

Foundations for Work & Community Readiness

Foundations for Work & Community is a bi-weekly pre-vocational program that builds teamwork, community awareness, and foundational workplace skills through collaborative projects, product development, and real-world learning experiences.

Core Goals

1. Career Awareness & Exploration

Students will explore retail, creative production, and community service career pathways through hands-on experiences, guest speakers, and real-world projects, increasing awareness of personal interests and strengths related to future employment.

2. Foundational Workplace Behaviors

Students will demonstrate emerging workplace readiness skills including punctuality, task initiation, persistence, following routines, maintaining shared workspaces, and completing assigned responsibilities.

3. Communication, Customer Awareness & Self-Advocacy

Students will practice professional communication by engaging with peers, instructors, and community members, demonstrating active listening, appropriate responses, asking for assistance when needed, and advocating for personal needs in group and retail settings.

4. Teamwork & Social Skill Development

Students will participate in collaborative projects to strengthen cooperation, role responsibility, conflict resolution, and respectful interaction while working toward shared goals.

5. Product Development & Creative Skill Building

Students will engage in the design, creation, and preparation of products for a school based enterprise or pop-up shop, utilizing tools and techniques such as Cricut, embroidery, painting, woodworking, and other crafts while developing planning, organization, and quality-control skills.

6. Retail & Financial Literacy Skills

Students will gain introductory experience with retail concepts including personal finance, pricing, budgeting, inventory management, product placement, basic sales techniques, and point-of-sale systems to build understanding of consumer and business processes.

7. Community Engagement & Service Learning

Students will participate in community outreach through *Love, Nana*, developing awareness of community responsibility while practicing sorting, organizing, assembling donation bundles, and contributing to meaningful service projects.

8. Independence, Confidence & Transition Readiness

Students will build confidence and independence through structured participation, reflection, and skill demonstration, preparing them for future vocational training, work-based learning, and community-based experiences.