

## Aspects of the LTI Program

Sometimes a student knows exactly what they would like to do and already know someone in that field who would be willing to mentor them. When that happens, students can dive right in!

Other times, however, they aren't sure what type of internship would be a good fit and need some time to get their feet wet. When that is the case, we use the following steps:

**1** Students start with a good deal of interest exploration. This begins with reflection on their strengths and weakness, their goals and who they are, as well as group exposure activities.

**2** After the students have a background in an area, they begin to take part in **informational interviews** through which students strive to gain a deeper understanding of the profession, the road to that profession, and the nuances of the daily work environment

**3** After interviewing, the students identify a few sites where they would like to spend a day **shadowing** the professional to learn more about the daily flow of the job. It is also an opportunity for potential mentors and interns to meet and get to know each other.

**4** A successful Shadow Day may lead to an **Internship**. When a student is interested in a mentor and workplace, she asks the internship coordinator to help set up an internship. Together the school, student, and potential mentor decide the schedule and parameters for the internship.

## QUOTES from MENTORS

*"[Our intern] was an enormous help for us on our busiest days...She is and was the best volunteer we had at Kenmore Mercy."*  
**Shaquita Harrell, Nurse, Kenmore Mercy Hospital**

*"Non-stop worker—excellent work ethic!"*  
**Michael Pacillo, Owner, Pacillo's Fitness Gear**

*"[My intern] has proven to be a mature, responsible and caring aide in the classroom. I would gladly have her back"*  
**Jeff Carter III, Lead Teacher, Heritage Center**

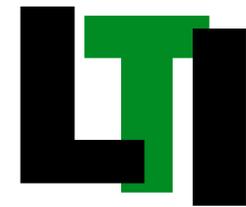
## PREVIOUS LTI WORKSITES INCLUDE

Creative Child Daycare	Kenmore Mercy
AudioMotive Creations	Joe's Panini Grill
Buffalo Arts Studio	Suburban Industries
Aquarium of Niagara	A Joyful Dog
Town of Tonawanda Parks & Recreation Dept.	



**For more information contact  
Chris Watson, Internship Coordinator**

E-mail: [cwatson@kenton.k12.ny.us](mailto:cwatson@kenton.k12.ny.us)  
Phone: 716-874-8403 ext 32325  
Cell: 716-308-4814  
Fax: 716-874-8650



**LEARNING  
THROUGH  
INTERNSHIPS**

**Kenmore-Tonawanda  
Union Free School District**

Kenmore Middle School  
155 Delaware Road  
Buffalo, NY 14217

## About BIG Picture

At Ken-Ton BIG Picture Program, our goal is to inspire students to become life-long learners. We aim to empower students to take charge of their learning in order to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve success beyond high school.

We use a multi-faceted educational model that works best when students are motivated and are accountable for their learning. There are five academic Learning Goals that help students develop problem-solving skills, express themselves creatively, expand their knowledge base and design projects—all while challenging themselves with new ideas.



## The LTI

Our internship program, Learning Through Internships, provides a vehicle for connecting

real world learning to curriculum. At the worksites, students take on real-world tasks and projects under the supervision of a mentor. Back at school, the students work with their advisors building and reinforcing the skills and knowledge needed to complete those projects.

## What a MENTOR has to say

“I found it rewarding to see the student grow and learn from his experience outside of the classroom in the ‘real world.’ We found the greatest development was not so much from the technical knowledge gained from learning my trade, but rather the human relationship side of the experience that brought about the greatest value.”

Robert Scarlla



## DETAILS of the LEARNING EXPERIENCE

We have a very flexible curriculum that responds directly to the work the student is doing at his/her internship site. Our advisors are trained to identify the learning opportunities and to support those opportunities both at the internship and back at school. Therefore, the content of what the student will learn is often identified after the placement has occurred.

## Benefits for Students

- Build a relationship with an adult mentor
- Learn the professional attitude & expertise that are necessary in today’s workplace
- Learn skills such as organization, punctuality & time management.
- Become engaged in their work and take ownership of their learning
- Understand the importance of education and develop long term goals



## Benefits for Mentors

- Have a fresh set of eyes look at your work and see new answers to old problems
- Catch the enthusiasm of a teenager who is excited about your work
- Have an extra set of hands to tackle the daily tasks at your organization
- Become a part of a state-wide network of professionals who mentor students
- Enjoy the personal reward of encouraging teenagers who share your professional goals

## Internship Schedule

The students are generally at their internships Tuesdays and Thursdays typically from approximately 9am to 2pm, however we are certainly flexible based on a mentor’s availability. The internships start at eight weeks in length, and



can be renewed if school, mentor and intern agree.

## STUDENT Responsibilities

- Contribute real work to the internship site
- Take on a special project for the internship site
- Research an investigative question connected to their work or project
- Meet regularly with the mentor to report on progress and to receive feedback
- Call mentor and the advisor if he/she is going to be absent or late



## MENTOR Responsibilities

- Call or email if the student is absent
- Schedule regular times to meet with the student to give him/her feedback
- Meet once a month with an advisor from the Ken-Ton BIG Picture to discuss the student’s work; email or call more frequently as needed/desired
- Try to attend one of the scheduled presentations of the student’s work.