025 - School Closed - Thanksgiving Break

November 28, 2025 - School Closed - Thanksgiving Break

December 11, 2025 - Parent Education/Support Meeting (1:00)

December 23, 2025 - Early Dismissal for Students - 1:00 - Winter Recess

December 24, 2025 - January 4, 2026 - School Closed - Winter Recess

January 5, 2026 - School Reopens for Students

Crossroads Student Spotlight

Student of the Month -Yachin

We are so happy to share that Yachin is our Student of the Month for November! No matter where you are in the building, when you see Yachin he immediately brings a smile to your face. His infectious smile and personality can make anyone's day.

Yachin thrives on routine and can be found lending a helping hand to anyone in need. He can tell you the schedule for the day first thing in the morning, can tell you when everyone has speech or OT, and can always be counted on to help whoever needs it. He works hard to do his best and not disappoint.



His energy is intoxicating! He loves the outdoors and being on the playground. You can find him swinging, spinning, or running around playing tag. A secret talent of Yachin's is singing and we can always count on him serenading us with The Lava Song!

We cannot wait to see what the next couple years have in store for Yachin as he grows and matures into a wonderful young man!

Classroom Spotlight

Ms. Anna's Classroom



Now that it is November, our class has fully acclimated to our school routines and understands the expectations for each part of the day. We have been having a wonderful and productive month in Room 108!

Our students enjoyed an exciting experience at the Holiday Express during our trip to Westlake, where they celebrated the holidays a little early. They had a great time dancing and meeting Santa, Elmo, and even the Grinch!

In honor of Veterans Day, our class created heartfelt cards for local veterans. Each student selected who they wanted to address their card to and chose pictures to express their thanks and appreciation.

It has been a month full of learning, joy, and meaningful experiences in 108! We look forward to more exciting moments ahead.





Ms. Alexis's Classroom

Room 109 had an exciting and busy November! This month, our students focused on developing important self-care skills such as brushing their teeth, washing their face, and washing their hands. They also practiced daily living skills including sweeping the floor, cleaning the table, and setting the table. The ADL room continues to be a favorite space where students eagerly participate in these hands-on activities.

We also had the pleasure of attending Holiday Express, which was a highlight for everyone. The students were thrilled to see special guests like The Grinch, Elmo, Frosty the Snowman, and Santa Claus. They danced, played instruments, and even had the option to enjoy face painting.



In addition, we incorporated baking activities that helped students build a variety of meaningful skills—such as sitting in a group setting, following directions, using their senses, problem solving, practicing patience, and managing time. Their hard work paid off with two delicious treats: cinnamon rolls and a chocolate cream pie!

Room 109 had a wonderful month of learning, growing, and celebrating together.

We also practiced saying thank you to staff and peers. We were very happy and grateful that we could celebrate World Kindness Day with a special treat - Holiday Express. The students enjoyed wonderful holiday music in their festive outfits. We are so THANKFUL for this wonderful gift of life

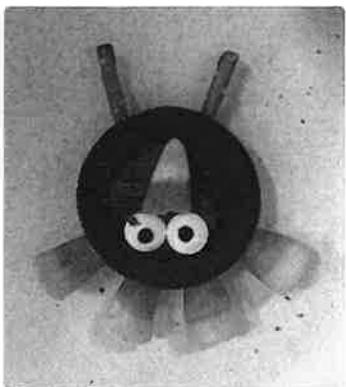
This month, we learned about Gratitude in our Social Skills Group Lessons. We created Gratitude Trees and identified things we are thankful for.

Ms. Elaine - GRATITUDE

Specials Report: Social Work



November has been a busy month in the OT department working on Fall Fun and Thanksgiving preparation. The students have worked on fine motor and handwriting tasks by creating Name Turkey crafts and hand print turkeys that are displayed both on the OT bulletin board and in the classrooms. Our pre-writers used crayons to trace and color turkey trails (mazes) and climbed the wall ladder to pin the feathers on the turkey. During the OT group sessions students worked on sensory, fine motor and visual motor skills by completing an oreo turkey treat; while some of our older students practiced setting the table in preparation for the holiday meal in our mock apartment/ADL room.



Ms. Dina, Ms. Jess, and Ms. Sara

Therapy Spotlight - Occupational Therapy



music and kindness for the children. I know the staff enjoyed it too as they danced along to the holiday songs. The students created thank you cards in Art with Miss Grace for the Wonderful Holiday Express Staff.

A beautiful mural was created for our School Nurse, Lynn Ferrente in her office by three staff members- Grace Aher, Gabriela Valdes and Alison Mebes as a thank you to our nurse for her wonderful work , kindness and caring for our students and staff at Crossroads School.

🐾 November Tips from the Crossroads Behavior Team 🐾

Supporting Communication and Cooperation

All behavior is communication, even when it doesn't come out in words. Many of our students express themselves through gestures, facial expressions, AAC devices, or behavior. When a child refuses, yells, or pushes something away, it doesn't always mean they're being "defiant." Often, it means: "I don't understand," "This is too hard," "I need a break," or "I want control."

When we respond with calm curiosity and clear teaching, we help our children learn more effective ways to communicate their needs.

1. Coach Communication in the Moment

Instead of focusing on "fixing" tone or stopping behavior, model the words or AAC message they can use.

If a child screams when told it's time to clean up, try:

"You can say, 'All done' or press 'Stop' on your device. Let's do that together."

Your child needs real-time coaching, again and again, to learn that their voice or AAC can get their needs met. Every repetition builds skill and confidence.

2. Look for the Need Behind the Behavior

Refusal is a message. Pause and ask yourself, What are they trying to tell me?

"It sounds like you don't want to do this right now. Do you need help, a break, or a different choice?"

Meeting the need doesn't mean giving in, it means showing that you understand their message and will help them find a way to express it safely.

3. Match Your Response to Their Regulation Level

Behavior often depends on how regulated a child feels.

- **Morning meltdowns?** Keep it simple and visual. Use picture cues or a first/then board.
- **Afternoon refusal?** Offer movement, or a calming sensory break before giving new directions.

When we match our response to a child's regulation "window," we help them feel safe and capable again.

4. Add Gentle Action to Support Words

When a child is struggling to follow directions, words alone may not work. Try adding calm, supportive action:

Move closer quietly (proximity control).

Point, gesture, or guide with visuals: "First clean up, then iPad"

Offer help: "Let's do the first piece together"

Your calm presence is one of the most powerful tools for helping kids regulate and refocus.

5. Prepare Before Challenging Moments

Predictability helps kids feel safe. Talk about (or show visuals for) what's coming before transitions or tough routines.

"After five more minutes, iPad goes off. Then it's snack."

"When I say 'time to go,' we walk to the door together."

Setting clear expectations before the moment helps reduce stress and surprises.

6. Hold the Boundary and Acknowledge the Feeling

It's okay to validate emotions while still keeping limits.

"I know it's hard to stop playing. You really like that toy. It's time to clean up now. I'll help."

This shows empathy and structure, two things children rely on to feel secure.

7. Notice and Reinforce the Positive Communication

What we notice grows!

When your child uses a word, AAC message, gesture, or even calm body language to communicate, celebrate it:

"You told me 'all done.' Great job using your words!"

"I love how you showed me what you needed instead of yelling."

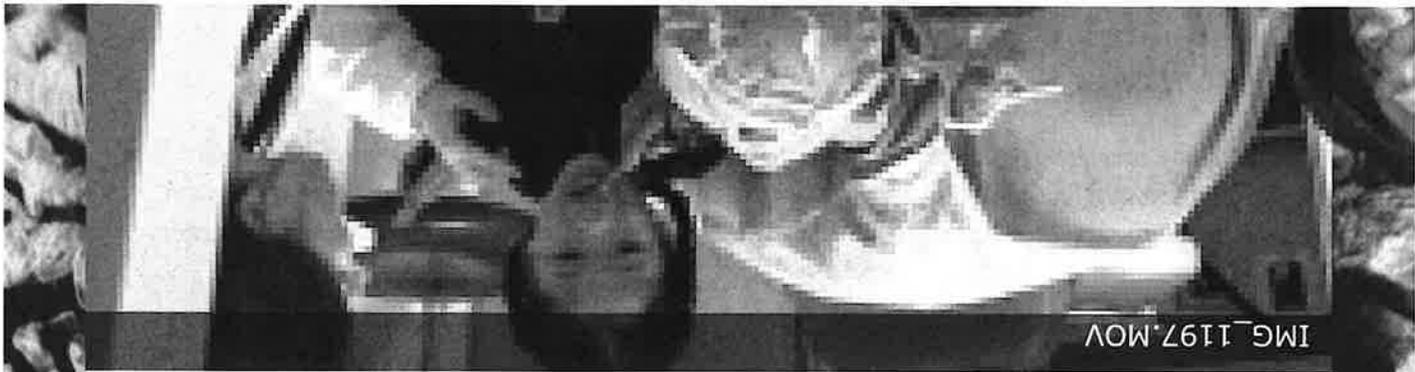
Each time you notice and praise positive communication, you're strengthening it for the future.

Final Thought

Refusal and back talk are communication in action, sometimes messy, but always meaningful. Our job isn't to stop it, but to shape it into clearer, more effective messages. When we respond with calm, curiosity, and consistency, we help our students build the lifelong skills of communication, regulation, and trust.

November at Crossroads





IMG_1197.MOV

Crossroads In the Community Rutgers Dental Visits



Community Based Instruction



Holiday Express



Parent Resources

About Us



Website: https://www.ucesc.org/schools/crossroads_school
Location: 45 Cardinal Drive, Westfield, NJ, USA
Phone: 908-233-9317

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PAVING PATHS:
ONE UCESG VOICE
AT A TIME

November

Newsletter 25-26

May your Thanksgiving be full of peace, love, and great memories. Have a wonderful holiday!

A Message From Our Principal: Dr. Balsamello

November at HAS was filled engaging academic lessons and many fun activities. Three student-led clubs have begun with success: Drama/Theatre Club, Anime/Arts & Crafts Club, and the Sports/Futbol Club! Please enjoy our news letter and Happy Thanksgiving!



Important Dates

Favorite travel spot: St. John USVI



Teacher's Corner: Social Studies

Mrs Wrzesinski: US History I/Economics

The **Economics** classes just started their business unit. Students are learning about different types of businesses, factors of production, and business plans. Students then took an in depth look at Ben and Jerry's. They learned what makes them different from other businesses, their social awareness and value driven ideals, competition, public shareholding, among many other factors. For this marking period, students will also create their own business complete with a business plan, logo, advertising, etc. As a treat, students got to enjoy some ice cream to celebrate the end of their Ben and Jerry's unit!



In **US History I**, students have been learning about the 13 colonies. Students looked at how each colony was created, how they were influenced by the people that settled there, the different types of governments that were established, the economies and social classes of each as well as the issues they faced. This will bring the class to the early stages of why the American Revolution was fought.



Mr Fritz: US History I/US History II

This month, **United States History II** classes have been learning about the First World War. Students have identified maps, battle tactics, technology and cultural customs. They have also read first hand accounts of soldiers who fought in the war along with photographs of the conflict. Finally, students are ending off this unit through an analysis of the movie 1917 which will showcase what it was like to fight in the war.

HAS Students' Voices on Paving Paths: One UCESC Voice At A Time

Students writing about "Paving Paths: One UCESC Voice At A Time" can be a powerful exercise, allowing them to explore themes of individuality, collective action, and social change. As a result, students in Mrs Ferns classes are voicing their thoughts each month on our district theme.

How can practicing gratitude help you start building the path toward your goals this year?

Dr Lockett, SAC



Ms Santiago, Science
Teacher



Mr DiOrto, Safety &
Security Monitor



November - Start to Build

"Paving Paths" Teacher Recognitions



For **World History**, students learned about Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Egypt. Specifically analyzing each one's culture, foods, clothing, and governmental system. Classes are ending the month with learning about the Black Plague which will act as the start of the unit on Late Medieval and Early Renaissance.





