



BURKHART CENTER TRANSITION ACADEMY

2016



The Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research opened its doors in November of 2013.



Welcome to the first newsletter from the Burkhart Transition Academy. We are excited to highlight activities that the Burkhart Transition Academy students and teachers engage in. The Burkhart Transition Academy was established in 2005 by an endowment from Jim and Jere Lynn Burkhart in honor of their grandson Collin. The purpose of the

Transition Academy is to promote individualism, teach vocational and social skills, promote community involvement, encourage independence and strive to achieve successful community employment. Young adults ages 18-30 with a diagnosis of autism are invited to apply. Please contact Janice Magness, Transition Academy Director at janice.magness@ttu.edu for more information.



Students participate in various art activities that allow them to use their creative side. (photo) Collaboration with LCU Art Department.



Students participate in internships on the Texas Tech campus and the Lubbock community. (photo above) Partnership with Texas Tech Department of Theater and Dance. Students help create the set.

Vocational, Social, Fitness and Nutrition

Transition Academy students at the Burkhart Center participate in skills necessary to achieve lasting employment and independent living success. Vocational skills are essential to maintaining professionalism, promoting harmony among



co-workers and good customer service. This is done on the job site as well as in the classroom setting. Social Skills Training is emphasized as an essential part of daily living. Social Skills cover a very broad spectrum of areas. Social skills are also essential in the vocational setting. Various resources are used to provide specific social skills to each individual at the Transition Academy. Nutrition and cooking class are



another area that Transition Academy students are taught. This is done with hands on experiences at the Academy. Small groups enable an individual approach to nutrition and cooking. Transition students also participate in fitness and wellness. Students access the Burkhart Gym, Fitness on the X-Box 360 Kinect and a variety of fitness games and exercises.



Creativity and the Arts



Transition Academy students participate in various forms of creative art projects. These projects allow the students to explore their creative abilities. Art activities include: canvas art, dream boards, watercolor, ceramics, jewelry and bead making along with sketch art, mixed-media, crafting, seasonal decor, and scrapbooking. Other Art collaborations have included artist David Bondt and the Lubbock Christian University Art Department.



Students also show and sell their original art once a year on the First Friday Art Trail. Special thanks to Chris Ramos Art and McPhersons Cellars Winery for giving the Burkhart students an opportunity to showcase and sell their original art. All the proceeds of the sell of art go to the Transition Academy art department.

The Burkhart Family Endowed Lecture Series

The lecture series brings distinguished professionals in autism education to Texas Tech University and the Lubbock community. Keynote speakers that the lecture series have brought to the Lubbock area include; Dr. Paul Wehman, Dr. Temple Grandin, Jazz and Lindley Summers, John Robison, Dr. Gary Mesibov and Dr. Peter Gerhart.



Dr. Jed Baker (photo above) speaks to teachers and parents at the Annual Autism Conference. It is jointly sponsored by Region 17 Education Service Center and the Burkhart Center to provide continuing education and training to educators and parents in the South Plains area.

Partnerships

Thank you so much to all the area partnerships in the Lubbock community that allow the Transition Academy students to have a variety of internships and community experiences. Thank you to the countless volunteers that make various fundraisers possible and assistance with the Burkhart Walk for Autism Awareness. Thank you to the College of Education, Burkhart Enterprises, Inc., S.S. Foundation, Parkview Pediatric Dentistry, Bo Garza Entertainment, Tech Recreation Center, Child Development Research Center at Texas Tech, Texas Tech Department of Theater and Dance, Texas Tech University Library, Texas Tech Athletics, Hospitality at UMC, Hospitality at Texas Tech, Quiznos, Pets Plus, Goodwill Industries of North Texas, KLBK, KAMC, Prosperity Bank, Artist David Bondt, Capital Pizza, Culture Clothing, Spoil Me Rotten Party Rentals, Scout Troop 157, Texas Tech Grounds Department, Amy's Piano Studio, South Plains Food Bank, City of Lubbock Public Libraries and Lubbock Christian University's Art Department.

Community Activities

Transition Academy students participate in a variety of activities that allow them to experience the Lubbock community. Fridays are typically set aside for commu-



nity activities. Activities include: restaurant experiences such as ordering and tipping, the Corn Maize, The South Plains Fair, Apple Orchards, Bowling at South Plains Lanes, The Science Spectrum, Lubbock Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock Landmark, Joyland, Mackenzie Park, Lubbock public library system, Texas Tech Museum, Main Event, South Plains Mall, Premier Cinema, volunteering at the South Plains Food Bank, assisting at the Burkhart Summer camps, and caroling for senior citizens at local assisted living centers.



