

INTERVIEW PRACTICE

One of the things we love to do at STEP is to put skills we teach in the classroom into practice. During the month of January students completed their mock interview projects. In December they prepared for mock interviews by choosing a job, researching the company and the job, completing the application, and practicing common interview questions.



In January, students were assigned a time to interview with a Central Campus staff or one of our community business partners.

Interviewers evaluated students on their non-verbal communication skills as well as how well they responded to interview questions.

After the interview students completed a reflection worksheet and they typed a thank you letter to the



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Feb. 4th- Planned Parenthood Class

Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th,

26th- Teens

Against Human Trafficking Workshops

Feb. 7th, 14th, 21st,

28th- NEXT STEP

Counseling

Groups

interviewers. Students also conferenced with a STEP teacher to see their scores and to hear the feedback from the interviewer.

Keeping a Job

Second semester we shift our focus from learning how to get a job to learning how to keep a job. We spend our time doing lessons about the skills necessary to keep a job and to get ahead at work. These skills are often called employment soft skills. Examples of employment soft skills include things such as working on a team, communicating effectively, solving problems and conflicts, and demonstrating a strong work ethic. These skills are transferrable to any job students will get and they make an employee a valued member of a company. STEP students will learn about these skills in the classroom and on their job sites.



Free Tax Preparation Services



If you made less than \$58,000 in 2018 you could get free tax preparation services through the United Way. There are two locations in Des Moines (2309 Euclid Ave, Room 3A and 1111 9th Street Room E). Go to the following website for location hours and a list of things you'll need to take.

<https://www.unitedwaydm.org/vita>

Want to Keep Busy This Summer?

STEP students can continue to build their job skills over the summer by participating in the summer programming offered by Vocational Rehabilitation. Contact your STEP teacher for more information!

JANUARY VOLUNTEER DAY

Employment Skills



This month we helped out three local non-profit organizations for our monthly Volunteer Day. Students in the morning group went to the Animal Rescue League or the SCAVO Community Center Food Pantry. At the ARL students made blankets and cat toys. They also prepared materials for a fundraising event. In the afternoon, students went right up the street to the American Red Cross. They helped the office staff move supplies from one office to another and they helped organize their storage rooms to prepare for an upcoming smoke detector service project.



“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.” — **H. Jackson Brown Jr.**



BRRRR! Bundling up for Bus Training!

We have had some crazy cold temperatures the last few weeks. The weather has made DART training and getting to work as a dreadful task! Thanks to our amazing job coaches for bundling up and braving the cold to make sure students learn to get to their job sites. STEP students need to be prepared to wait at bus stops by dressing in layers and wearing hats, gloves, and scarves. We have had some donations of winter gear so if students are in need they can check out our clothing closet



Welcome New Students

At the start of 2nd semester we welcomed 2 new students to STEP. We are so glad that Alexis, Shelby, and Kaydee are joining our group.



February Birthdays

Kashawn- February 3rd

Joe G.- February 10th



Secondary Transition Employment Program

Central Campus

1800 Grand Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515-242-7283

step@dmschools.org

