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### **Groves Academy Launches Post-Secondary Transition Program**

Saint Louis Park (4/12/11) – It's the time of year when high school seniors are asking, "What's next?" While many are set to attend the four-year college of their dreams, others are unsure if they are ready for post-secondary education. It's a stressful time of year for high school seniors and their families, and even more so for those with learning disabilities or attention disorders (LD/ADHD).

This was certainly the case for Karen Leeming and her son Patrick, who was diagnosed with a learning disability while in elementary school. Leeming had always been a strong advocate for her son, and was well-versed in the world of special education and the accommodations that Patrick would need to be successful. When it came time for Patrick to move on after graduating from high school, Leeming was pessimistic. She researched transition programs available through public schools and also disability service programs at local colleges. Nothing quite fit Patrick. Then, Leeming found the Groves Post-Secondary (GPS) Program. "We were relieved and grateful for the safety net that GPS provided during this transition," Leeming said.

GPS, a division of Groves Academy, provides academic and personal support to help students with learning disabilities successfully transition into life after high school. Many students with learning disabilities have had support from teachers or special education services throughout their lives, and are academically and intellectually ready for college, but are not ready to independently manage their time, organize their work, and advocate for their needs. The goal of GPS is to give students the tools and strategies to become more independent. GPS Director Josh Tierney explains, "We don't believe in a 'content band-aid.' We provide the scaffolding and structure that these students need to succeed."

For Karen Leeming, GPS has been a lifesaver. Patrick is now a full-time student at MCTC majoring in graphic design. GPS helps Patrick prioritize and meet his professor's expectations. "Without GPS, it would have been back to Plan B," says Leeming, "And there was no Plan B."

The GPS Program was created in 2009 to meet increased community demand for post-secondary support. While academic assistance is a primary component, the focus is on teaching process skills that are equally important to post-secondary success. GPS started as an off-shoot of Groves Academy and opened to the public in the fall of 2010. As the area's only established independent day school specifically serving children who have learning disabilities or attention disorders, Groves is a leader in providing learning disability education and resources to students, families and educators in the Twin Cities community. Groves also provides outreach programs and services including teacher training, workshops, summer programs, diagnostic assessments and tutoring services. For additional information about the GPS Program, see [www.grovespostsecondary.org](http://www.grovespostsecondary.org) or contact Josh Tierney, Program Director at 952-915-4245 or [tierneyj@grovesacademy.org](mailto:tierneyj@grovesacademy.org).

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