

Experiential Learning Students Hold Fall Festival for Special Needs Youth

On Monday, November 7, students in Lori Kissinger's Organizational Communication in Communities course held a fall festival for students of Genesis Academy in Murfreesboro, TN.



MTSU students at the Genesis Academy Fall Festival

Genesis Academy is a private school for special needs youth in Middle Tennessee. In the previous spring semester, MTSU students taking Kissinger's ORCO 3250 course hosted a bird-themed festival at the academy. Because of their outstanding work, students were invited back to the private school once again to hold a festival for more than 50 students.



This semester's fall festival featured 7 interactive art stations, a game, and even the university's portable planetarium provided by one of the ORCO students. Some of the art created at this even will be part of an international education exchange with South Africa and exhibited at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (a United Nations event) on December 1, 2016.

Following the festival, Lori Kissinger and her students received a statement from the

school, commending them for their work and success, saying, "Thanks for an awesome event! The kids loved it! The students loved the activities and are already looking forward to the event next year. The planetarium was a huge hit as well as many of the art activities. We even have kids using their slime today. A wonderful sensory treat for them to use during class. Thanks so much."

Organizational Communication in Communities is a course in the Experiential Learning (EXL) program that provides hands-on work and opportunities for its students. Students were responsible for the planning and implementation of activities, giving them insight into event planning, nonprofit organizations, and working with a diverse audience.

For more information on Experiential Learning at MTSU, visit: <http://www.mtsu.edu/exl/>

