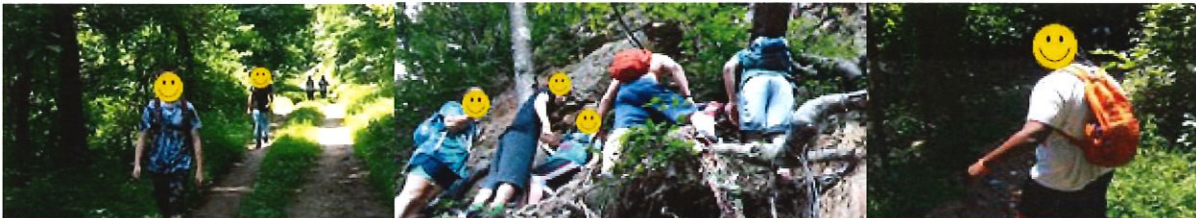
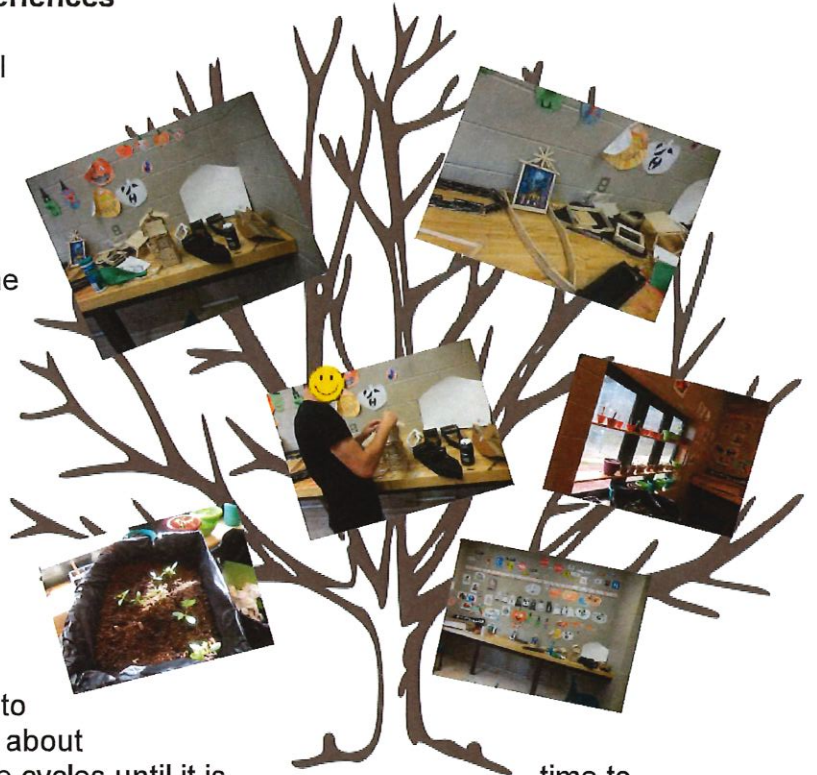


## Liberty Point Behavioral Healthcare – Staunton, Virginia Vocation Education & Nature Experiences

**T**he importance of vocational education cannot be over emphasized as it provides real world work experiences for students to learn essential employability skills that prove invaluable in the workforce. Under the direction of Mr. Kenny Diggs and Mr. James Goodwin, Liberty Point's vocational program offers a diverse curriculum that allow students to experience a variety of hands-on projects while enriching academic subject areas such as math, science and reading. A good example of this is the Liberty Point garden. Seeds are planted in trays and placed in the school's 20'x60' greenhouse. As the seedlings begin to grow, students simultaneously study about photosynthesis, plant science and life cycles until it is time to transplant the seedlings into the larger garden area. As students witness the growth cycles of different plants, they also practice using the different tools and equipment to do specific horticulture and landscaping projects. They then reinforce these activities by reading and doing art projects in the classroom depicting what they see happening in the garden. Director of Education, Ms. Mary Daggy shared that students are now busy preparing the land lab for the winter off season so that it is ready to go for the spring in 2019. For the winter, students will switch over to other activities such as writing resumes, completing job applications and studying for their driver's permit.



Special thanks to Activities Director, Eli Walker for extending Liberty Point's emphasis to connecting students with nature, plant science and wellness by facilitating experiential learning hikes through some of Virginia's most beautiful trails. Hikes range between 3 to 10 miles and provide students the opportunity to disconnect, reflect and admire nature's true beauty.