

Antietam Special Education Department / 610-370-2898

Take a Look: Transition at Antietam



Many students at Antietam School District are already planning for their transition to adult life. Some are just a few short weeks away from graduating. The IDEA requires that we begin to plan for this transition when the student turns 14 years old. This begins when your child's special education teacher gives him or her a transition survey to complete. This information is shared at the IEP meeting. The student begins to attend IEP meetings at this age, and this is when the students realize their important role in this process. The transition plan, a part of the IEP, guides the goals for the IEP from this point forward.

Students are introduced to a computer program entitled Keys2Work, in which they take interest inventories and explore areas of interest. Career availability and salary are readily available for them to view and compare. Students can compare their own reading and math level to the reading and math levels needed for their career of interest. This provides relevance to the practice

they receive in class, and in the program for both reading and math. Most students also take a transitions class in 8th and 10th grade. This class teaches them job skills, specifically the employability skills necessary to obtain and maintain successful employment and addresses areas of need in the transition process.

Each year, the caseload teacher ensures that the student is taking the proper courses to meet their post-secondary goals, and monitors their progress in these classes. Our transition coordinator, Ernest Woolf, consults with teachers and students to assist in this process. Students can explore the programs at Berks Career and Technical Center. We are currently building our program to include job shadowing and work study. The BCIU also provides many transition opportunities, including Transition House, P.A.L., work study, and job coaching.

Please check our website for more information on transition into adult life.

A Note from the Supervisor

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First, I want to remind you that April is Autism Awareness Month. Did you know that 1% of children are diagnosed with autism, according to the National Children's Health Survey? Did you know that autism is the fastest growing developmental disability, with a growth rate of 1148%? Did you know that we service 22 children with autism spectrum disorders at the Antietam School District? To find out more about autism, go to <http://www.autism-society.org>

I want to also thank you for your support as we conducted the PSSA assessments. Your children by all reports tried their very best, and we appreciate their efforts!

Many of you will receive letters for Extended School Year (ESY) in this mailing. ESY is an IEP team decision that is based on many factors regarding skill retention. If you have any questions about ESY, please contact me or your child's special education teacher.

As we round into the last quarter of the school year, the staff appreciates your continued support with homework and skills practice at home.



Opportunities For Parents

At Antietam: Movie and Discussion on the experience of having autism. See autism through the eyes of a young woman with the syndrome: April 27, 2011 from 4-6 PM in the Primary Center. RSVP so that appropriate amount of **FREE PIZZA** can be ordered for this event. ☺

SPELL: Parent and educator support group at Community Prevention Partnerships from 7 – 9 PM. Next meeting: April 19

VISIT: Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom as an observer. Contact the special education office to arrange a visit.

At the BCIU: AUTISM 101 Academy – August 11, 2011 from 8 – 3 PM at the BCIU Education Centre.

Transition Academy: Teaching skills for Success in Postsecondary Education: August 16th 8 – 3 PM

Register for both Academies at www.berksiu.org

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.antietamsd.org

Click on Educational Services to access special education offerings

Home Tips for Parents and Guardians: How to Help your Child Manage Their Time

- Create a rewards system for chores that are completed on time
- Use verbal countdowns when you are going somewhere. Start with a 10-15 minute warning.
- Use a planner, or electronic device to keep track of assignments.
- Remind your child to "get the hard part over with" when doing a task.
- Identify time wasters such as TV, computer, and the internet and limit these. Work them into the schedule.
- Use a timer and set goals with your child
- Use a daily activities log, or white board to write the things they do each day. Have your child erase them as they do them.



Teacher Showcase : Ms. Nicole Carfagno at Antietam Middle/Senior High

Students who require life skills instruction for all or part of their school day may be a member of Ms. Carfagno's Life Skills class. Ms. Carfagno, who is new to this role, has built many meaningful learning opportunities for her students. Students shop for food to cook in the kitchen next door to their classroom. Every week, they take a recreational or job-related field trip into the community. Notably, the students just won second place in the county-wide Job Olympics hosted by the BCIU. The students also will participate in the Special Olympics on April 27th. When in the school, the students provide community service in the form of office work, custodial jobs, and charity events and dances. They are included into the regular education program for several subjects, and are meeting with success as Ms. Carfagno and Ms. Frymoyer, her assistant, raise the bar for them. Students reflect on literature such as Harry Potter and set goals for themselves in math calculation and reading fluency. They learn to fill out applications and practice interviewing skills. Ms. Carfagno prepares her students for transition into adult life by challenging them to be the best they can be. Way to go, Ms. Carfagno!