Internships for Jobs



One of the goals at the Burkhart Transition Academy is to teach job skills to prepare students to get and maintain employment that is sustainable after they complete the program. The Transition Academy networks with employers and businesses all over the Texas Tech campus and the Lubbock community. After assessing the student's strengths and interests, they are placed into rotating internships that last a semester. Students can rotate up to four internships during their time at the Burkhart Transition Academy. Students are trained by a job coach at their internship. The Transition Academy has had an excellent success rate placing students in jobs after completion of the program.

Quiznos at Burkhart



Quiznos at the Burkhart Center is a joint collaboration between the Burkhart Center and Texas Tech Hospitality Services. It is a place for students, staff, faculty and visitors to the Texas Tech campus to have breakfast, lunch or dinner. The Quiznos and Burkhart partnership allows some transition Academy students interested in hospitality services or food industry careers to have internships at the Quiznos and possibly a job. Quiznos opened in January 2015 and has been successful. In the summer of 2015 an outdoor area was added west of the Quiznos between the College of Education and the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research. It is a quiet garden area where students can meet, eat and relax.



Style Show

Transition Academy students participate annually in a style show hosted by Dillard's Department Store. The style show takes place in April as part of Autism Awareness Month. Students are



allowed to pick clothing and walk the runway inside the South Plains Mall in front of the Women's Dillard's.

Burkhart Summer Camps



Camp Burkhart, a summer day camp for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, provides structured enrichment opportunities while increasing competency in social interaction and social skills. The camp is funded by a generous gift from Scott Malouf.

Community Involvement

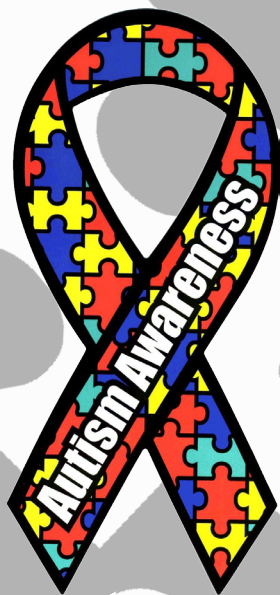
Giving back to the community is a cornerstone that the Burkhart Transition Academy has participated in from its inception in 2005. Janice Magness, Director of the Transition academy insists that it is vital for students to understand the importance of giving back to the Lubbock community. Students volunteer once a month at the South Plains Food Bank helping sort donated food items. Students also volunteer their time Christmas Caroling to assisted living centers in the Lubbock area every December.



April is Autism Awareness Month



April is Autism Awareness month and the Burkhart Center Transition Academy staff and students help organize and prepare for several events that focus on informing the Lubbock and local community about autism. The Burkhart Autism Awareness Walk is a major event that invites participants from the area to help raise autism awareness. Families, friends, educators and peers of students on the spectrum sponsor teams, design team shirts and walk to show their support. The Burkhart Walk for Autism Awareness takes place at the John Walker Complex, located at 10th & Texas Tech Parkway, Lubbock, Texas, 79409.

