



Holmdel S.T.A.R.S Program: Student Transition to Adulthood Ready For Success

Board Of Education Presentation
January 29, 2025



S.T.A.R.S Timeline

- S.T.A.R.S was developed in response to the need for a structured transition program for Holmdel students aged 18-21.
- Planning began in Fall 2020 and officially launched in 2021 following parent engagement meetings.
- S.T.A.R.S. provides students with disabilities, aged 18-21, who have completed their high school requirements a person-centered opportunity to achieve their post-secondary goals. These goals span employment, independent living, work-based learning, self-determination training, and community engagement—all supported by teachers, case managers, support staff, related service providers, and our transition coordinator.
- We are incredibly proud of our S.T.A.R.S. students who have gained valuable life skills, self-advocacy abilities, and pre-employment experience. Many have achieved part-time employment and have attended college transition programs at Georgian Court University, Syracuse University and Villanova University.



[Video](#)

Ms. Doreen Riegel ~ Transition Coordinator

MA Secondary Ed/Transition Specialist



Over the past twenty two years, the last eight years as our Transition Coordinator, I have been privileged to work in a district that embraced innovation and best practice resulting in the development of many transition related programs. These programs include:

- Community Based Instruction CBI that has been expanded from pre-school to our adult program
- Work Based Learning WBL
- Student Led-IEP process with student ppt presentations
- Interagency Collaboration
- Transition Fair/Community Panel
- Multi-district social/recreational connections
- Courses like Career Exploration & Community Awareness
- Use of state tools like NJCAN/Dare to Dream Conference
- Increased participation in Brookdale programs/CAT
- Partnership with the BOGG Center/Rutgers
- Hosting the TCN meetings



Community Based Instruction CBI

<https://boggscenterregistration.rwjms.rutgers.edu/index.php/event/displayForCal/SDY5cjIwNjOw>

Community Based Instruction is an evidence based instructional practice that supports students with disabilities during the transition from school to adult life by promoting positive post-school outcomes in the areas of community living, post-secondary education, and careers. When the community is utilized as a learning environment it provides practical, meaningful opportunities for students to develop skills in authentic experiences thus promoting greater independence, interdependence, and enhanced quality of life once reaching adulthood.

Some of our CBI sites include:

- Fort Monmouth Rec Center where we meet friends and play fun activities
- Shoprite working on money, planning and food prep skills
- Brookdale Community College participating in their CAT programs
- Fulfill where STARS participate in community service projects
- Farms in the area
- Parks in the area
- Shopping



Work Based Learning WBL

<https://www.nj.gov/education/cte/secondary/wbl/>

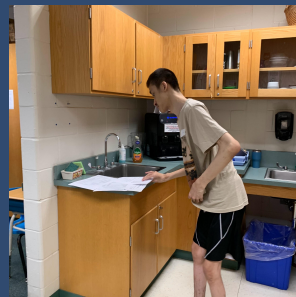
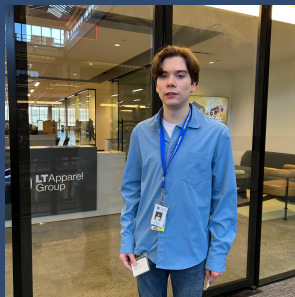
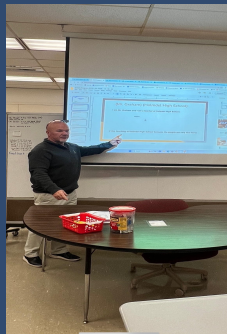
Work Based Learning WBL is a teaching strategy that connects classroom learning to real-world work experiences/ The NJ DOE promotes WBL programs that help students develop skills for future careers.

