
Westin Visit Provides First-Hand Look at Hospitality Careers

A recent trip to the Westin Hotel took District 44 students from Glenn Westlake Middle School's Modified Instructional Program behind the scenes to learn about hospitality careers first hand. The Westin staff hosted the visit and the students were guests of the hotel for lunch.

The group of sixth- through eighth-graders arrived with many questions about hotel jobs. Positions of interest to them included food service, pool maintenance, shuttle bus driver, front desk and housekeeping. They learned about specific skills necessary to work in the hospitality industry, and toured the kitchen, pool area, a banquet room and a guest suite. The visit enabled them to get "up close and personal," and see what is involved in a working hotel environment.

The students have been learning about various career options this year in their social language/pragmatics group. Speech pathologist Betsy Stadinski and social worker Kelly Konkey work with them to concen-



While at the Westin, students got to observe the front desk operation and other areas of the hotel.

trate on careers that are attainable for MIP students.

"Our principal focus is on teaching skills that are necessary for success in

the work place, such as personal greetings, eye contact and physical appearance, regardless of the specific jobs students may hold after they finish school," explained Betsy Stadinski.

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