



## **'Project Search' Transition-to-Work Program Open House Planned**

*Project Search* is an exciting program offered by the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, to provide 18- to 21-year-old students with communication, intellectual or physical disabilities opportunities to enter the workforce upon completion of high school.

"This transition to work program empowers students by providing vocational training and real-world experiences, while at the same time promoting independence," says Jennifer Morrow, Principal of Special Education for St. Clair Catholic. "Our open house is an opportunity for parents/guardians to learn more about the program."

*Project Search* is a 10-month program that takes place entirely at a workplace, the Jerry McCaw Family Centre YMCA in Sarnia. Students prepare for employment through classroom instruction; hands-on training through three internship rotations; and career exploration and individualized job development with a skills trainer from Goodwill Industries.

"Through this amazing program, participants become better equipped to seek meaningful employment," says Lisa Demers, Superintendent of Education.

A typical day begins and ends with classroom instruction, led by a St. Clair Catholic teacher based at the Jerry McCaw Centre. Topics focus on career exploration and life skills that will help make students successful in the workplace, such as time management and building professional communication skills.

Students are supported at their internships by the teacher, YMCA mentors and skills trainers from Goodwill Industries. After graduation, Goodwill Industries provides personalized employment support so students are able to secure quality jobs.

The *Project Search* Open House will be held **Tuesday, April 16, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Jerry McCaw Family Centre YMCA, 1015 Finch Drive Sarnia.**

Members of the media are welcome.

***For further information regarding this release, please contact:***

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