

# TRANSITION CENTER NEWS

Monroe County Intermediate School District

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**MONROE COUNTY**  
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## Seeds for Success: Sharon

*Diefenthaler, Instructor*

Students returned after summer break ready to begin at the greenhouse and learn basic greenhouse job skills. Five new students that joined the "Seeds for Success" program this year. New students always bring excitement and eagerness to the class as they begin their new adventures.

The first week at the greenhouse provided great job skill and team building activities. Students worked together to fill 1,380 gallon pots in 1-1/2 days. These pots were planted later with evergreen (Christmas tree) seedlings. This job was a first for the program and it was amazing to see my seasoned students step up and provide peer mentoring to the new students on the "how to" in filling a pot to meet greenhouse standards.

Students will continue at the greenhouse through October. They have been trained in NIOSHA Work Safety and Farm Safety. The first eight weeks of the school year are the most important for students. During these weeks they are building their foundation on which to grow into being the best they can be in the greenhouse Seeds for Success program.



## CHS/Goodwill: Gina Watkins, Instructor

The school year is well under way and the students have settled in nicely at their worksites at LIFE, St. Isadore Farm, Life Skills and Goodwill. The farmers have been working hard to clean up the garden and prepare for fall, Life Skills students are working on micro businesses and the students at LIFE have been working on taking inventory and doing stock at the Meals on Wheels kitchen.

I would like to welcome back Amber Hendzel, Carrie Bovia, Tammy Hemdal and Renee Warner as well as welcome our newest staff member, Ameira Nash to our program. Ameira will be working primarily with our students at the Life Skills program. If you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to me at (734) 242-5799 x1523. I look forward to continuing to get to know and work with each student!

## Transition Center Classroom: Erin Callahan, Instructor



Welcome back everyone to a new year! As we start the year, students will be learning about how to work as a team member and how to work with a shoulder partner. Some students will start work experience on campus and some will be off campus. They'll be participating in community-based education activities on Wednesdays. In our first few weeks, they will be learning adult daily living jobs within the building, begin baking for our classroom business Tricks Treats and Love, and volunteering off campus one morning a week at MCOP.



## Project SEARCH: Lori Eshenroder, Instructor

Project SEARCH staff and Interns are ready to kick off another great year of training for employment. I am ecstatic to report that the 8th annual "back to work potluck" held on August 10th was a great success. For the 8th year in a row, we had 100% participation. Interns were able to get all of their paperwork done and in order, including Tb test, prior to the school year starting. We've worked hard for 2 weeks getting to know all of our interns and helping them get to know each other. They have all been through new employee orientation, interviews, tours and are ready to get started with their first of 3 rotations. Training sites being used during Rotation One include: Dietary, Nursing, Emergency, Observation, Laboratory, St. Mike's Daycare and we are very excited about developing a brand new rotation in Cardio Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

All of us here at Project SEARCH hope you all had an amazing summer and we are looking forward to helping your intern reach his/her goal of competitive employment.



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