

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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HIGH SCHOOL

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L.I.F.E. ACADEMY (Ages: 18-21)

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October 18, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to take the time to write you a letter to explain the definition of Community Based Instruction (CBI) and how our students will benefit from these experiences during the school year.

CBI is a researched-based practice that involves the use of sustained and repeated instructional activities that take place in various community environments outside of the school building in order to facilitate skill development and generalization in employment, community activities, and recreation, while addressing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Traditionally, students are provided with opportunities to learn "purely academic" content through classroom instruction and are expected to generalize learned skills to other "real-world" situations at work, home, and in the community.

In contrast to the traditional classroom instruction, CBI allows individual and small groups of students to learn academics and other content in natural settings outside of school, where knowledge and skills can be applied during the activities.

While Banyan High School has always used CBI experiences to enhance student learning, this year we are placing more emphasis on providing our students with a broader range of CBI opportunities. This includes the L.I.F.E. Academy and grades 9-12.

This year we are also providing our teachers with CBI training, which is sponsored by The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The seven-day series of interactive trainings will include content on current, effective methods for how to expand our CBI programming.

Examples of CBI Experiences:

- Structured Learning Experiences
- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Community Service
- Museums
- Banking
- Post Office Use
- Travel Training
- Laundromat
- Recreation Centers/Parks

If you would like further information about CBI, please do not hesitate to contact us at (973) 785 -1919.

Sincerely,

Erik Glazner
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