Practicing gratitude can help you become thankful of the things you are given even if it's something small. Practicing gratitude can help you become a thankful person. Practicing something like this can benefit someone who has a hard time showing emotion. Gratitude can take someone a long way by building good relationships with the people you meet along the way of your journey to reach your goals. Practicing gratitude has helped me bond with others that don't get thanks often. - KA

Practicing gratitude means having a good attitude toward others. The more respect and gratitude you show, the more you will succeed in life. I am very grateful to all the people who have helped me and supported me every step of the way. That is why we need to be grateful no matter what, so you can reach your goals this year and be thankful for all you have accomplished. Never give up! You will become more than you are right now. -MHM

Practicing gratitude can help you start building a path toward your goals because the more grateful you are for what you have, the more you can appreciate things as they are. To build a solid path, you should remain thankful while working toward your goals. When you are thankful for what you have and simply accept that there will be struggles along the way, you can accomplish much more. If you let things bring you down and aren't thankful for the little things you have, building your path will come with more challenges. As of right now, I am thankful for even the littlest things that come my way. - KK

What's one thing (big or small) you're grateful for right now, and how does it support you on your journey?

I am grateful for life. I am thankful for everything that I have been given throughout my life. I am grateful that my parents, peers, and teachers have helped me develop into a great person in life. I am thankful to wake up everyday, thanks to God. I am thankful to have the opportunity to go to school and graduate. - KA

One thing I'm grateful for right now is my support system. Honestly, I have a lot of support from the ones I love and who love me, along with the HAS staff members. Having people who actually care about you, your goals, and your future is really important; it helps me on my journey. It makes you feel like you're not only doing it for yourself but also for your support team, which makes you want to strive harder to reach your goals and accomplishments in life. - JP

One thing I am grateful for right now is my family. Always having them beside me and helping me through stuff I can't handle alone. Understanding stuff I might have to face in life has taught me to be grateful with the stuff I have now. This supports my journey because this gives me much more of a positive mindset and never having to face things alone. Having the people I adore beside me and always telling me to look to God, helps and guides me through tough times. - JMO

Honor Roll Trip

The academic achievement of HAS Honor Roll students during the first marking period was celebrated with an exciting, well-deserved trip to a local state-of-the-art gaming center. This unique reward is designed to motivate students by offering a fun, social outing that caters to diverse

interests, featuring a wide range of entertainment options. Students were able to enjoy popular modern digital experiences like Roblox and various PC games, engage in physical active fun with DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) and basketball arcade machines, and test their skills and luck with classics like Skeeball and high-speed driving games. This incentive trip serves not only as recognition for academic success but also for excellent attendance and behavior as well as a great way to build community and provide a memorable break from intense academic schedules.



Happy Veteran's Day

Veterans Day is an annual United States federal holiday observed on November 11th, dedicated to honoring military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Originating as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I, the holiday was later broadened to celebrate all American veterans, both living and deceased, though it is primarily an occasion to thank and recognize those still with us. It is distinct from Memorial Day, which focuses on acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions of all who have worn our nation's uniform. Communities across the country observe the day with

parades, ceremonies, and moments of silence, often held at 11:00 AM, the time the Armistice went into effect. Here at HAS, we would like to celebrate our very own veteran, Mr Solano, who served in the United States Marine Corps! Thank you Mr Solano for your service!



Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is observed annually throughout November in the United States as a time to celebrate the diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. It serves as an important opportunity to educate the public about the rich contributions indigenous peoples provide to the history and development of our nation, while also raising awareness of the contemporary challenges tribal communities face. Across the country, the month is marked by various educational events, cultural festivals, exhibitions, and ceremonies, encouraging all Americans to honor the original inhabitants of the land and reflect on the enduring sovereignty, resilience, and vital impact of Native voices and communities today.



Student Run Clubs at HAS

Oh, the Drama!

With it being difficult for Diaisha to make it to her home academy's theater practices and missing her old school's vibrant drama program, Diaisha was left with a massive creative void. The long afternoons she used to spend rehearsing lines, painting sets, and sharing laughter backstage were

A Mod Podge of Things



"Datebayo!" is often translated as "Believe it!" (in the English dub of early *Naruto*), but it's really an idiosyncratic verbal tic that just emphasizes his sentences. Here at HAS, "datebayo" or not, we have an Anime Club! This club involves gathering a group of our students who are very passionate about Japanese animation and manga. The club's mission includes screening anime, discussing storylines and artwork, and sharing related Japanese culture. Since securing faculty sponsorship by science teacher Mrs Santiago and with Dr Balsamello's approval, the club provides a regular, safe, and social environment where members can share their appreciation for the medium, watch new and classic series, host themed events, and foster a sense of community among like-minded peers within the school setting.

Datebayo!



now replaced by quiet, empty time. Determined to recreate that vital sense of community and artistic expression, Diaisha decided the only solution was to start her own club. She approached Dr Balsamello with a meticulously planned proposal, explaining that the new HAS Drama/Theatre Club wasn't just about performing, it was about offering a safe, inclusive space where students could explore storytelling and collaborative art, echoing the spirit of the club she so dearly missed. Her effort was driven by a powerful yearning to fill the quiet gap in her life with the familiar, exciting chaos of performing. Along with friends and club "chair" members Jakiel and Orlando, the club has been discussing performing a skit for the school. In the meantime the club has been practicing how to convey certain emotions to an audience through improvisation.



The Arts & Crafts Club at HAS centers on establishing a dedicated, inclusive space where students can explore various creative hobbies beyond the traditional art curriculum, often including activities like jewelry making, scrapbooking, knitting, or card making. Under Ms Santiago's and Mr Solano's supervision, students have access to resources, allowing them to learn new techniques, share materials and ideas, and collaborate on projects. Ultimately, the club's concept is to foster self-expression, mental health relief, and reduce stress through hands-on creation, as well as build a supportive community for students to develop practical artistic skills and produce tangible projects.



Gooooooooaaaaa!

Creating a high school sports club focused on watching soccer matches for students in good academic standing is a great way to blend athletics, culture, and educational responsibility. The HAS Sports/ Futbol Club involves establishing the primary activity of gathering to watch and analyze live or recorded professional soccer matches from leagues around the world. To ensure that the club remains a positive influence, participation would be exclusively open to students who maintain good academic and attendance standing, directly linking the privilege of club membership to educational responsibility. The club serves as a social hub under the supervision of Dr Balsamello for discussing team strategies, player performance, and the global cultural impact of the sport, fostering a sense of community while encouraging members to prioritize their grades to maintain eligibility for this engaging and fun activity.



Spirit Days



Election Day - Wear Red/White/Blue



School Spirit - Wear School Colors Red/White/Black



Veterans Day - Wear Red/White/Blue



Crazy Hair Day



Twin Day



Pajama Day

Halloween

Since Halloween happened after last month's newsletter was due, here are some pictures of the fun and crazy costumes worn by faculty, staff, and students!





Thanksgiving Gratitude

Our Foundation has made a donation so that every student in the district and family can receive non-perishable food items just in time for Thanksgiving. For HAS, students were transported home in three different groups by a UCESC District bus instead of the D&Z Signature Transportation bus they normally take. Students were given permission slips and principal Dr Balsamello personally communicated with parents to let them know that students were going to have alternate means of transportation and that due to the nature of the delivery, students would be leaving school early. HAS would like to thank those that made this donation possible and a big thank you to Mr DiOrio and Ms Pradel for traveling with the students and helping out with the deliveries!



Students Outside of School

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Mark has been engaged in nature photography and utilizing his iPhone 13 as his primary camera. His passion for this hobby was initially sparked through the encouragement of friends and a deep appreciation for the natural world. In this role, he sees himself as the "camera man," dedicated to capturing the beauty around him. Being a part of this hobby makes Mark feel strongly validated and confident in his photographic endeavors.



Blooper Pic of the Month

About Us

Hillcrest Academy South Campus is an alternative high school for students from the Elizabeth Public School District. Students are referred to HAS by their Elizabeth Academy guidance counselor and administrator 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)

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Hillcrest North November 2025 MR

November 2025

Si usted desea leer "The Newsletter" en otra lengua que no sea inglés, hay un botón para traducir la página en la parte superior de la computadora (Translate). Le llevará a la siguiente página para que presione (Translated) y escoja la lengua en que usted desea leer.

Principal's Message



Dear Hillcrest Academy North Campus (HAN) Students and Families:

Our school has continued to make great strides this year, beginning with a notable increase in student attendance. More of our students are showing up ready to learn each day, and this improvement reflects the strong partnership between students, families, and staff. Consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in academic success, and we are proud of the commitment our students are demonstrating.

Alongside this progress, we have placed a renewed emphasis on student engagement both inside and outside the classroom. Teachers are incorporating more hands-on activities, collaborative learning, and real-world connections to keep students actively involved in their education. Dynamic classroom discussions have sparked creativity and curiosity.

Our students are embracing these opportunities and demonstrating increased enthusiasm for learning.

All of these efforts contribute to what has become one of our school's greatest strengths: a positive climate and culture. Our hallways feel welcoming, our classrooms feel supportive, and students consistently show kindness, respect, and pride in their school community. As we celebrate these achievements, we remain committed to creating an environment where every student feels valued, connected, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Warm Regards,

John Marquet

Principal

Monthly Data

Enrolled -72

Accepted - 5

Disenrollment - 3

Drills: Shelter in Place, Fire Drill

Upcoming Dates

December 15 - December 19 - Winter Spirit Week

December 19 - Incentive Trip

December 23 - Early Dismissal - 1PM

December 24 - January 2 - Winter Recess

January 5 - Senior Pictures

Attendance Matters!

Our Attendance Matters! Program continues to be a positive influence on our students. More students than ever before have made it onto our Honor Roll and High Honor Roll list! We've had twelve students who made our Honor Role for marking period one and seven students who made High Honor Role. Most of these students attribute their attendance as the reason why they have been able to do so well in school. "Motivation comes from showing up," says Navaeh Gilbert, one of our High Honor Role recipients.

A trip is being planned for students in December who maintained an 80% attendance rate since the beginning of the year. The November attendance rate so far is 79%.



Awards



Students of the Month



November Awards

Halloween

October 31st was Halloween, and we celebrated in style! Students dressed up and went around the school to different rooms where they played games, decorated cookies and created spiders, made smores, and made little pumpkins.





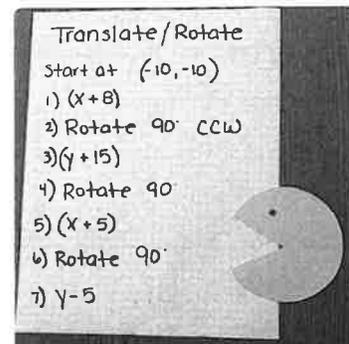


In The Classroom

Geometry Class

In November, Hillcrest Academy North's high school geometry students kicked off their Transformations chapter with a hands-on introduction to translations on the coordinate plane. Using fun and familiar examples—like plotting Pac-Man as a pre-image and sliding him to new locations—students learned how shapes move without rotating or changing size. By tracking how each coordinate shifts during a translation, they developed a strong understanding of how a pre-image becomes an image while maintaining its orientation and proportions.

To extend their learning, students worked collaboratively to create small coordinate-plane mazes and then used transformation rules to guide Pac-Man through each challenge. Partners checked one another's coordinate changes and verified the accuracy of each new image, combining creativity with mathematical precision. This engaging start to the Transformations chapter not only strengthened students' geometry skills but also added a playful, memorable element to their November coursework at Hillcrest Academy North.



Social Studies Class

This month in our U.S. 1 and 2 classes, we have been focusing on applying the scientific method to the study of history. Students have been working with primary sources as their evidence, carefully moving through each step of the method; asking questions, forming hypotheses, conducting research, and drawing conclusions. By approaching history in this structured way, students are not only learning about past events but also practicing skills that are ideally used in everyday life. This

process encourages them to think critically, evaluate evidence, and develop a deeper understanding of history in general.



STOPit Solutions

Students and staff were introduced to STOPit Solutions, a program that allows students and staff to report any concerns about unsafe, harmful, or inappropriate behavior to the HAN Safety Team. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to download the STOPit App onto their phones.



