

COFFEE CART PROGRAM (CCP) NEWS

CCP Catch-up Corner Our CCP students interviewed their 7th Cotopaxi Staff member, 4th Grade teacher, Mrs. Maryellen Munday, about her employment journey that lead her to our school. Enjoy some of the answers to their questions and learn more about our own Mrs. Munday. This was the CCP students 3rd time interviewing one of their teachers over a Zoom meeting. They did an amazing job taking turns asking her questions! During our Catch-Up Corner interview, we also had a surprise “walk-in” customer, Nurse Debbie who ordered a coffee with cream. The CCP students didn’t miss a beat!!



Join the CCP Zoom Class on Mondays: Please visit our virtual classroom each Monday from 11am to 11:30am to have a “virtual” cup of coffee with our students. If you would like to pop in and order a cup of coffee or tea via Zoom, please email julielang@cotopaxire3.org and we will send you the Zoom link. Thank you!!

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The Coffee Cart Program is the flagship initiative of the Gus Bell Family Foundation and is designed to educate, train, and prepare special education students to obtain and retain employment after high school graduation. The primary goal of the Foundation is to implement a Coffee Cart Program in every school that wants to provide their students with a job skills curriculum, and thereafter, help each student secure meaningful employment through our community outreach program.

Q: What is your educational background? Did you have any special training for your job?

A: I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University (CSU, Ft. Collins), major in animal science. I was on the horse judging team and we competed with other colleges around the country. When I graduated, I was offered a position managing a Morgan Horse Farm in Snowmass, CO. I moved a few years later to Vermont to manage a Morgan Horse Farm there. Then, I eventually went to graduate school in Vermont at Johnson State College, where I got my teaching degree. At that time, I got my middle school science teaching license for grades 5-9th.

Q: If you could do one thing differently in your journey to get a job, what would it be?

A: I think that practicing interviews is the best thing to do! I wasn't good at that at first. When you have to sit down in front of a group of people asking you all kinds of questions about why you are qualified for a job it can be quite intimidating! You have to appear relaxed yet professional and seem like you have the knowledge needed to do the job but not seem overconfident. It is always a good idea to practice, practice, practice, anything that you want to be able to do well.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who is looking to be a good employee be?

A: My advice to be a good employee would be to make sure you are committed and can communicate well. You need to know for yourself that you can commit to doing the job and that you want to do it. You also need to be able to talk with your boss and others about the job, what is needed, what you are doing well and where you might need help to understand better about how to do the job. If you want the job and want to do your best, then you will succeed!

Q: Name 3 things about your job duties that most people would not know or would be surprised about?

A: I think about my students all the time, even nights and weekends and worry about them. I try to find different fun ways to learn and games that can help. I think it helps as a teacher to have some other interests, so I love to sing, had a band, and was a radio DJ for 5 years.