PUTTING NEW LIFE INTO LIFE SKILLS

Incorporating Independent Living Skills into Everyday Curriculum
MIKE NEVINS

• 25 Years of Working with People with Disabilities from the High School to Transition to Adulthood Age
• Taught Essential Skills at Franklin Community High School for 18 Years
• Developed the Transition to Adulthood and Careers Program (TAC) at FCSC
• Part of Group that Developed the INSPIRE Franklin College Program

MICKEY DEPUTY

• Senior at Franklin Community High School
• Involved in Dance and Cheerleading
• Has Traveled to Many Places
• Participates in Many Pageants
• Cadet Teacher
• Cancer Survivor
• Miss Amazing 2015
• Goal to Become a Dance Choreographer for Children with Disabilities
LIFE SKILLS

1. What We Do at FCSC
2. How We Do it
3. Academic Vs. Independent Living Skills
4. What it Really Comes Down to
WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS STUDENTS NEED?

- All of Them!
- Real Self Determination
- Motivation
- Perseverance
LIFE SKILLS AT FCSC

- Independent Living Skills Class
- Community Training Trips
- Job Sites
- Cooperation with Technology, Agriculture, and Family and Consumer Science Departments
- Disability Awareness in General Education
INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS CLASS

Self Determination
- Opportunities to Practice
- Expectations
- Person Centered Plans

Self Awareness - Understanding of Disability
- Identity Traits
- Top 3 Supports
- Person Centered Plans

Mickey
COMMUNITY TRAINING / JOB SITES

Community Training

- No Location is Off Limits
- Public Transportation
- Staffing or Student Issues Do not Make a Trip Un-Doable

Job Training

- School / Community Job Sites
- "Culture" of School and Community
- Interaction with Businesses - We are a Service to Them
- Use Programs Already in Place (Central 9 - Cadet Teaching - Electives)

Franklin College 1 Franklin College 2
DISABILITY AWARENESS

Introduction to Disability Class
- Year Long Elective
- Basic Disability Information
- Strong Emphasis on Importance of Integration

Peer Tutors
- Assist in Essential Skills Program
- Go to classes, assist with work, go in the community
- Have Taken Intro. to Disabilities class

Disability Awareness
- Corporation Wide Theme
- Lesson Geared Toward Grades and Subjects
- Winnie the Witch
- I Define Me
- What Not to Say
HOW WE DO IT

Nothing Gets in the Way

Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things.

(Saves time)

Schedules (Staff and Student)

FCHS Bell Schedule
HOW WE DO IT

Nothing Gets in the Way

Fear

Sometimes we make excuses and blame other things for why we do not do things when the real reason is fear.

DON'T LET YOUR FEAR OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN MAKE NOTHING HAPPEN.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE A BIG STEP. YOU CAN'T CROSS A CHASM IN TWO SMALL JUMPS.

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE
HOW WE DO IT

Nothing Gets in the Way

Policies and Procedures

- Transportation
- Meals
- Course Fees
- Curriculum / Standards
- Etc.
HOW WE DO IT

culture

FCSC - Mission Statement:
Together, we empower greatness in all learners through collaboration, dynamic partnerships, and rich experiences that develop a world-class learning environment.

FCSC - Beliefs:
In a safe and nurturing environment, students:
- Learn at different rates and in different ways
- Learn more effectively while actively engaged
- Develop positive relationships with adults and peers
HOW WE DO IT

culture

School is Larger than the Building

Good to Great

“If you have the wrong people, it doesn’t matter if you discover the right direction; you still won’t have a great company. Great vision without great people is irrelevant.”

-Jim Collins, “Good to Great”

“Good is the enemy of great.”

-Jim Collins
ACADEMIC VS. LIFE SKILLS

- In Does Not have to Be Either Or
- The Best Life Skills are Integrated in the General Education Curriculum
- Help Students Develop their Identity
- Support Behind the Scenes
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS IN OUR STUDENTS?

- We know students need to practice the skills we want them to learn in the environments they will need to use them in.
- We know students need to be involved in the general education curriculum.

What are the difference makers?
OUR ROLE MODEL - MICKEY

- We Stay Out of Her Way
- She Knows Who She Is
- Involved in General Curriculum
- Supports
- Personality
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS IN OUR STUDENTS?

1. Identity - Ours and Our Students

"Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher." - Parker J. Palmer

"Good teachers possess a capacity for connectedness. They are able to weave a complex web of connections among themselves, their subjects, and their students so that students can learn to weave a world for themselves." - Parker J. Palmer
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS IN OUR STUDENTS?

2. Relationships

- What do we say? How do we say it?
- Respect
- Relationships with Adults are Different than Relationships with Children

“Teachers must know their students well...they must be responsive to the varied backgrounds and cultures of students; they must have the skills to help students apply what they have learned.”

“Having a personal relationship with a caring adult who can help students meet high standards academically and socially is also a key concept of quality high schools.”

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS IN OUR STUDENTS?

3. Culture - It's Up to Us

1. Energy - Positivism

2. Handling and Minimizing Crisis

3. We Must See Ourselves as the Leaders of Change and the Experts in Life Skills and Community Involvement for Students

4. Developing a True Environment of Awareness and Self Determination