Students are offered opportunities to participate in WBL starting at age 16 and increases through their time in school as their academic schedule allows. WBL students all have job coaches who have gone through training through the BOGG Center and our district. Some of our wonderful community businesses who have partnered with us to offer WBL experiences include:

- Bayshore Hospital
- Bayshore Vet Hospital
- Bell Works Mailroom/Millennium Grp
- Enchanted Blossoms Florist
- Maple Holistics
- Dearborn Market
- Almost Home
- Over Easy
- Texas Roadhouse
- Pet Supply Plus
- Village School/Chartwells/Primetime
- Pantano's Landscape Center

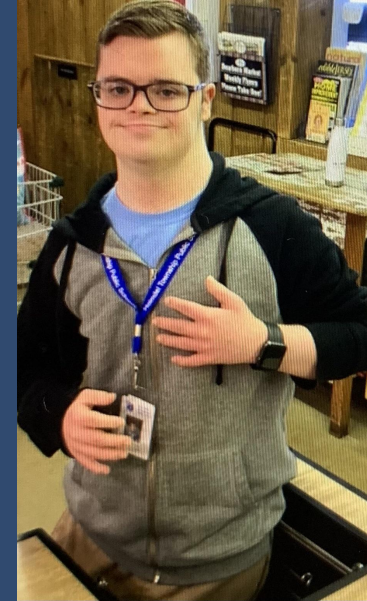


Mr. Graham's Class



John Junior

My name is John Junior. I work at Dearborn and bag groceries. I also go to Almost Home to help out in the kitchen with any kind of jobs. I love going to Dearborn. The reason behind why I love Dearborn is because I am being social.



Joey

My name is Joey. I work at Village School. I like working at Village School because I like packaging the Cookies.



Reece

My name is Reece and I worked at Bellworks.

I sort and deliver the mail to all the companies at Bellworks.

I like working there because I like to deliver mail.



Fatima

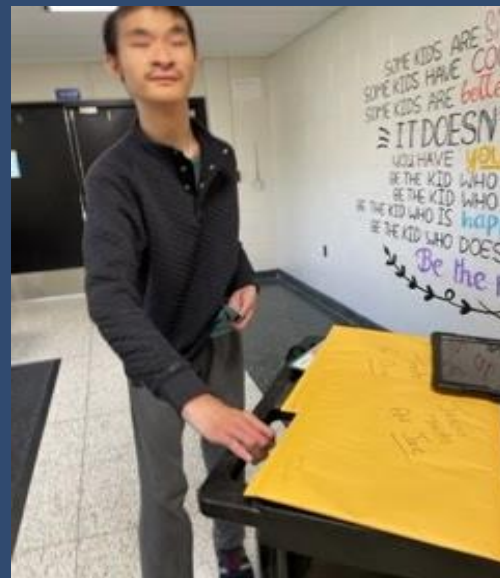
My name is Fatima. I work at flower shop.

I love working at flower shop. I like working at the flower shop.



Alex

My name is Alex Chen and I work at Village School. I like working at Village School because I like delivering the lunches.



#1



#2



Patrick

My name is Patrick Gross. My WBL is at Bayshore Hospital. I like working at Bayshore because I work by myself and I am experienced at this job. I am part time employed at Maple Holistics.



Rebecca

My name is Rebecca and my WBL is at Maple Holistics. I like working at Maple Holistics because I like packaging and the people are nice to me. I also take classes at Brookdale Community College.



Anastasia

My name is Anastasia, and I work at Bayshore Veterinary Hospital.

I do many different jobs there to help keep the vet hospital organized.

I like working there because I love helping animals and my co-workers are very nice.



Employer Feedback

It has been a wonderful experience to have one of Holmdel STARS student in the gym on the men's basketball game nights. This young adult brings a positive attitude and tons of energy! He enjoys being around the team as much as we enjoy being around him.

**-Katie Amundson-Brookdale Community College
Athletic Director**

The Holmdel School System STARS Program have workers that work hard and pay attention to detail.

-WBL Supervisor



Employer Feedback

The young adult that is job training at Bayshore Veterinary Hospital is a hard worker that we rely on heavily for completing our laundry, stocking our shelves, and doing inventory. This young adult is a key resource in our operations and is truly missed when she is not in the office.

-Mary Simon, Bayshore Veterinary Hospital

The STARS Students are constantly arriving on time with a great attitude and ready for work. Always accomplishing the tasks at hand. They are a pleasure to have in the kitchen.

-Tony Uhl - Village School





Thank you for your support!