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. John Marquet, Principal

Mr. Thomas Van Cleef, Supervisor of Instruction

Location: 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

Translate

Accessibility

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Message from the Director



Dear Families & Supporters,

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to share my heartfelt gratitude with each of you. This season encourages us to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives, and at the top of our list is the privilege of working with your young adult children - including my friend **Adrian**, a current student intern at Project SEARCH, who is pictured here. Adrian has made a seamless transition from his home school district to our intensive

and immersive-style job training program based in Overlook Medical Center. Adrian has been working closely with the Materials Management team during his first internship rotation helping to check-in supplies delivered to the hospital and independently delivering them to various departments . Way to go, Adrian!

Every day, we have the opportunity to guide, support, and learn from students whose determination, growth, and unique strengths inspire us. Helping them prepare for a meaningful life of work—and watching their confidence and independence grow—is truly an honor. Thank you for trusting us with this important part of their journey.

I am equally grateful for our exceptional staff. Their dedication, patience, creativity, and deep care for our students shine through in everything they do. Whether they are teaching new skills, building

relationships, or crea
community stronger

: makes our

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If you have not already done so, **please make sure to begin the process of applying for DDD services for your child.** The first step is securing Medicaid either by applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or attaining Medicaid for your child from the state of New Jersey.

News, Notes & Reminders

- Due to scheduling needs, **Amanda Rosen**, our Speech and Language Pathologist, has transitioned out of the Work Readiness Academy to work more exclusively with the students at UCESC's Westlake School. We are grateful to Amanda for all her work and support of our students the past two years! Sliding over to replace Amanda is the very capable **Tara Montefiore**, and experienced SL/P who has been working with students from UCESC's Crossroads School. Amanda and Tara have compared notes and we anticipate a smooth transition. Tara will immediately begin meeting with students who have Speech written in to their IEPs and will also be helping to lead our Social Skills class on Thursday afternoons.
- Beginning this month, WRA families will receive a **Monthly Summary Form** designed to keep you connected to your child's growth at the Work Readiness Academy. This form highlights your child's strengths, growth areas, and next steps, along with a small student reflection and home-practice suggestions you can use to support skills outside of school. Read more later in the newsletter.
- WRA Families should be on the lookout for a letter and email from me sometime in the next two weeks inviting you to contact us to schedule a **Transition Planning Meeting**. These meetings will allow your child, our team and your family the chance to collaborative begin discussing and planning for life beyond our program. This will include a discussion about future employment, post-secondary education (where appropriate), social, recreational and volunteer opportunities, and linkages to important service agencies.

As we enter the holiday season, please know how much we appreciate your partnership and the vibrant, supportive community we share. I wish you and your loved ones a warm, restful, and joyful Thanksgiving.

Josh Bornstein, Director

UCESC Work Readiness Academy

jbornstein@ucesc.org



Attendance Reporting

In the event that your child will be absent, arriving late, or picked up early, **please send us an email at AttendanceWRA@ucesc.org.**

You may also call ou

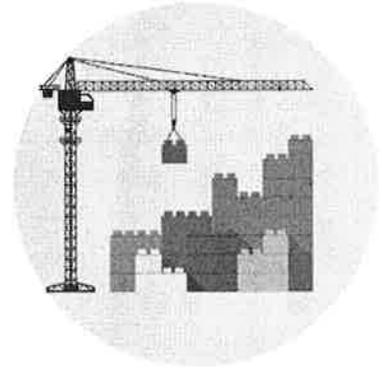
ie leave a message.

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Instructional Insights

Building for the Future at WRA!

As we move into November at the Work Readiness Academy, we continue our districtwide journey of Paving Paths: One UCESC Voice at a Time by embracing this month's theme, Start to Build. At the Work Readiness Academy, "building" is more than a metaphor. Everyday, our students are strengthening the skills, habits, relationships, and confidence needed to become active, contributing members of their homes, communities, and future workplaces. Whether through independent travel practice, workplace communication lessons, or hands-on vocational experiences, our students are continuing to lay the foundation for long-term independence and an adult life filled with meaning and purpose.



November also brings an important Social Emotional Learning focus of gratitude. In classrooms, internship sites, and community-based instruction, students are reflecting on the people, opportunities, and experiences that support their growth. Staff are intentionally modeling and reinforcing gratitude through daily check-ins, collaborative activities, and real workplace scenarios that highlight the power of appreciation, teamwork, and mutual respect in a variety of environments. By embedding and integrating gratitude into our instructional culture, we develop deeper relationships, strengthen our resilience, and expand our learning.

This month, we invite families, community partners, and staff to join us in celebrating the progress our students are building, brick by brick, skill by skill, and through their individual voices. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we continue to pave meaningful paths forward for every WRA learner today and well into the future.

As Melody Beattie reminds us...

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Wishing our entire WRA community a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Rachel Richer, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction



Feedback Form

At the Work Readiness Academy, we are always looking for meaningful ways to help students reflect on their growth as both interns and potential employees. This school year we have created and begun using a new weekly feedback form designed to support skill-building, communication, and goal setting during our students' internship experiences.

Each week, students and staff complete the form together at their work-based learning sites. The form highlights key workplace readiness skills, such as greeting coworkers, active listening, professionalism, and job-specific responsibilities, as well as gives students the opportunity to evaluate how they feel they performed, while staff provide supportive feedback and encouragement. Reflection prompts like "One thing I did well was..." and "Next week, my goal is..." help students build self-awareness, confidence, and ownership of their learning and employment journey.

This consistent routine allows teachers, teaching assistants, families, and community partners to better understand student progress, identify strengths, and celebrate accomplishments. This information is then used to drive our classroom instruction, individualizing and tailoring our lessons to meet our students' needs. Our new feedback form is another example of how at the Work Readiness Academy we are always looking for new ways to empower our students to use their voices, advocate for themselves, and recognize their growing independence.

We are excited to see the pride, gratitude, and professional growth that will emerge each week as our students continue paving their own paths toward an independent and meaningful adult life.

1. Strengths

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Growth Areas

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Student Reflection

- One thing I am proud of this month: _____
- One thing I want to keep working on: _____

4. Staff Reflection

- Notes: _____
- _____

5. Next Step Goals

- _____
- _____

6. Home Practice

- Skill to practice: _____
- How to practice: _____

1. Ask need		👁 181	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	
2. Make small talk	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	
	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	

Reflection prompts:

- "One thing I did well was..."
- "Next time I want to try..."
- "I felt successful when..."

Skill	My thoughts	Staff thoughts	Comments/Staff Initials
1. Ask for help when needed	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	
2. Make small talk	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	
	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	

Reflection prompts:

- "One thing I did well was..."
- "Next time I want to try..."

1. Ask needs			👁️ 181
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	
2. Make small talk	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	
	I did great!	Great!	
	I did ok	Ok	
	I need to work on this	Needs Improvement	

Reflection prompts:

- "One thing I did well was..."
- "Next time I want to try..."
- "I felt successful when..."

Student - Teacher Reflection Conference	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This week, I am most proud of: <hr/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next week, my goal is to: <hr/>	

November 20255 Data

Enrollment as of November 26, 2025

Actual: 28
 Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0
 Referrals: 4
 Intakes Scheduled: 2
 Accepted:



Drills

11/11/25 - Lockdown Drill (Shelter in Place)
 11/25/25 - Fire Drill

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Ms. Alixandra Leitner, LSW

Please join us in welcoming our new Social Worker, Ms. Alixandra "Ali" Leitner! Ali will be with us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - and will be supporting students at the WRA and Project SEARCH.

About Me:

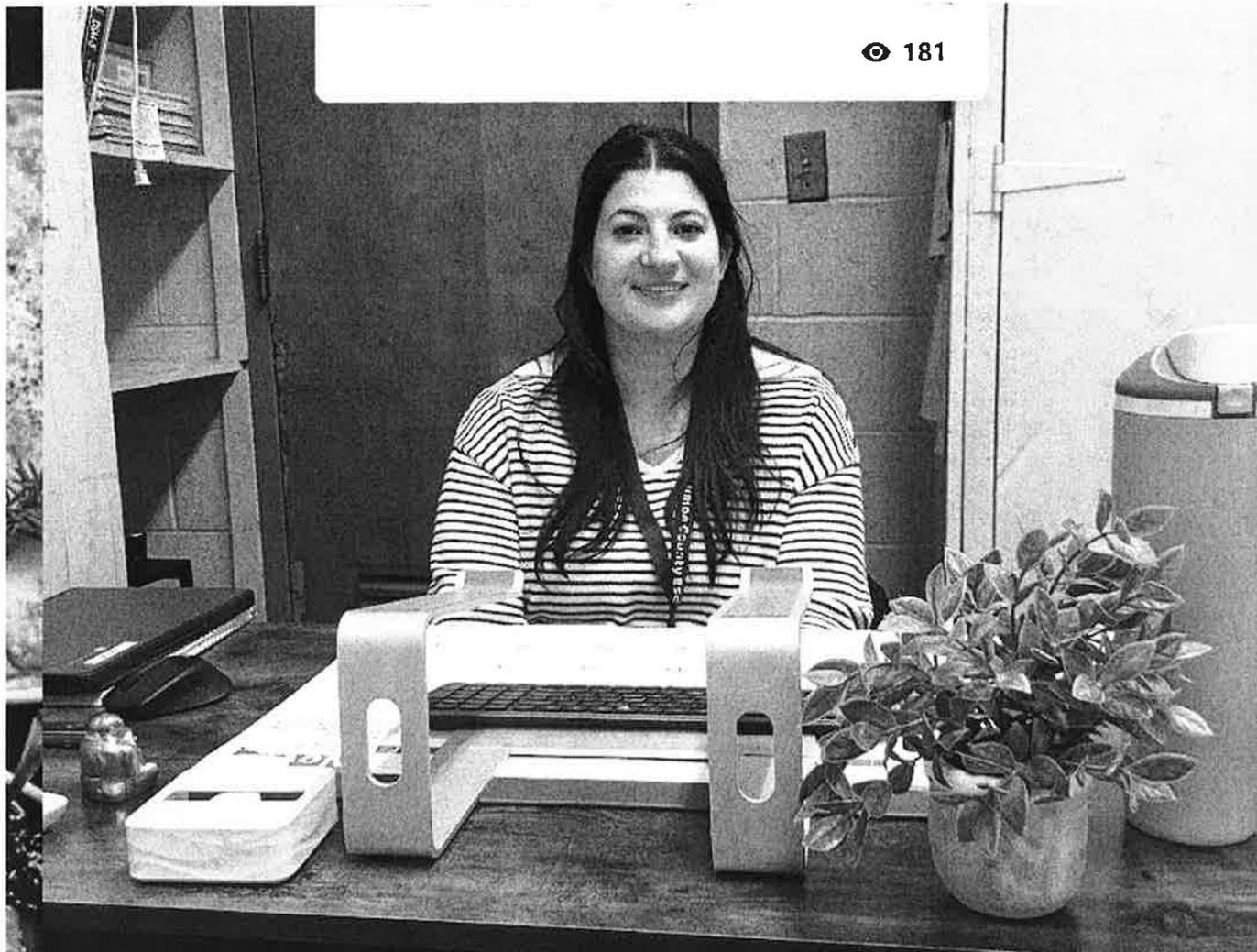
I attended Monmouth University for my Social Work degree and graduated in 2018. After that, I worked at Youth Consultation Service (YCS) providing psychotherapeutic counseling to individuals in a psychiatry community home. Later I transitioned to working at Great Oaks Legacy Charter High School in Newark where I worked as a school social worker on the child study team. After GOLCHS, I went to work for Thrive Alliance Group which places social workers inside schools to provide more in depth counseling to support their social and emotional well being in the school setting.

What do you like to do when you are not at work?

When I am not at work, I enjoy art (currently working on some paint by numbers for my new office!), going on hikes, and playing with my dog, Milo.

What is something that people might be surprised to learn about you?

I ski and I can drive a manual transmission car!



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A Fresh Voice Joins the Team!

Welcome to Our New Speech and Language Pathologist - Ms. Tara Monteforte

What do you like to do when you are not at work?