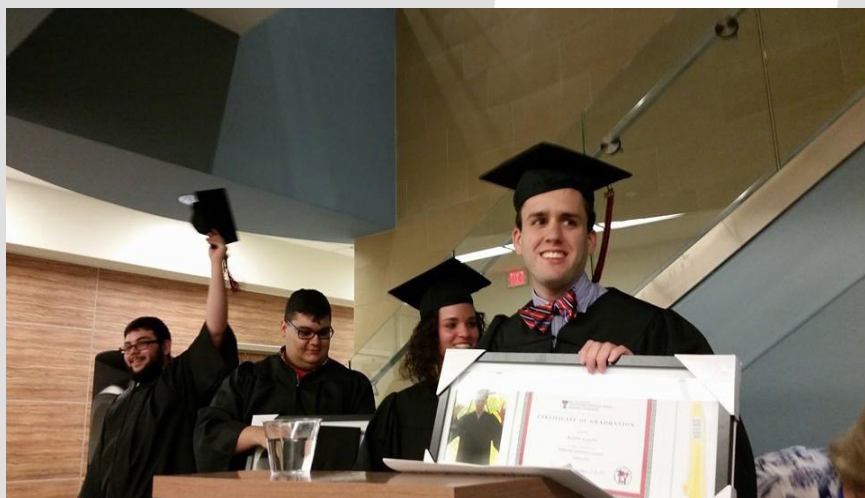


Burkhart Walk for Autism Awareness

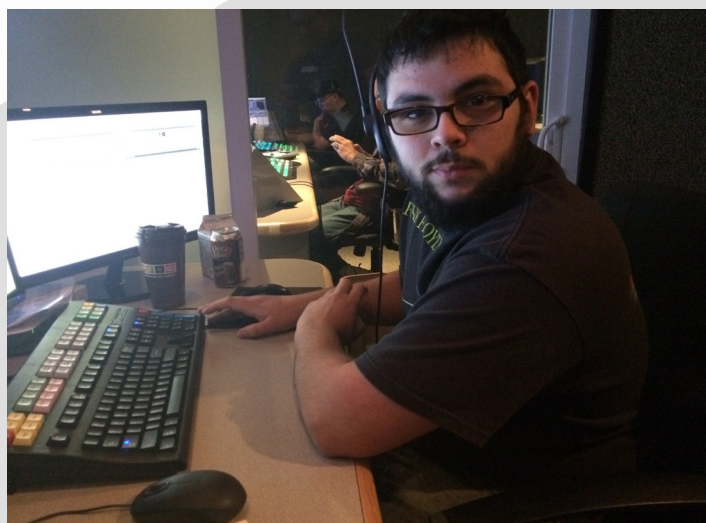
Sunday, April 24, 2016
John Walker Soccer Complex
2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.



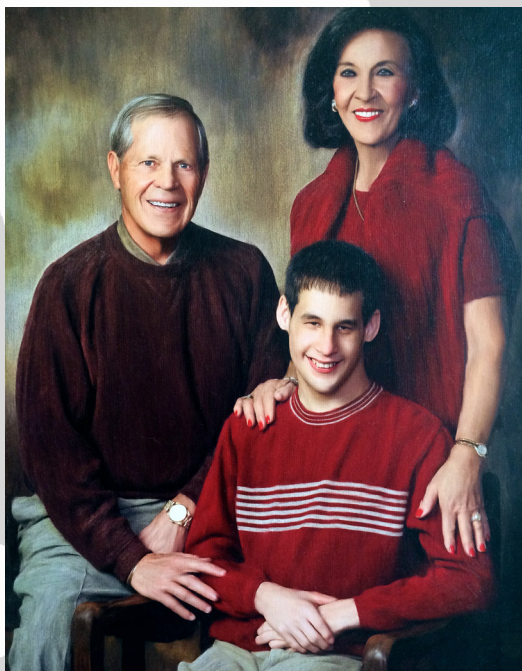
Burkhart Transition Academy Graduates



Burkhart Transition Academy students completing the program graduate the second week of August. Students are typically in full or part time paid employment at the time of graduation. Burkhardt Transition. Graduates have been employed through various employers such as the Garrison Institute on Aging, Texas Tech Garage Services, Texas Tech Grounds Maintenance Department, KLBK Television Station, Quiznos, Main Event of Lubbock, E-Commerce at Goodwill of North Texas, Hospitality Services at Texas Tech University, Ross Department Store, and Bruce Magness Law Office.



Special Thanks



Very special thanks to the Burkhart family for being a community pillar, being community advocates and providing a wonderful place on the Texas Tech campus that inspires, educates and helps the local, state and national communities to understand and learn about autism spectrum disorders. Transition Academy families and staff are forever grateful for the opportunities provided by the Burkhart family to make a difference.

Texas Tech University, Burkhart Center for Autism
Education and Research
Box 41071
Lubbock, TX 79409



Transition Academy

Promoting individualism, teaching vocational skills and social skills towards lasting employment, fostering community involvement, and encouraging independence and success.

Staff

Janice Magness - Co Director of the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research and Director of Transition Academy

Susan Voland - Unit Coordinator

Maggie Vasquez - Learning Specialist Art and Job Coach

Chris Ramos - Learning Specialist Social Skills and Job Coach

Tawny Chad Mills - Learning Specialist Vocational Skills and Job Coach

Katherine Green - Learning Specialist Fitness & Nutrition and Job Coach



Chris Ramos, Susan Voland, Tawny Mills (top), Janice Magness, Maggie Vasquez and Katherine Green prepare for the first annual Burkhart golf tournament.

Texas Tech University, Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research
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