

# Junior Transition Newsletter

January 2017

As we dive into the spring semester, we are excited to increase our transition time with each of our junior students. Mid-semester, we will reach out to set up a transition meeting with each family. Should you have any questions before then, please do not hesitate to let us know! We are happily and readily available to meet at your request. Students are encouraged to attend all transition meetings.

We look forward to beginning this journey with you!

Laura Keathley & Laura Morgan

## STRONG INTEREST INVENTORY

In the coming weeks, juniors will complete the STRONG Interest Inventory. Each student will complete the inventory during the school day. Upon completion, we will schedule a time to meet as a transition team and family to review the results. This inventory provides students with a detailed report of their interests and how they relate to professional and post-secondary goals. This tool proves to be a valuable launching point as we prepare students for their senior experience. To learn more about the STRONG, we encourage you to watch [this](#) video.

## ACT TEST

For students interested in taking the ACT, we typically recommend that students take the ACT in the Spring Semester of Junior Year or the Fall Semester of Senior Year. All of Arizona's public universities are test-optional for admissions, meaning the test is not required. However, it is recommended or required for most scholarships, private, or out of state programs.

Students taking the ACT could qualify for Special Testing Accommodations. Students have the opportunity to request extended time over multiple testing dates here on New Way's campus. Qualifying students can test during or after school based on preference. Test dates are available in April 2017, June 2017, September 2017, October 2017, December 2017, February 2018, and April 2018. If your student is interested in registering for the ACT, please let us know and we will share important next steps.

## TRANSITION WORKSHOPS

Each month, the New Way Transition Team hosts a Transition Workshop on a Wednesday evening from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Library. Families and students are invited to attend as leaders in the community share important information about various aspects of transition.

**February 22** | Guardianship, Special Needs Trusts & SSI  
Presented by [Emily B. Kile, Esq.](#)

**March 29** | Independent Living Experience  
Presented by [ILE](#)

**April 12** | Post-Secondary Accommodations  
Presented by [NorthBridge](#)

## CORE PROGRAMMING

Our Senior CORE programming aims to prepare every student for their unique pathway after high school graduation. New Way is thrilled to offer a unique senior experience next year that will combine both Career and College CORE curriculums.

In the fall semester, every senior will enroll in the Career CORE program for two periods of their school day. Students will participate in career exploration, job simulations, and internship opportunities while developing skills necessary for success as a professional and independent adult. In the spring, students will transition to the College CORE programming. Students will concurrently enroll in a college success course within the Maricopa Community College network. Students will gain the valuable experience of registering for accommodations with Disability Resource Services, navigating the enrollment process, purchasing school materials, and adapting to the college environment all while receiving direct instruction and support here at New Way.

We are confident this will be a positive and growth producing experience for each of our students. We look forward to watching them flourish in the professional and academic settings.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

It is never too early to start thinking about meaningful summer plans. Whether it be a volunteer experience, a part-time job, an internship, a summer-school course, or a college-prep program, we encourage students to take advantage of their academic breaks to reenergize their excitement for the future. This past summer, we had rising seniors enroll in summer programs through [College Living Experience](#) and [Landmark College](#). Locally, Arizona hosts a wide range of summer [programs and camps](#). Please contact us if you would like further information about summer programs and experiences.

## ADULT SCALE PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL TESTING

In preparing students for life after New Way, we recommend that all students complete psychoeducation testing on adult scales before graduating from high school. This ensures that students will meet all documentation guidelines on the post-secondary level. Adult scale psychoeducational testing will begin this semester and will run through May of 2018. Please be on the lookout for communication from Mrs. Michie as she begins to schedule testing.