When I am not at work, I love to be outside with my family. I enjoy riding bikes, taking my dog for a run, swimming, going to the beach, and even doing yard work!

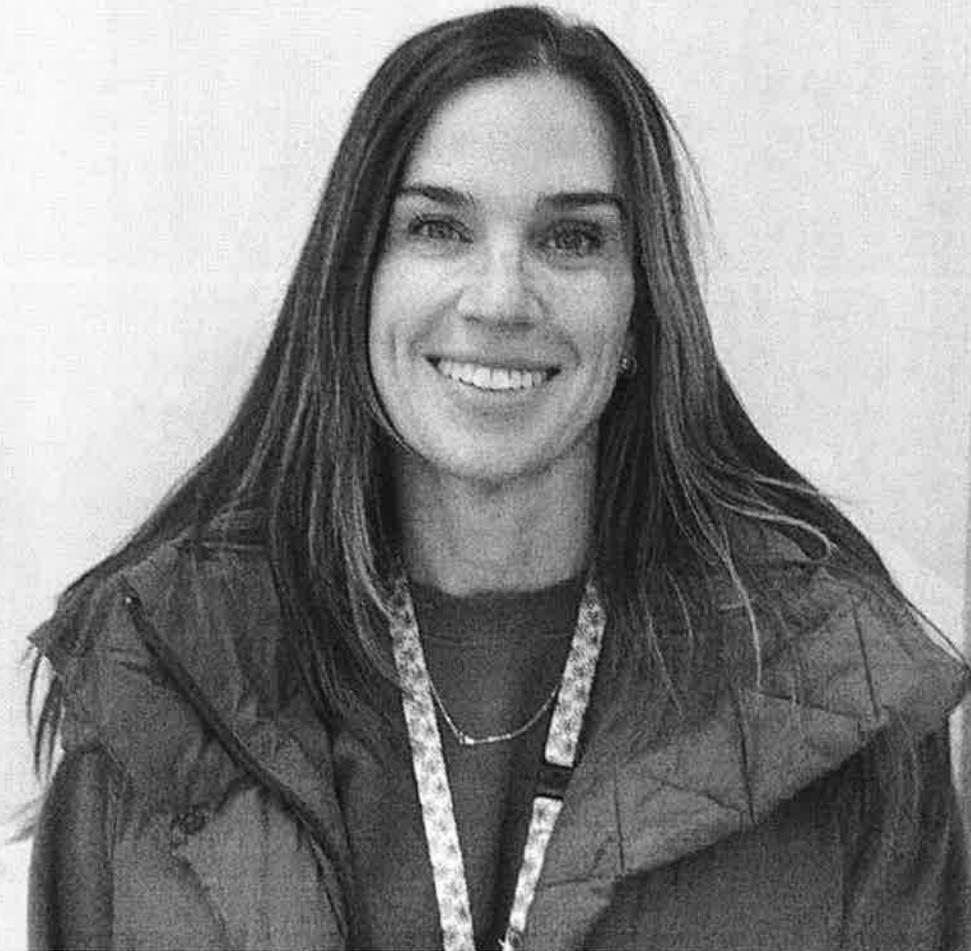
What is something that people might be surprised to learn about you?

Becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist is a second career for me. My first career was working for a corporate company in their real estate department. Many of the skills I gained in my first career have helped me to stay organized, communicate clearly, and build strong relationships with the people I work with. These skills have carried over into my work at school, where collaborating with teachers, supporting students, and keeping families informed are all important parts of what I

do. I'm grateful for th
and succeed.

ing our students grow

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Leveling Up: Student Achievements

Student Spotlight: Celebrating Growth, Effort & Positivity

This month at the Work Readiness Academy, we are proud to highlight three students who exemplify the values of perseverance, teamwork, and positivity in everything they do.

Gisselle continues to impress staff and community partners with her dedication and strong work ethic. She welcomes feedback with maturity, reflects thoughtfully, and uses suggestions to strengthen her skills. Her commitment to continuous improvement makes her a wonderful role model within our program.

Chelsea brings a bright smile to her peers on community trips, and she helps create a welcoming atmosphere for peers and staff alike.

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ner in the classroom, she helps and creates a

Tige approaches each day with enthusiasm, kindness, and an open mind. No matter the task or setting, he remains encouraging, flexible, and fully engaged, helping build a culture of respect and teamwork wherever he goes.

We are so proud of these students for paving their paths with gratitude, effort, and optimism. Keep shining! Your hard work is making a difference!



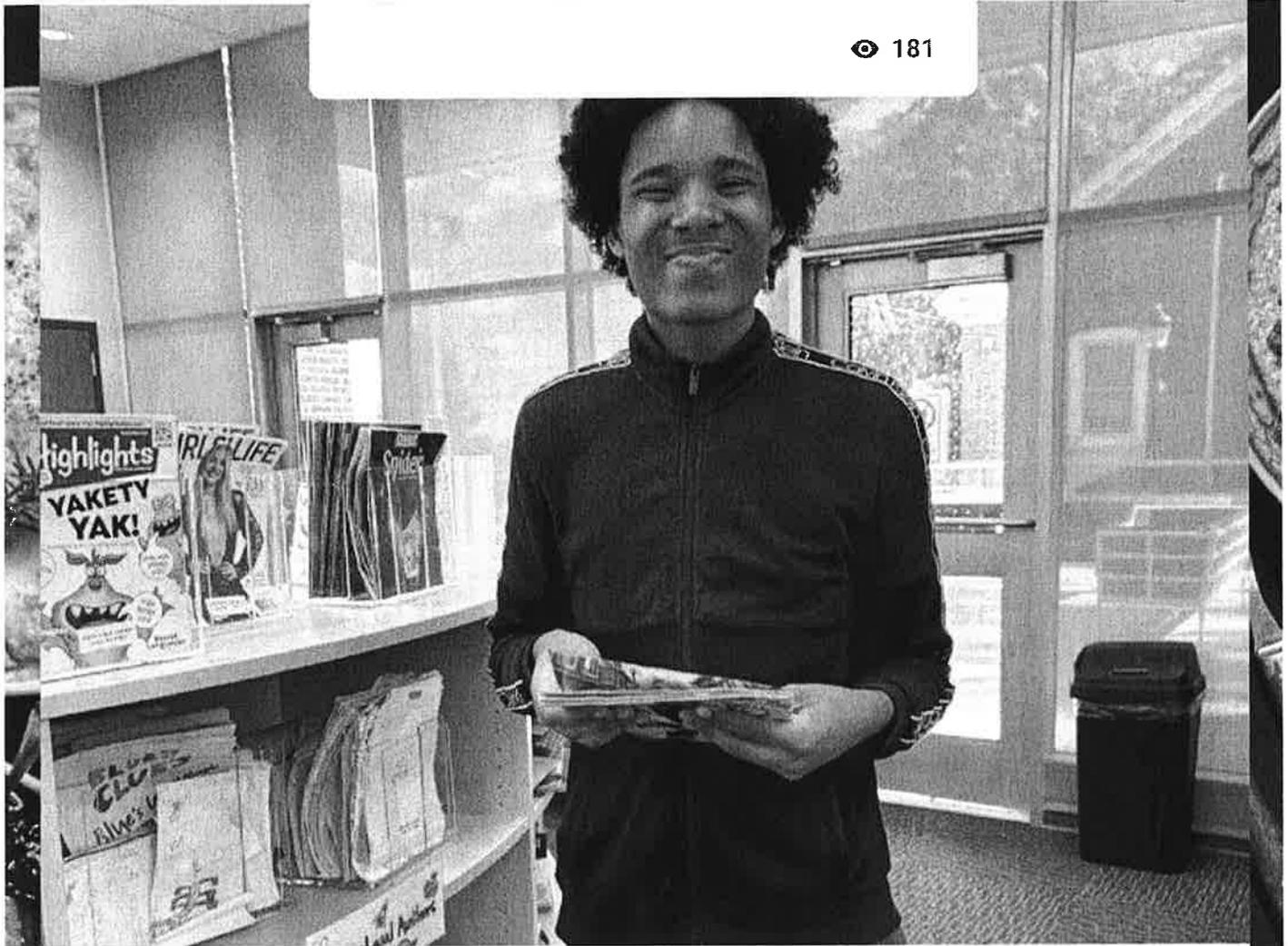
Giselle

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Chelsea





Tige



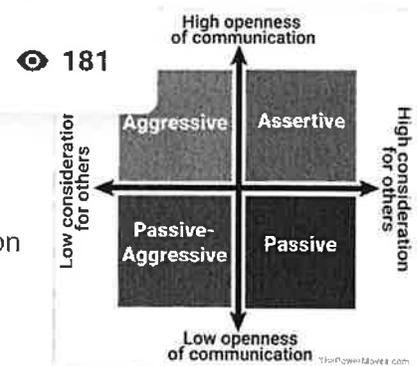
Welcome to
Our Classroom

Inside the Project SEARCH Classroom

Jourdan's Classroom

This month, interns practiced assertive communication. In our aggressive communication activities, we practiced how to express ourselves confidently and respectfully, which are key skills for success in any workplace.

We explored the concept of grit which is the combination of passion and perseverance that helps us achieve long-term goals. Interns discussed times they've worked through challenges, stayed motivated, and built resilience in their internship sites.



Interns continued to explore career clusters, connecting their skills, interests, and experiences to potential career paths. Understanding where we fit best helps guide future job development and employment goals.

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, interns participated in an online scavenger hunt to discover how Native American culture has helped shape the history and identity of the United States. We celebrated contributions in art, agriculture, storytelling, and more.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we've been taking time to express gratitude for our families, our opportunities, our growth, and the people who support us every day. Gratitude is a mindset that helps us stay positive and grounded, both at work and in life. We're thankful for our interns, families, mentors, and department teams who make this program such a success.

As we head into December, we'll be wrapping up our first rotation of internships. It's incredible to see how much progress everyone has made in just a few months! Let's finish this rotation strong and continue building toward our goals.

Jourdan Spencer, Teacher
Project Search Program at Overlook Medical Center



Enjoying the Turkey Toss at Overlook Medical Center





Chair yoga with our Skills Trainer, Eileen Michie



Caroline greeting guests at the Spiritual Care Event



Project SEARCH Update

We are now accepting applications for the Project SEARCH Class of 2026 cohort for the 2026-27 school year! Please click the link below for more information and to access the application!

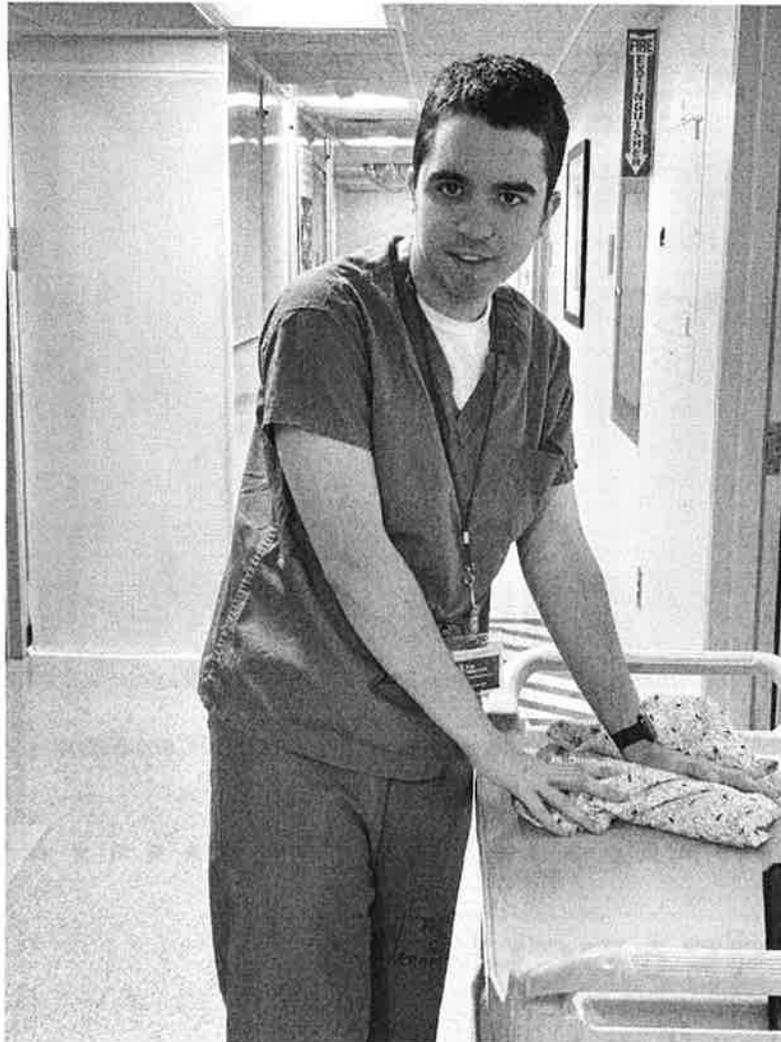


Project | SEARCH



Through Project SEARCH, Atlantic Health System offers year-long internship opportunities at three NJ hospitals for young adults with developmental differences.

