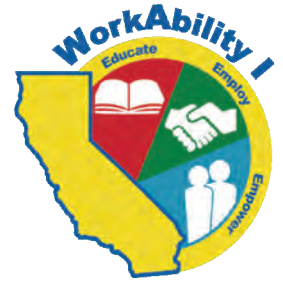




WORKABILITY WORKS!



San Juan USD WorkAbility
5325 Garfield Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841
916-979-8610 www.sanjuan.edu/Workability

“Working with all stakeholders, the WorkAbility program ensures that SJUSD students with disabilities gain the confidence, skills, career awareness, and work experience necessary for transition and postsecondary success.”

SJUSD WorkAbility Newsletter

April / May 2016

A Message from our Administrator

As we head into the last weeks of the 2015/16 school year it is time for reflection as we prepare the annual application to renew our workability grant. We invite our community to help with this process by completing the survey attached to this month's newsletter.

We are pleased to report that we exceeded all of the goals in our 15/16 WorkAbility grant! We provided services to 1376 students in grades 8 to 12+, and arranged paid work experiences for 268 students. Please take a few minutes to complete the feedback survey; your feedback is essential.

Thanks for your support this year!

Julia Arreguin, Ed.D.,
WorkAbility Administrator



Jan and Laura Represent WorkAbility at the Laurel Ruff Transition Fair

Cougar Café at Del Campo

The Workability Class at Del Campo High School has been running the Cougar Cafe since 2011. The café serves the Del Campo staff, as well as visiting VIPs to the campus; the latest to be served by the Cougar Café staff was the WASC committee.

The Cougar Café offers WorkAbility students the unique opportunity to practice classroom lessons in a real world environment. In the café, students receive immediate feedback and have the chance to directly apply that information to build and strengthen their vocational skill set. Using an apprenticeship approach, returning students are promoted to station supervisors/trainers and are responsible for training new students to achieve mastery of various work related skills.

This year, the café has its first student-manager, Senior, Raymond Griffin, who rose through the ranks starting as a trainee. Ray has been in charge of the overall running of the café from inventory to clean up since the beginning of this school year. “Being a manager is hard work; for the first time in my life, I’m responsible for other’s actions, as well as my own. But it’s worth it!”

The overarching goals of the café are to teach professionalism in the workplace, time management, teamwork, a strong work ethic, and an independent attitude of “I can succeed.”

And the Food is Great!!

In This Issue

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Bella Vista, Del Campo, La Vista

WorkAbility survey

Success Story

CalExpo Firsts

Wednesday, March 30th was a day of firsts for several WorkAbility students at Cal Expo. Nicki Mahoney, a second year worker and Kyle Sotelo a first year worker were invited to ride in the starting gate to help gate school ten young horses. Two of the young horses they gate schooled are entered in stakes races valued at \$100,000. Kyle also independently led Major from the turnout pen to cross ties where he learned to groom the horse. While Natalie Eddy learned to harness the horse and even got to jog Major for five miles on the main track!

Way To Go Cal Expo Team



Notes From The Desk of Jeanette and Debbie

The 2015-1016 WorkAbility school year was fun and productive at Bella Vista, Del Campo, and La Vista. We were able to place approximately 70 students in off campus work sites this year. The students were able to gain job skills and confidence as well as experiencing how to apply for employment. Our business partners included Best Buy, Fallas, Hancock Fabrics, Sunrise Assisted Living, CVS Pharmacy, Raley's Rite Aid, Toys R. Us, Walgreen's and Old Navy in Birdcage. Some of our students were able to get work experience on campus in the school cafeteria or after school with the custodial staff.

Students were given the opportunity to tour Folsom Lake College and Sierra College and received an orientation of their DSPS programs. Our students thoroughly enjoyed these visits and many are looking forward to attending college. Other transition opportunities were guest speakers from AmeriCorps and Sacramento Works.

We would like to thank the Vivint Company who came to Del Campo and conducted mock interviews for our WorkAbility Class. Students experienced a real world interview and were given immediate feedback to improve for their next interview experience.

We had 3 student run businesses the Recycling Program and Room Service at Bella Vista, and the Cougar Cafe at Del Campo. Our students learned valuable job skills that they will be able to take with them as they transition to their next step in life.

We have 6 students in the Transition Partnership Program, our partnership with the Dept. of Rehabilitation. We are working with them to broaden their employability skills with the goal of being hired in the near future.

As always it was a pleasure to assist students gain valuable information, confidence, and work skills to help improve their lives.



