

# **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.