🔗 atlanticealth.org



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Giving Back to Our Own

Students at the Work Readiness Academy worked hard the week before Thanksgiving to fulfill an order placed by the Union County Educational Services Foundation to assemble supplemental "Food Kits" to send home to UCESF student families who qualify for SNAP benefits and/or free or reduced priced meals. The UCESF generously donated \$5,000 worth of food items that were purchased from ShopRite in Clark and included, potatoes, rice, pasta, bread, tomato sauce, apples,



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teacher Sharlene

ne and worked as a

team to successfully pack nearly 500 meal kits! We asked some of students how it felt to participate in this "service project" and here is a sample of their responses:

Nick B - *"It made me feel good to be able to give food to all of the families who need it."*

Jonathan - *"It felt a little hard, but good to be able to help."*

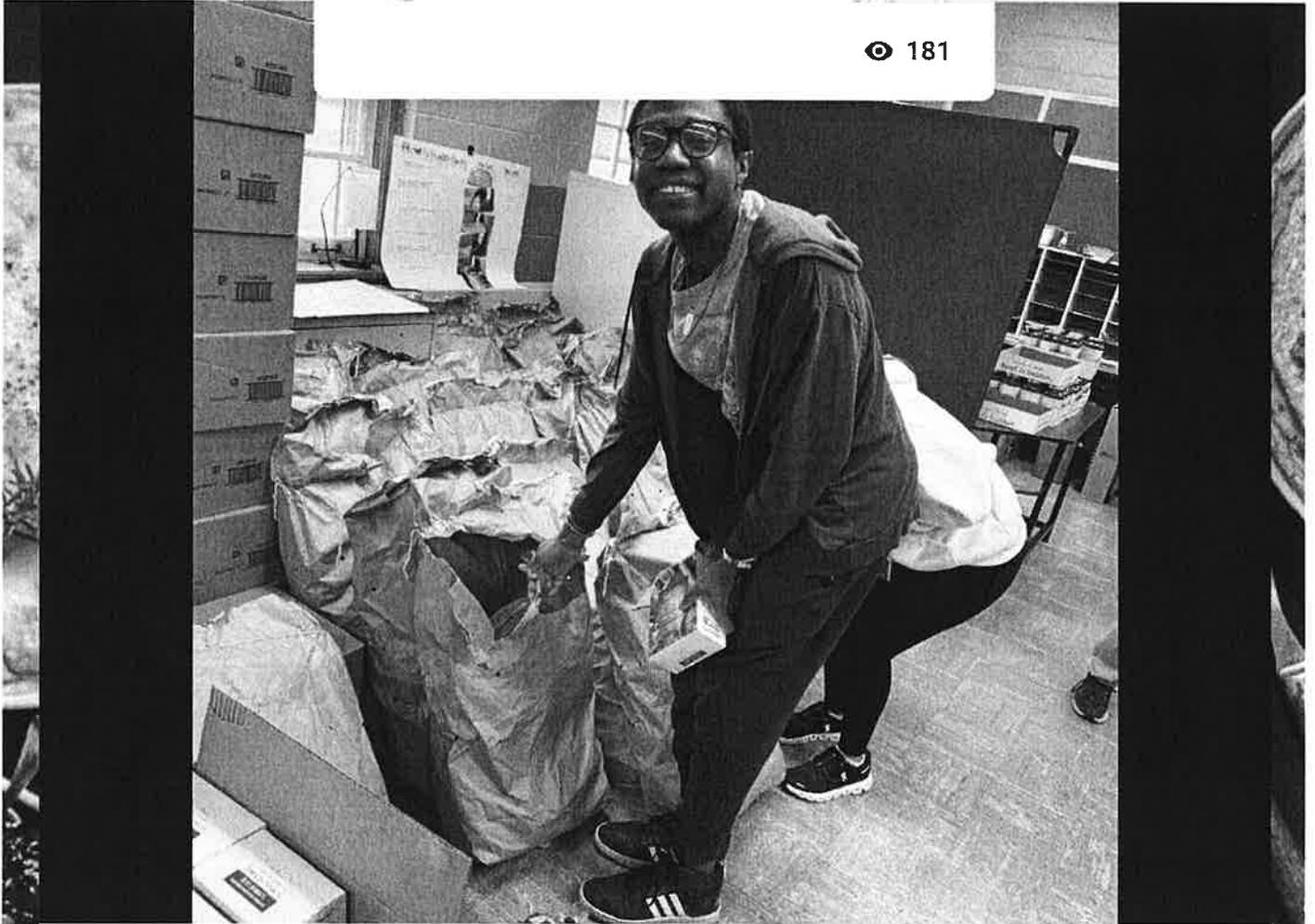
Anthony & Erin - *"We are grateful that we did it so we can help families that need our help."*

Kiya - *"It felt good!"*

Matt & Sean - *"It was good to be involved and help people."*



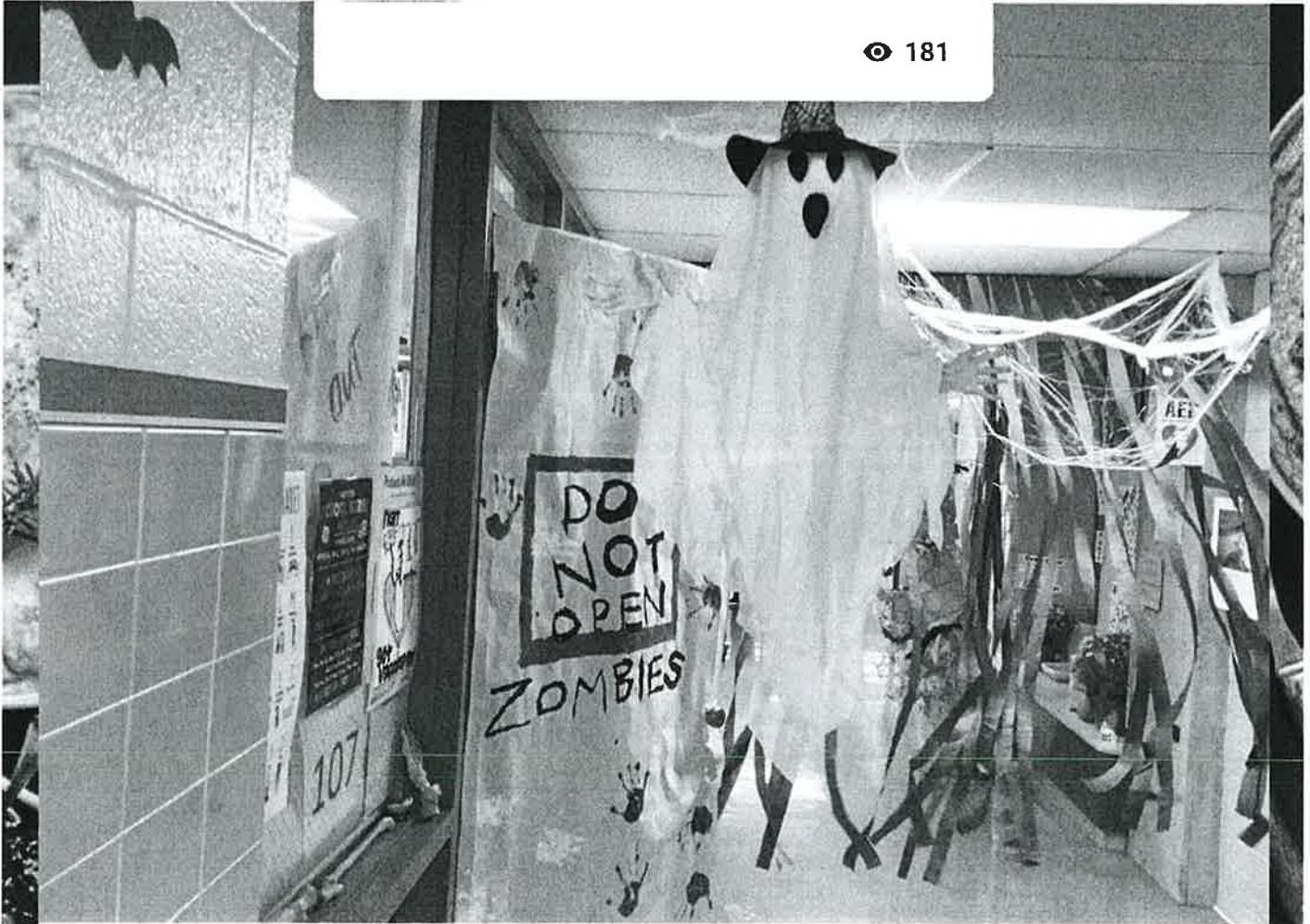
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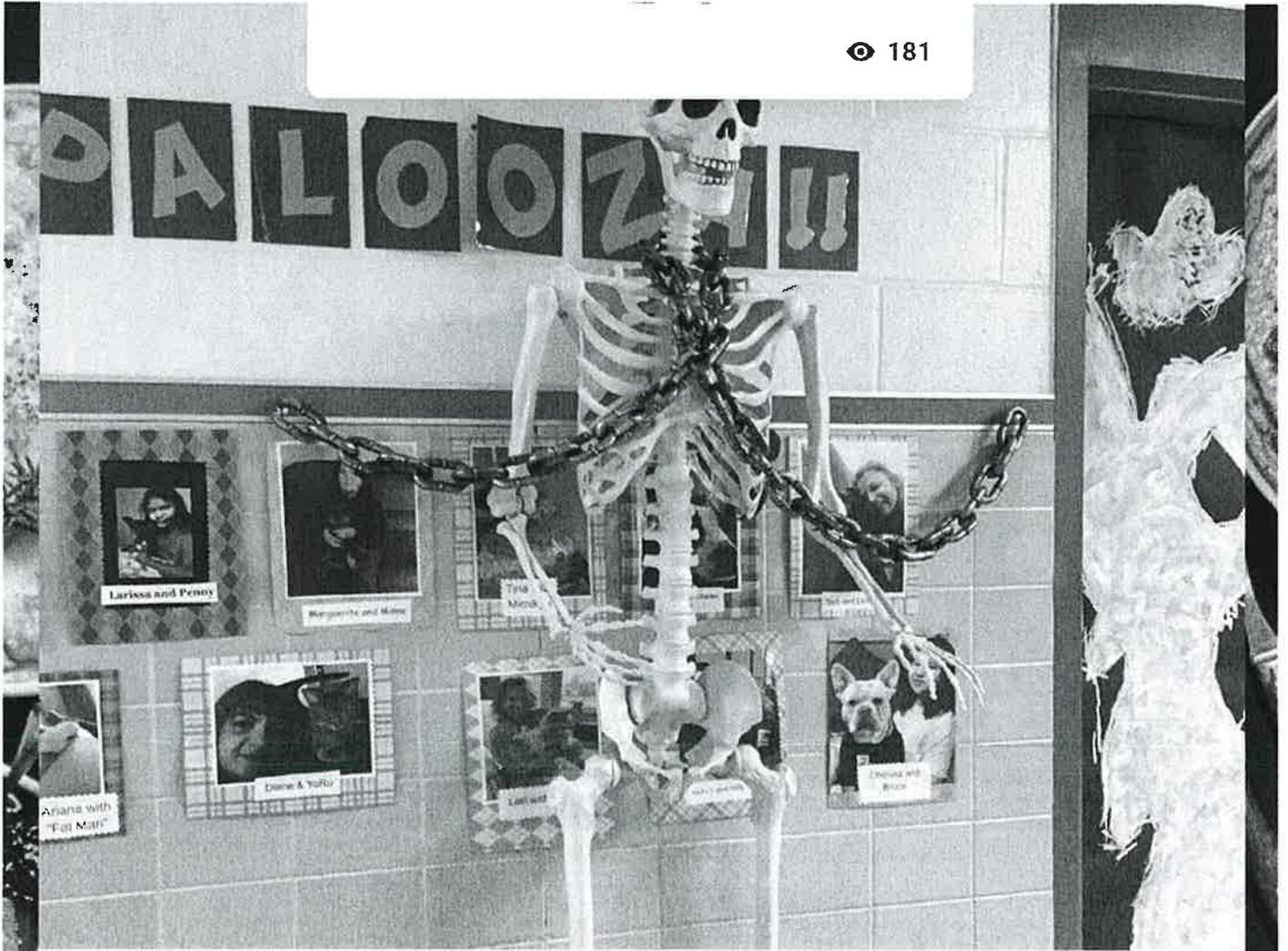


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"Boo-tifully Done!" Highlights from Our 1st Annual Haunted Hallway!







