



Pathways Transition Center Parent Newsletter August 2021

Pathways News/Events

Pathways staff are excited to welcome back students full time to our program starting on August 18th. Our program hours are 9:00-2:30 Monday through Friday for school year 21-22.

Each student will be assigned a locker this school year. We ask that students do not utilize a lock on their locker. Students at Pathways will have access to a chromebook during the school day, they will not receive a district provided take home chromebook.

Lunch: Aramark will provide a streamlined lunch and breakfast menu for all students. Due to supply and staffing shortages, Aramark will offer limited menu options each school day. Students may choose an option for both breakfast and lunch each day or they may choose to bring their own lunch. Students will make their selections during homeroom time in the morning.

We are excited that we can welcome visitors back into our building. If there are any families that would like to schedule a tour of our program please reach out to Darcy Durkee at 630 636-3909 or email at DDurkee@sd308.org to schedule a tour.

Our program continues to expand, as we anticipate almost sixty students enrolled in our program this school year. We have opened a sixth classroom, and will be welcoming new staff to our program.

Transportation should be reaching out to families the second week of August in order to confirm address and pick up/drop off times.

Case managers will be reaching out to families starting on August 16th, their first day back for the 2021-2022 school year.

I.E.P. Meetings can be held in person or via google meets this school year. Please let your case manager know your preference once any meetings have been scheduled.

Pathways will continue to follow all guidelines and protocols as outlined by the SD 308 Safety Plan. Per Governor Pritzker's mandate face masks are required for all individuals inside of a school building and on any school bus.

Governor Pritzker recently signed into law House Bill 40, now known as Public Act 102-0172. This law essentially states, all eligible students may continue to receive school based transition services through the full school year wherein the student reaches the age of 22 years old. Previously, students were only eligible up until the day before their 22nd birthday.

Please remember to call our attendance line at 630-636-3901 if you know of any upcoming absences.

Functional Academics Mrs. Cruz,

Students will continue to work on functional reading, writing, executive functioning skills, and monetary skills during their functional academic instructional times.

Vocational Mrs. Wade

Students will continue to work on soft vocational skills during classroom time.

If there are any students that are looking for gainful employment our staff would be happy to support job searches, filling out applications, and practicing interviewing skills. Please communicate with Mrs. Wade or Mr. Mecklenburg if you would like us to support your student in a job search. There are many local places looking for employees. We keep an active job board, and would love to help support those students who are seeking gainful employment.

We continue to look for community partners, businesses, and work site locations for our work based learning program. If any stakeholders have any suggestions for work site locations/contact persons please contact Mr. Mecklenburg or Mrs. Wade with the information.

Independent Living Skills Mrs. Kirkwood

Students will continue to work on budgeting, community awareness and safety, executive functioning skills, life skills, shopping, cooking, and cleaning this school year.

Creations by Pathways/Phoenix Cafe Mrs. Benson

Students will continue to work on our two businesses this school year. We are excited to open our Phoenix Cafe, our morning coffee shop for SD 308 employees. Our microbusiness is looking forward to creating and selling our products in craft shows this year. Funds generated from these programs go directly back into student PBIS activities.

Functional Skills Classroom Mrs. Hrouda

Students will continue to work on their daily functional skills in order to help increase their own independence.

Recreation and Leisure Mr. Walz

Students will continue to learn to make healthy choices by using community resources for exercising and leisure activities.

Speech and Social Work Services Mrs. Gustafson(SLP) Mrs. Hiles(SW) Mrs. Bowker(SW)

Spiritwear

Pathways spiritwear is now available with the Pathways logo from the district's spiritwear store. <https://sd308.itemorder.com/sale> If you contact the company by email or phone, they will put our Pathways logo on any item that is listed on their site.

Upcoming Events

August 18th First day of school 9:00-2:30

Sept. 6th Labor Day **No School**

Sept. 7th Teacher Institute Day **No School**

Reminders

* Remember to register with the Illinois Department of Human Services - Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services. <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131> Services Inc. serves our area. <https://www.svcincofil.org/>

* Check out <https://thinkcollege.net/> for additional post secondary/post district education.

* Call/email Terri Hiles, Pathways Social Worker with questions.

630-636-3905/thiles@sd308.org

Questions/Concerns

Please feel free to contact us at 630-636-3900, or find us on the web at <https://www.sd308.org/pathways> there is a staff contact list posted there.

Keith Mecklenburg Administrator Pathways Transition Center
kmecklenburg@sd308.org 630 636-3910

We are looking forward to a great school year!!!!

