

P.R.I.D.E.!

NEW TRANSITION PROGRAM AT THE PATHFINDER SCHOOL FOR 18-21 YEAR-OLDS!

Program Overview

The Pathfinder School, located in Bethel Park, PA, is excited to provide a new, full-time transitional program called **PRIDE**. Designed for 18 to 21 year-old students in special education with mild to moderate needs—including those students who have held their diplomas to continue their education in the public school system—the **PRIDE** program provides intense transition experiences and training in real-life settings. The **PRIDE** program is embedded in the community and provides supplemental pre-employment and independent skills course training at The Pathfinder School. **PRIDE** focuses on the three (3) domains of transition: post-secondary education, employment, and independent living. Students are engaged in a variety of opportunities and activities (described in more detail below) that address these domains. The progress of each individual student is evaluated throughout the program and curriculum adjustments are made accordingly.

What is PRIDE?

Personal Maintenance
Recreation and Leisure Opportunities
Independence in the Community
Domestic Living Skills
Employment and Training Opportunities

Personal Maintenance

In addition to obvious health benefits, maintaining good hygiene and grooming skills fosters self-esteem in the individual. A neat appearance communicates a positive self-image to others. This can support the individual as new social relationships with friends, coworkers, and potential employers are developed. **PRIDE** students receive instruction in personal maintenance skills with a focus on understanding the importance of personal hygiene and grooming. Students also receive instruction in appropriate dress for the workplace.



Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

Recreation and leisure activities are critical to a healthy and balanced lifestyle; they are a vehicle through which people develop friendships and have fun. Through **PRIDE**, students identify and learn how to access community recreation and leisure opportunities.

Independence in the Community

An important way one develops independence is by traveling autonomously in the community. **PRIDE** provides the following services to achieve that goal:



Travel Awareness Lessons – students are provided with a general overview of skills associated with travel through training that occurs both in the classroom and in real-life practice via community-based trips. Community-based, instructor-led trips introduce students to concepts that include, but are not limited to, public transportation knowledge, pedestrian safety and street-crossing skills, orientation skills, and functional life skills.

Independent Travel Instruction – once students demonstrate 100% independent travel proficiency, they practice these skills by traveling independently to a job or post-secondary educational or training program under continued supervision.



Domestic Living Skills

Students in **PRIDE** are instructed in and exposed to a variety of domestic living skills including budgeting, grocery shopping in the community, meal planning and preparation, household maintenance (indoor and outdoor), laundry, nutrition, time management, home/apartment safety, emergency response and personal safety.

Employment and Training Opportunities

PRIDE students learn job-seeking and interviewing skills, understand employer expectations, and learn skills designed to enhance their capacity to move toward self-sufficiency. With the support of a job coach, **PRIDE** students become familiar with workplace expectations in different settings and learn the behaviors and attitudes necessary to compete successfully in the labor market. One of the goals of the **PRIDE** program is for each student to obtain and maintain employment in a chosen field.



Assessment

Students of **PRIDE** are assessed quarterly on progress in each of the designated three (3) domains of transition: post-secondary education, employment, and independent living, as well as on work attitudes, behavior, specific occupational skills, work adjustment capability, job skills, travel, independence, and employment readiness.

PRIDE Program Personnel

- Special Education Teacher
- Transition Consultant
- Travel Trainer
- Job Coach
- Select Vocational Teachers at The Pathfinder School



Program Schedule

The **PRIDE** program is a full time program that follows The Pathfinder School calendar. The Program operates Monday through Friday starting at 8:30 AM and ending at 2:30 PM.

Program Availability

Enrollment is limited to 6 students.

Program Cost - \$30,850 per student

Contact

If you are interested in finding out more about the **PRIDE** program, please contact Nick Fratto, Principal, The Pathfinder School, at 412-833-2777 or at nick.fratto@aiu3.net.