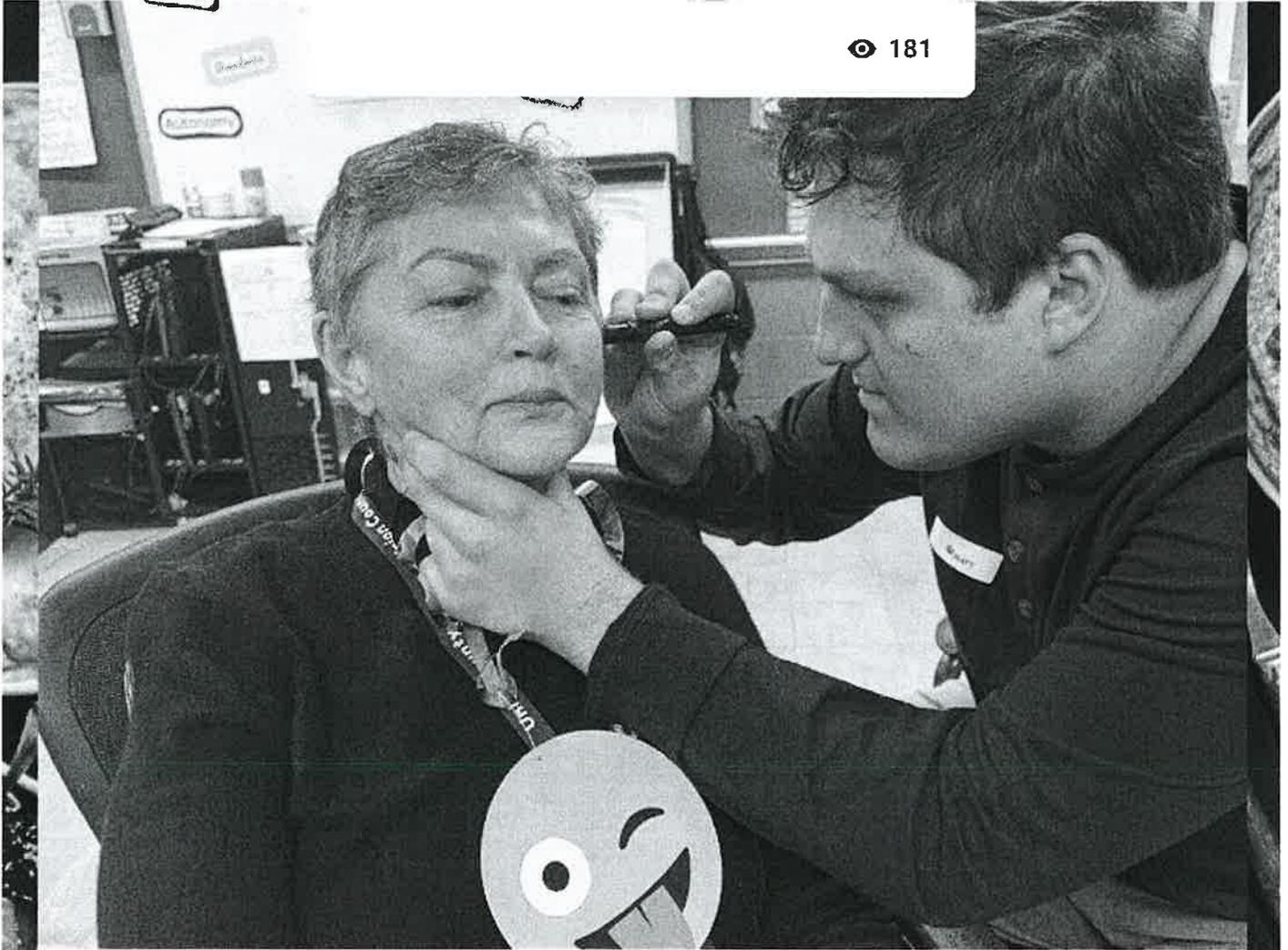


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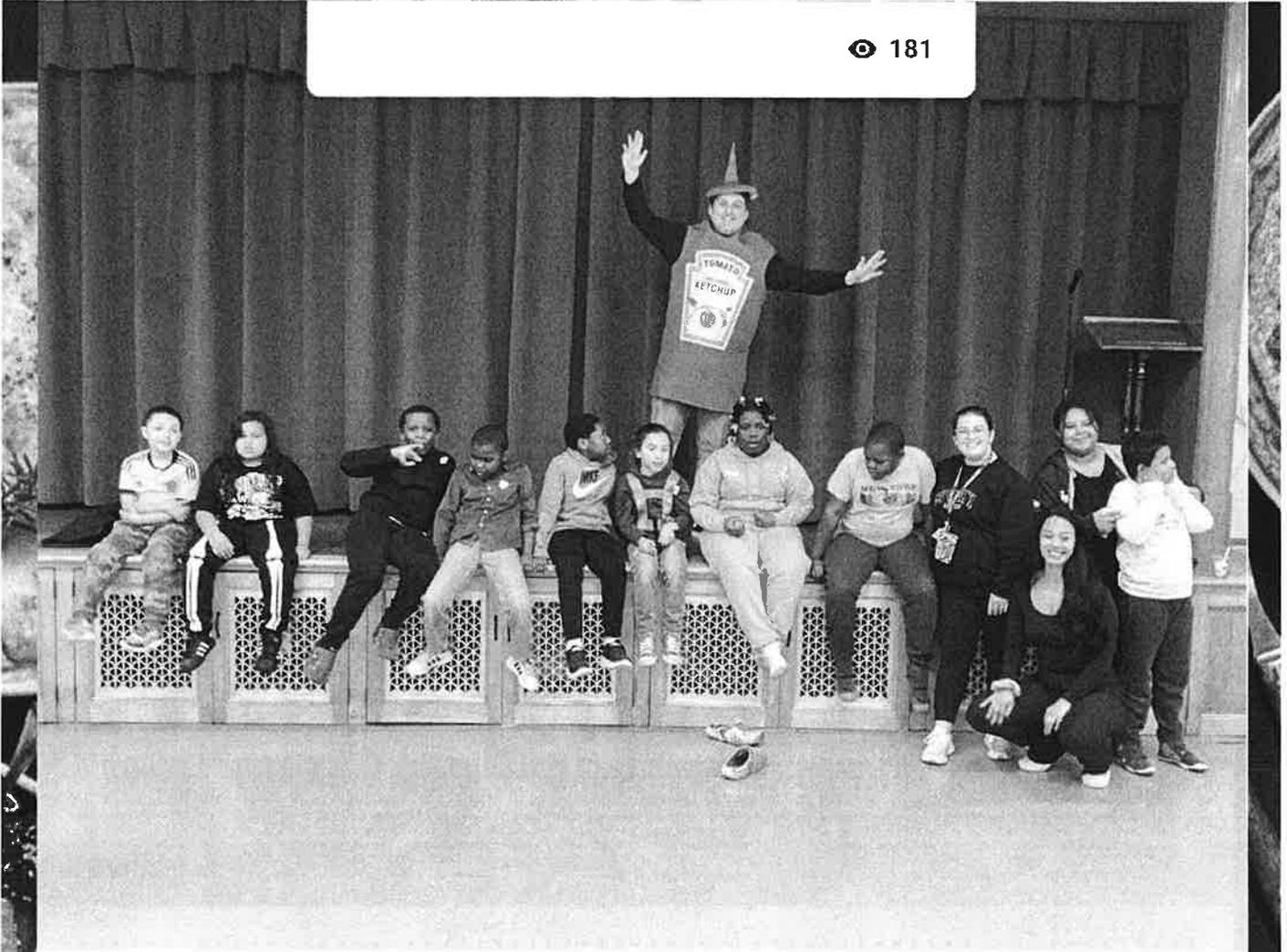




