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# Press Release

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## *Learning About Community and Jobs*



Frank Principe, a current ninth grader at Riverview Junior Senior High School, is learning first-hand what customized education is. Diagnosed with Autism, Frank often struggles with daily tasks that the average person takes for granted. To help Frank improve upon his skills, the special education department at Riverview Junior Senior High School has created several courses to help him prepare himself for his future. Currently, Frank's schedule is customized to have a Job Skills and a Community Navigation Course.

Frank is currently learning and practicing different work related skills during his Job Skills course at Riverview. Some of Frank's regular jobs consist of delivering copy paper to the front office, folding laundry for the consumer science room, and helping Mr. Slencak with odd jobs around the school. On a daily basis Frank practices communication, organization, problem-solving, flexibility, teamwork and independence skills. Helping Frank understand these key components of employment will set him up for future success in the work force.

One of Frank's favorite classes is his Community Navigation course. Last year in Community Navigation I, Frank was focused on finding landmarks throughout the community. This year in Community Navigation II, he is currently learning the proper techniques of how to independently navigate throughout the community safely. Frank is also improving his use of the social skills needed for interactions that occur when navigating the community. He is a regular at PNC Bank, Ace Hardware, Oakmont Carnegie Library, Oakmont Bakery and Walgreens. Frank may even strike up a conversation with you if you are walking your dog throughout the community.

Frank loves to get fresh air, exercise and spend time with Mr. Slencak during his Community Navigation II course and he is up for any job that needs completed around the school. He states, "I have learned to work hard during my Job Skills class and I have also learned how to get to places in Oakmont safely." Frank is truly taking full advantage of the customization that Riverview is offering.