



**MONARCH INSTITUTE**  
FOR NEUROLOGICAL DIFFERENCES

Dear Monarch Families,

As most of you already know, Monarch's Life Academy is our student's practice center for all of life's learning: home-living, personal skills, community engagement, and employment. Through our current entrepreneurial enterprises, students are able to translate their academic learning into meaningful, functional skills and develop an understanding of participating in all aspects of the world around them, which will prepare them for daily living, social, and career success.

At Monarch, we are committed to ensuring that all of our students and adult learners are equipped with the skills and experience they will need to actualize their vocational potential. We are committed to meeting their unique needs as we prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living. Monarch is excited to implement a new program, entitled **Beyond the Horizon**, in which all of our learners will begin transition planning, especially with respect to employability, at the age of 12.

Beginning in the spring semester of the 2017-2018 school year, Chrysalis, Bridge, Butterfly, and Transition Services individuals ages 12 and above will begin exploring career interests through the use of developmentally appropriate, research-driven inventories. These measures will help identify potential areas of post-graduate studies and/or career interests with classifications based on the widely used RIASEC occupational coding system (Holland, 1959, 1992):

- **Realistic:** Enjoys working with things and using tools and machines. Prefers doing physical, mechanical, "hands-on" work. Examples: construction and skilled trades, hospitality and recreation, food service.
- **Investigative:** Enjoys working with ideas and data. Prefers problem solving and scientific and technical work. Examples: engineering, research and development, health and behavioral sciences.
- **Artistic:** Enjoys working with people, ideas, and things. Prefers creative and self-expressive work. Examples: architecture, culinary arts, performing arts, fashion.
- **Social:** Enjoys working with people in order to help them learn and grow. Prefers helping, teaching, and healing work. Examples: education, health and human services, public safety and service, religious vocations.
- **Enterprising:** Enjoys working with people and taking action. Prefers leading and persuading others. Examples: business and administration, marketing, finance, retail sales, law.
- **Conventional:** Enjoys working with data, things, and people. Prefers clerical and computational work. Examples: accounting, banking, office work, computer applications.

A student's interest patterns, along with parent and teacher input regarding the student's aptitudes and unique set of strengths and challenges, will help guide each student's experiences within Monarch's Life Academy in order to make this educational program even more purposeful. A goal of this program is to ensure all of our students ages 12 and up have access to Life Academy's enriching courses. The ultimate

goal is to effectively prepare them for gainful employment. We look forward to working with you and your children in identifying, exploring, and refining their vocational preferences and interests, and then working with them through the Life Academy to strengthen relevant skills that will promote their future success.

Respectfully,



Patti Pace

Head of School and Institute