Natalie Eddy & Major

Bottles and Cans Recycling Student Run Business at Bella Vista

Bottles and Cans the freshman and sophomore business at Bella Vista is geared to learning initial job skills while offering a valuable resource in a school wide recycling program. Our students learn to work together as a team, follow directions from staff and from student leaders who are building leadership skills. The students are responsible for taking bins out for common use on a daily schedule, and once a week picking up bins from classrooms and offices. They are then responsible for sorting the material and for keeping the work area clean and safe. Classroom discussions and instruction on how to be a good employee enhance their experience. Our students take pride in their work and it is gratifying to see the growth they are achieving. **Thank you** to all those who participate in Bottles and Cans Recycling helping our WorkAbility students and making this such a successful program. It is a great first experience for our students.

WorkAbility at Work!!



ROOM SERVICE CALLING AT BELLA VISTA

Did you know that Bella Vista has a second school based business? For the past 10 years the Juniors and Seniors have operated a weekly food service business for staff. Due to the overwhelming support from the staff this is a self sustaining business. Expanding on the skills learned in the recycling business, students learn to work together and independently while making a variety of lunch options. Students learn to make salads, soup, sandwiches, smoothies, and parfaits. Valuable food prep skills like shredding, chopping, sanitation, using a can opener, measuring, following a recipe, and portion control help the students become employable as well helping in their daily lives.

Students are also responsible for delivering the lunches to staff learning to use appropriate social interactions and includes money handling skills.

Bella Vista Room Service strives to teach the student professionalism in the workplace as well as gaining confidence in their daily lives..

Business Partner Rite Aid on Auburn Blvd in Citrus Heights Helps Ours Students



A group of WorkAbility students along with two independent workers are lucky to have such a great manager to work with. The manager, MJ, is fabulous to work with. She tries to get to know each students strengths. One student from Bella Vista is working on his communication skills and MJ works within his skill set by giving him tasks appropriate to him.

MJ is fabulous to work with and is always eager to take new students into her store and give them a positive real life job experience.



AmeriCorp Visits Del Campo

Del Campo WorkAbility students attended a presentation from AmeriCorp's spokespersons in March. AmeriCorp is an agency similar to VISTA and provides job training, hands on work experience,

leadership training, and assistance with job search after completion of a 10 month program. Many of the students asked positive questions and



AmeriCorp Presentation



San Juan Unified School District WorkAbility Department

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ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY SPRING 2016

PART 1 page 1 of 2

Please rate the extent towards which the SJUSD WorkAbility Team supports each of the following categories of the WorkAbility array of transition services, and rate how important you consider each category for the post secondary success of our students.

WORKABILITY TRANSITION ARRAY OF SERVICES	RATINGS	
<p>1. SCHOOL-BASED PREPARATORY EXPERIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career/Vocational Assessments • Employment/Post-Secondary Education Planning • Curriculum Integration of Work-Readiness Skills • Career/Vocational Education 	<p>SJUSD WorkAbility supports this category of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree 	<p>This category of service is important for the post-secondary success of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<p>2. CAREER PREPARATION & WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Awareness / Exploration Activities • Career Preparation /Job Search • Work-Based Learning \ Job Development • Employment / Work Experience • Job Retention • Work-Site Mentor/ Supervisor • Job Coaching • Work-Site Follow-Along/ Employer Communication 	<p>SJUSD WorkAbility supports this category of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree 	<p>This category of service is important for the post-secondary success of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<p>3. COLLABORATION / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Advocacy/ Disability Awareness • Youth Leadership • Destination / Transportation Training • Life Skills/Independent Living • Family Participation & Support of Transition • Partnership and Collaboration 	<p>SJUSD WorkAbility supports this category of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree 	<p>This category of service is important for the post-secondary success of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree



San Juan Unified School District WorkAbility Department

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ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY SPRING 2016

PART 2 page 2 of 2

1. Budget priorities Our Workability grant must be reviewed, rewritten and renewed annually. As we consider the services and support we provide please help us prioritize our expenditures by numbering the following budget categories from highest to lowest priority, with 1= highest priority

- ___ workability staff (youth employment technicians provide school based support and community job development)
- ___ student wages (a set # of hours for community based paid work experience)
- ___ transition assessment tools (e.g. career inventories)
- ___ transition curriculum & materials (e.g. Life Centered Education licenses)
- ___ buses for field trips (e.g. visits to local community college)
- ___ teacher substitutes (e.g. for occasional community events such as college visits)
- ___ other (please describe)_____

2. What do you consider the **most important service** provided by San Juan Workability?

3. Please provide any ***feedback*** to help San Juan WorkAbility improve our program and services..

Please click on a submit button located on the top of the page to email your completed survey to Julia Arreguin (JArreguin@sanjuan.edu). Handwritten surveys can be sent to the WorkAbility Office, located at Laurel Ruff, 5325 Garfield Avenue, Sacramento CA 95841