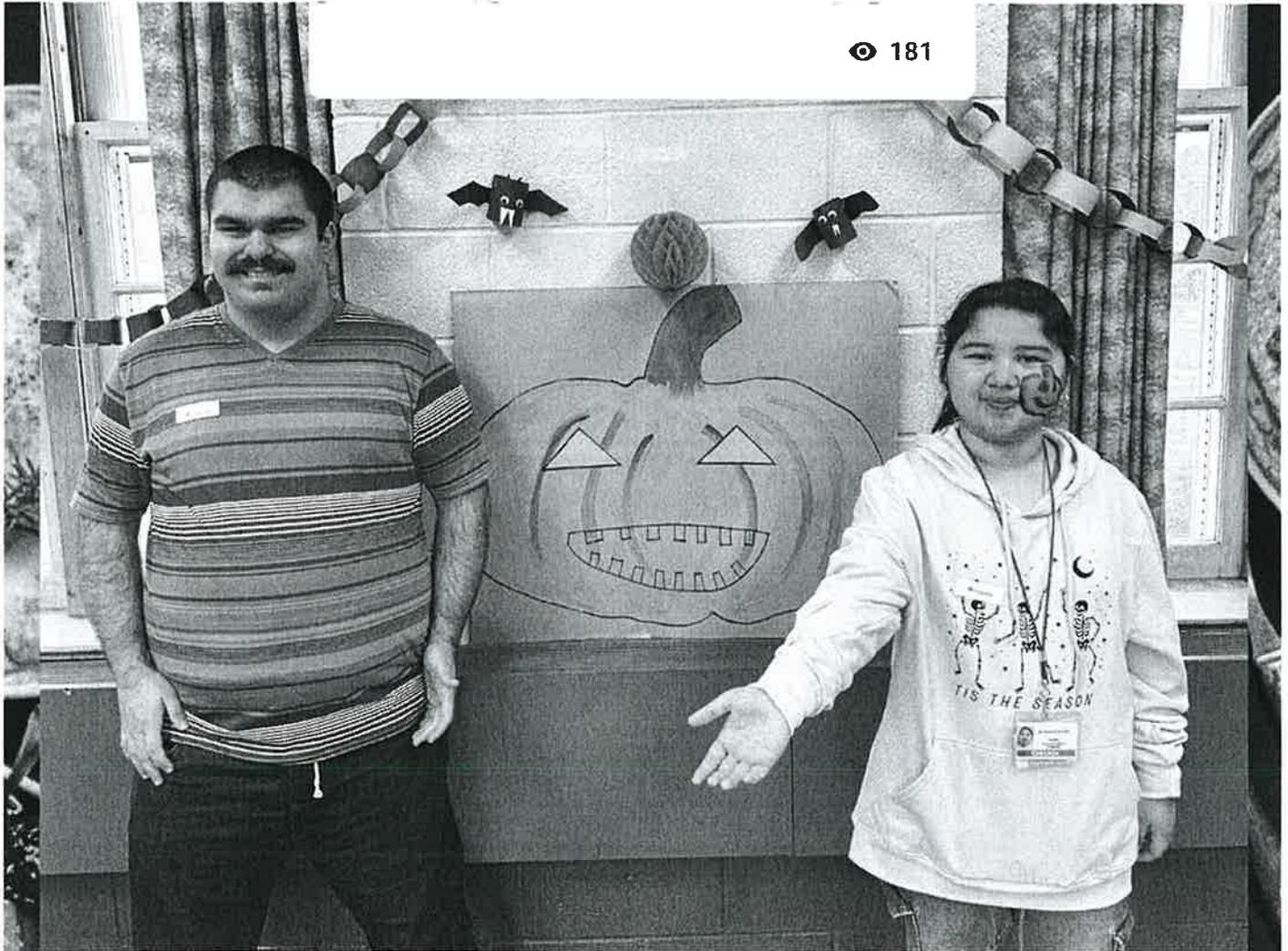
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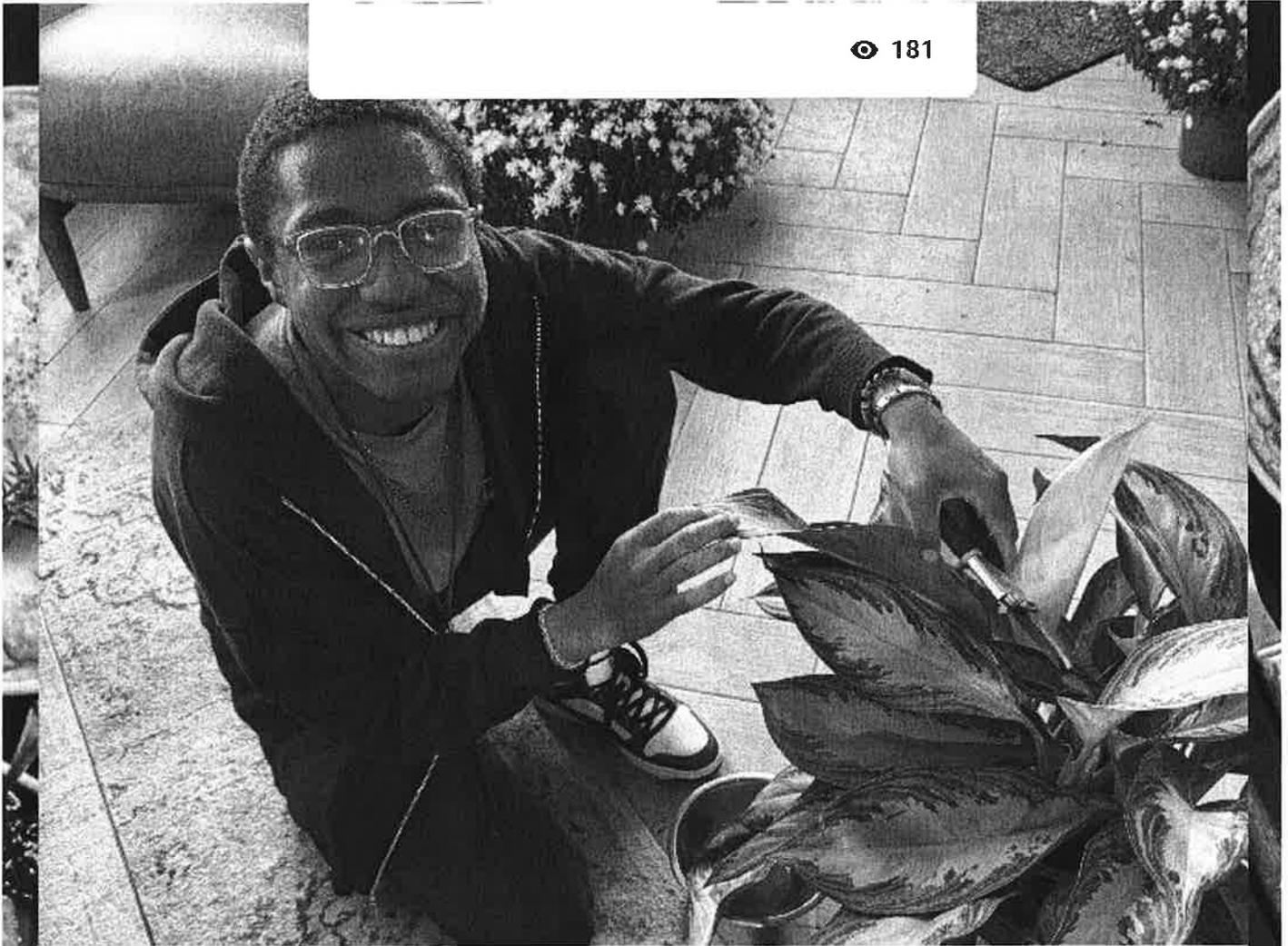
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From Classroom to Career: Work-Based Learning in Action!



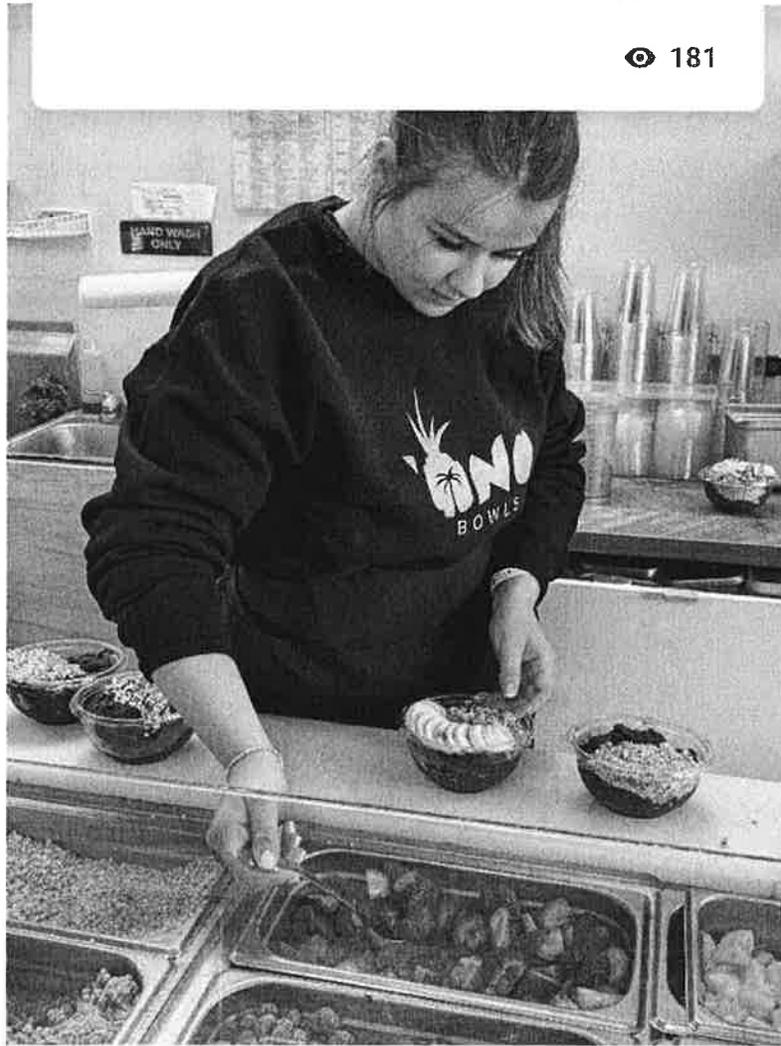
Tina at Walgreen's in Union

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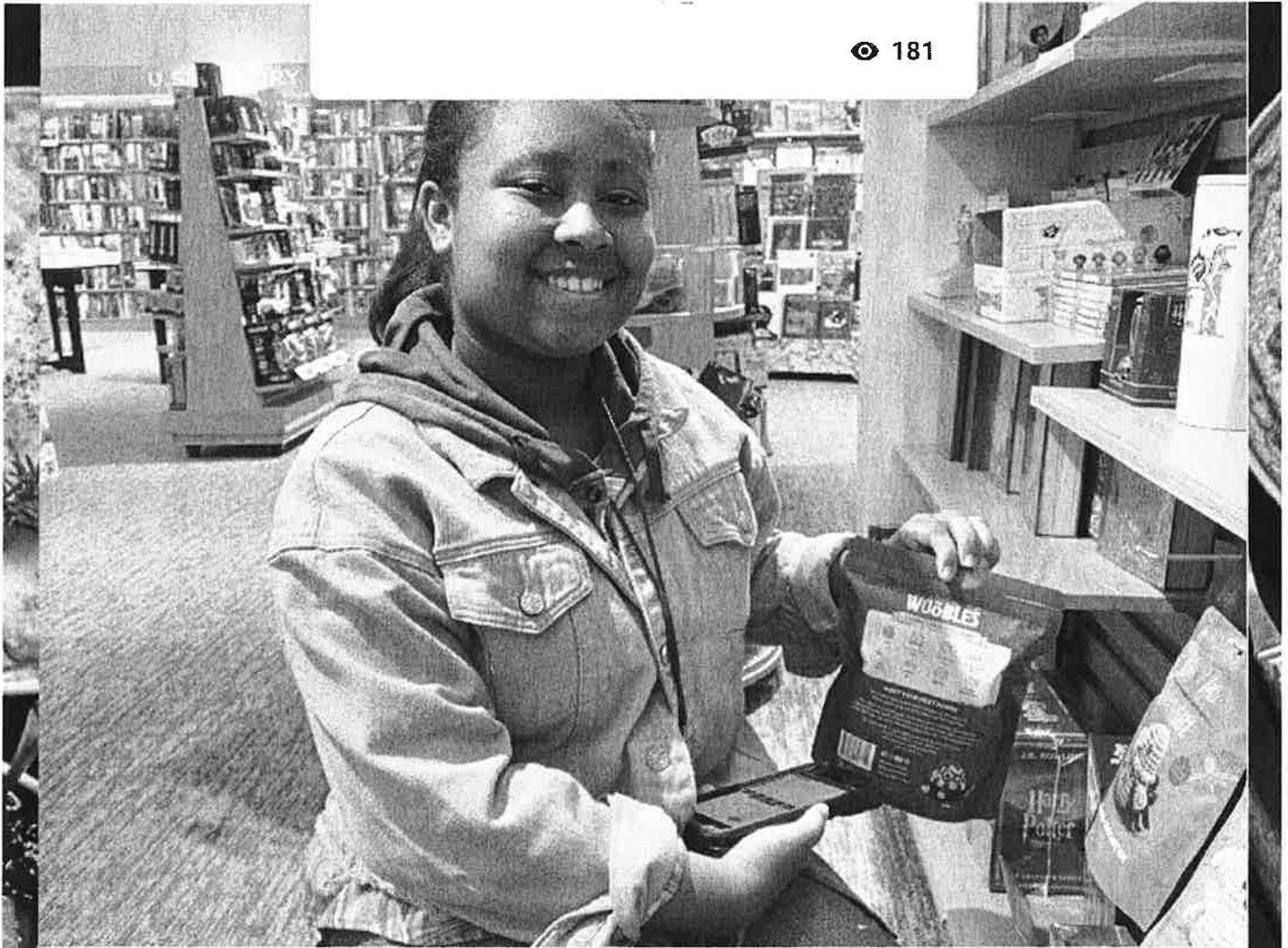


