

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

Winter Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Celebrations in Professional Development!

This year our department has been engaged in hours of meaningful learning opportunities. Below you can find a list of what we have been considering as a department.

- ◇ Technology (Assistive, Adaptive, Augmented)
- ◇ Autism
- ◇ ADHD in the Classroom
- ◇ Positive Behavior Supports
- ◇ Crisis Prevention Institute
- ◇ Reading Strategies
- ◇ Inclusion
- ◇ Co-Teaching
- ◇ Development of SMART Goals and Objectives
- ◇ Expectations of NJAC 6A:14
- ◇ New PRISE booklet
- ◇ ...and much much more

Livingston High School Plans for their Annual College and Career Fair

Ready to take the next step in your education? There's no better place to explore your options than at Livingston High School's College and Career Fair. On Tuesday, April 19th, Livingston High School will host their annual *College and Career Fair* in the Fitness and Wellness Center and Auxiliary Gymnasium. The program will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Admission representatives from schools across the country will gather with their main goal of encouraging students and their families to learn more about their institutions and help them to sort through the qualities they are looking for in a college and university.

For students with a 504 Plan or IEP, finding information about a school's ability to accommodate their disability may sometimes be challenging. While families can always turn to the prospective college's website for information, a more helpful and interactive way to get their questions answered should be to speak directly with college admission representatives to obtain information about the delivery of disability support services on their campuses. Because federal legislation concerning the provision of reasonable accommodations on campuses is not specific, to some extent each post-secondary campus makes an individual decision about which services they will provide and the method they will use to do this. Therefore, for students to be sure they may get the services they require, it is essential that they speak directly with post-secondary representatives before they decide which college to attend.

More information about the *College and Career Fair* will be in the LHS Counseling Newsletter in March.

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Transition and Post-Secondary planning for students with Individual Education Programs

Did you know that we have a program specifically designed to address individual student transition needs at Livingston High School? *We do!* The Career Internship Program has been available to all classified students, in and out of district, since the 1990's. In 2009, the curriculum was updated to meet the expectations of the NJAC 6A:14 transition planning/services requirements, as well as the NJ Common Core Standards - 21st Century College and Career Readiness Standards. This is a vibrant and rigorous curriculum that allows students the opportunity to explore their interests, preferences, and career possibilities while in high school.

Students can enter CIP as freshman or at any time in their high school career. The first year of CIP called "Career Exploration" is designed to guide students through a process of reflection, experience, and opportunity to consider how their strengths will suit them as they develop their post-secondary plans for school, employment, and life. In the subsequent years in CIP, students will have opportunities to not only explore careers, they will have the chance to participate in direct instruction through job-sampling, community based instruction, job-coaching and eventually paid employment. CIP is taught by a teacher with experience in both special education and business who is a Structured Life Experience (SLE) professional. Students have the opportunity to take CIP in lieu of their fine and practical arts electives and they can take this course annually as their IEP will determine goals and objectives for meeting their post-secondary transition plans.

COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION

If you're driving around town in the afternoon, keep your eye out for the yellow, *Livingston Public Schools* bus. This is the sight of students learning the necessary skills to be a part of our community. Every week students from Heritage Middle School and Livingston High School head out into Livingston to turn places like ShopRite, the YMCA, and the bank into their classroom.

The learning starts in class where teachers provide instruction on essential skills like responsible meal planning, wellness, budgeting, and making change. Here skills are explained, demonstrated and practiced with the safety and support of contrived settings and situations. The learners then prepare a plan for their trip, gather the necessary materials, and review the essential social skills. The end goal of all education is for learners to develop the deep understanding that allows them to generalize and apply their skills in a variety of real-life of settings. Authentic community interactions are impossible to replicate within the school building; community based instruction provides this important opportunity. Through community based instruction, our students are learning the skills necessary to be involved members of our terrific community!

NJ Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) update

~ In 2013 New Jersey was found to be in violation of the Federal and State requirements for the placement of students with special needs in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Livingston was among many districts who were placed on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). I am please to report that after several monitoring visits this year from the NJDOE state monitors, our District was found to be FULLY COMPLIANT in all nine areas of requirement set forth in NJAC 6A:14.9.



~ New PRISE ~

Did you know that the *Parental Rights in Special Education* was updated in December 2015 by the New Jersey Department of Education? You will receive this updated version in the mail with the invitation to your child's Annual Review meeting this year. While the updates were minor, it is important that you are aware of the new booklet. PRISE can be found on the NJDOE website and Livingston.org.

Should you ever have concerns about your child's education, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, principal, school counselor, case manager, or one of us.