

“The greatest part of teaching is watching the students experience success and seeing them grow.”

-**Kathy Barrow**, 27 years teaching, 8th year here.



“I love watching all the students accept and interact with each other.”

-**Shelley Oltorik**, 17 years teaching, 3 years here.

A living room in school? The Special Services Department had a room similar to a typical living room. The room allowed students to practice for a life on their own.



INDEPENDENCE

BY PRACTICING INDEPENDENT SKILLS

By: Tamar Ingber

Every student was special. Every young adult that entered this school learned great things from various departments.

Sycamore's Special Services Department programs for the unique students within the high school's walls. The department was divided into three main sections: the Transition, the Postgraduates, and the Academic Integration.

“The Transition Unit and the Postgraduates are closely related,” said **Mrs. Kathy Barrow**.

The transition is the emphasis for students to learn independence through community experience, for example riding the Metro by oneself or even a lunch at Burger King. Postgraduates had dissimilar activities, almost no classes in the physical school, rather all in the Sycamore community.

“I came new this year and it has been great, the Transitions unit is great because it allows the post graduates to learn the skills that most would be learning as they entered college: How do you do your

laundry? How can you use public transportation? And how do you get a well paying job?” said **Martha Moffet**, Special Services Department teacher for Transitions.

Post graduates are students who were over 18, and no longer attended typical high school courses, rather they were involved within the community eventually leading to a paid job and an independent lifestyle.

Ms. Shelley Oltorik, head of the Academic section of Special Services, enjoyed her position. Her key role was to academically integrate special services students with a typical class.

“The greatest part of my job is seeing a bond made between all students,” said **Oltorik**.

At the end of the year, ten of the initial department students are graduating.

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-**Martha Moffett**