Nick at Terrace Plant Shop in Westfield

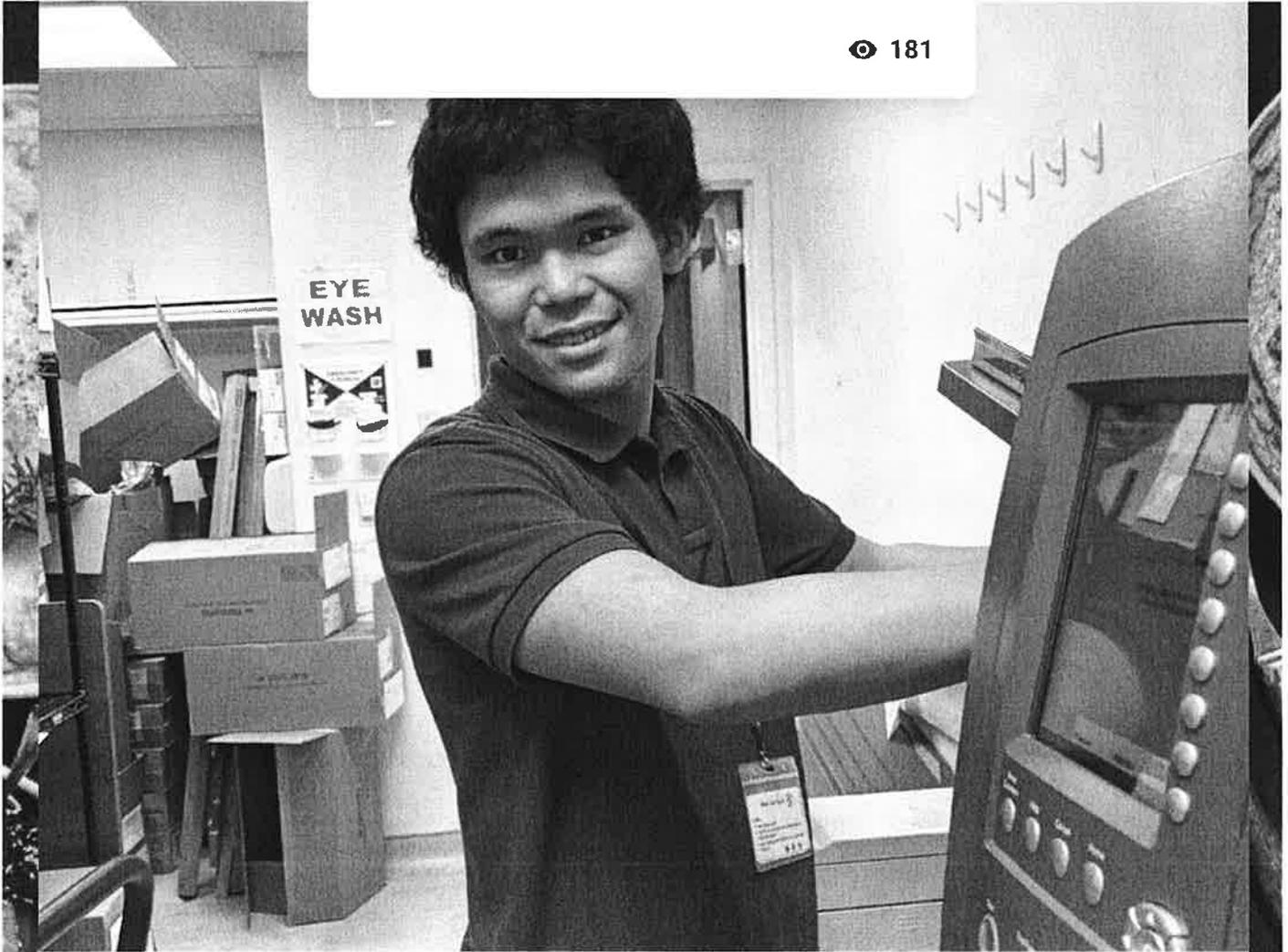




Ariana at Ono Bowls in Downtown Westfield



Kiya at Barnes & Noble, Union Plaza



Sean at Summit Health Mailroom in Berkeley Heights



Ben at Keating Physical Therapy in Downtown Cranford



Look Who Was Spotted in the Community!

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*Former WRA student, **Hernan** with "Batman"*



Picture of the Month

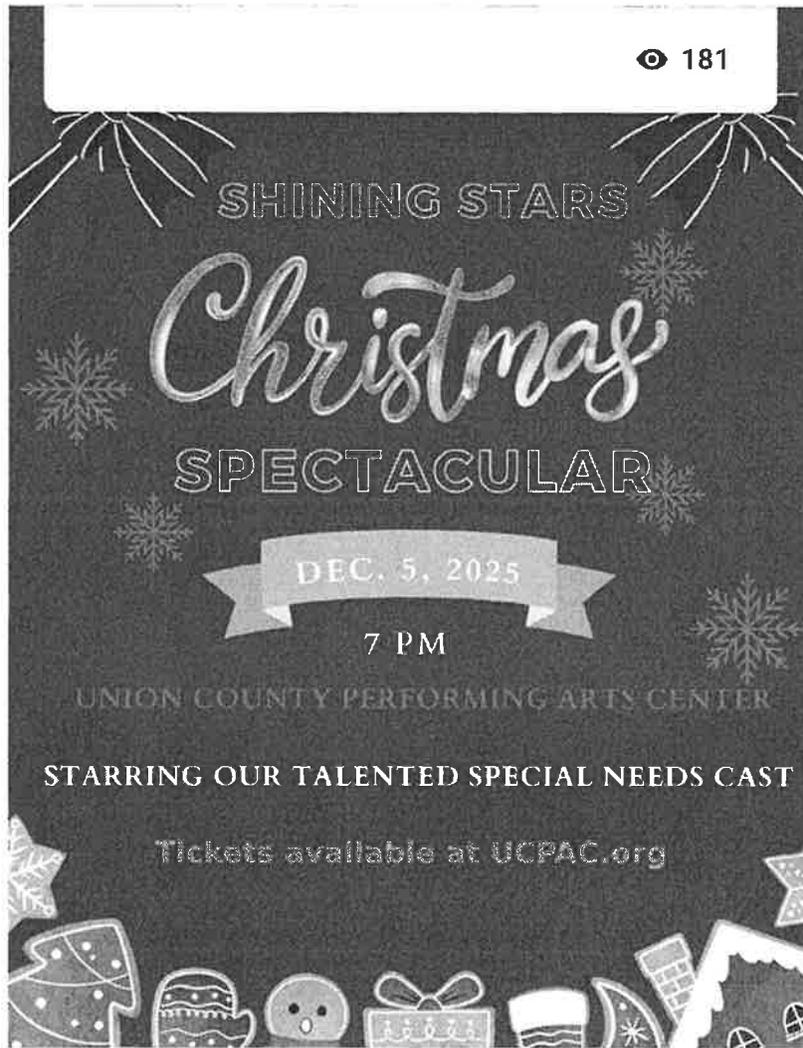
*Besties (**Tracie & Mary**) since forever, still causing "claw-some" commotion!*



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Community Resources/Events

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https://ucpac.vbotickets.com/event/Shining_Stars_Christmas_Spectacular_2025/177272

Guardianship Resources

Guardianship Webinar Replay

The Union County Board of County Commissioners recently invited residents to attend a free virtual Guardianship Webinar, titled: "Navigating Guardianship for Loved Ones with Special Needs: What Families Need to Know".

"This webinar will offer practical resources and professional insight to help residents better understand guardianship and make informed decisions for their loved ones," said Union County Commissioner Chairwoman Lourdes M. Leon. "The Commissioner Board is proud to support programs that connect residents with the knowledge and services they need."

A link to a replay of t

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<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1D0J0FLSL/>

At 18 years old all individuals, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, reach the legal age of majority. This means that parents can no longer make decisions legally on behalf of their children. See the attached fact sheet from the Arc of New Jersey for more information about Guardianship and various alternative options.



Updated Guardianship Fact Sheet (3).pdf

Download
107.0 KB

DDD Services

Applying for DDD Services

As soon as your child turns 18, you can begin applying for services via the NJ Division of Developmental Services (DDD). The first step is accessing Medicaid; this can be accomplished by applying for an getting approved for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or applying for NJ Family Care (Medicaid) via the state of New Jersey. Please see the attached resources.



Family Quick Guide to DDD_English

Download
3.0 MB



Family Quick Guide to DDD_Spanish (Espanol)

Download
2.1 MB



Full DDD Application-for-Eligibility-Spanish (Espanol)

Download
8.2 MB

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Full DDD Application-for-Eligibility-English

Download
3.6 MB



DDD Resource Links

Download
595.6 KB

Union County Office for Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs (OPDSN)

The Office for Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs offers a range of social and recreational opportunities to help individuals with disabilities connect with others and engage in meaningful activities.

[Click Here for More Information About Events Sponsored by Union County's OPDSN](#)



The #2NDFLOOR app for NJ youth is here! It only takes a second to get free 24/7 mental health support with one-on-one chat, helpline, community conversations, and more.

2NDFLOOR is a confidential and anonymous support network for New Jersey's youth. We are here to help you find solutions to the problems that you face at home, at school or at play.

Get started at 2NDFLOOR.org/download #mentalhealth #support.

Understanding Supported Employment Options Available AFTER Graduation

SUPPORTED

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Supported Employment for individuals with disabilities (IDD) secure and maintain competitive employment in a setting to prepare for competitive employment. An individual's interests, likes, and dislikes are important factors when considering a job or career path.

KEY TERMS

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Federal legislation signed in 2014 to help individuals access education, training, and support services to succeed in the workplace.

Competitive Employment

Work performed on a full-time or part-time basis in an integrated setting that is compensated at or above minimum wage.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

The state agency which provides vocational services for individuals with IDD or other barriers to employment.

Check out our DVRS Go Bag: bit.ly/DVRSgobag

"Employment First" State

An initiative that outlines that competitive employment is the preferred post-education activity. It presumes that all individuals, including people with IDD, are capable of integrated employment.

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES

- **Pre-Employment Transition Services**
 - Offered to high school students to plan and prepare for entering the workforce.
- **Job Development**
 - Assists individuals with a job search, interview skills, and resume development.
- **Job Sampling**
 - Gives the individual the opportunity to explore different types of employment and identify areas of interest and ability.
- **Job Coaching**
 - Provides assistance with learning essential job tasks, transportation training, social skills, and can act as a liaison between the employer and employee.
- **Long-Term Follow Along**
 - Ongoing support through worksite visits designed to help individuals maintain skills built during job coaching.
- **Trial Work Experience**
 - A workplace readiness assessment administered by a Supported Employment provider agency, such as [Project HIRE](#).

*This is not a fully inclusive list. Services may vary between agencies, school districts, and funding sources.

NJ WORKABILITY

NJ WorkAbility offers people with disabilities who are working, and whose income would otherwise make them ineligible for Medicaid, the opportunity to receive full Medicaid coverage.

Through NJ WorkAbility, individuals can earn up to \$65,196 of gross annual income and maintain less than \$20,000 in assets without threatening their Medicaid status. A couple cannot exceed \$87,900 in gross income and \$50,000 in assets. Learn more about NJ WorkAbility and eligibility requirements at: bit.ly/njworkability

REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT

Wages

Individuals are compensated at or above minimum wage, and at a comparable rate to coworkers without IDD performing similar duties with similar experience and education.

Benefits

Individuals receive the same benefits as other employees in a similar position with a similar level of service.

Scheduling

The schedule is determined by the needs of the employer, not the availability of the individual.

Integration

Employment takes place in a setting where individuals with and without disabilities have the opportunity to interact and work alongside each other.

Advancement

The same opportunities for promotion and advancement are available for employees with and without disabilities in similar positions with similar experience.

April 2022

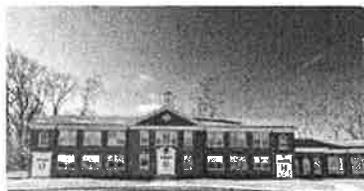


Supported Employment Fact Sheet Final.pdf

Click the link to download the attachment

Download

641.9 KB



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. Provide support and assistance as needed to develop independent living skills, recreation and independent travel training.

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and fade support for career discovery,

For more information or to make a student referral, please email Rachel Richer at r richer@ucesc.org

Email: jbornstein@ucesc.org

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

Location: [970 Suburban Road, Union, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: [908-633-2704](tel:908-633-2704)



Click Here to Follow the WRA on Instagram!

WRA Smore

WRA is using S'more to create beautiful newsletters

Powered by 



