

# Welcome to “The Road” Scholars - Courses for Self Advocates

Hello! As a parent of a young man with Down syndrome (Josh, 30) I’m aware of the struggles many of us have to keep our loved one actively learning once they leave the school system. The goal of our courses is to provide opportunities for adults with Down syndrome to connect and have fun while reinforcing and/or introducing some academic and social skills. Each course will be designed for students with a varied level of ability so that everyone can participate in their own way.

Courses are what they call “gamified,” meaning that students will earn online “badges” for successfully completing certain course activities. This is to encourage students to try each activity and reward the efforts of engagement with their peers and the subject materials. While we hope everyone will enjoy and want to participate to their best ability, we understand that might not be possible in every case. For that reason, we want parents/caregivers to know that participation in any particular activity is completely voluntary. We’ll leave it up to you to decide if a certain module, lesson, or activity is right for your loved one. No one will be denied or excluded.

We look forward to meeting new friends and will consider any new topic that parents/caregivers come up with for new courses. Feel free to email me with any questions/ideas at [Stephanie@TheRoadWeveShared.com](mailto:Stephanie@TheRoadWeveShared.com)

## About the Teacher(s)

Stephanie Holland is the founder of The Road We’ve Shared and the creator of “The Road” Scholars. She has a Master’s Degree in Critical Disability Studies from York University. She designed her undergraduate studies at Middle Tennessee State University to reflect her interests in advocacy and learning. Her coursework included concentrations in Teaching/Learning and Social Psychology and Minors in Political Science and Sociology. Since she left her college studies as an adult learner, she has been a full-time caregiver for her son, Joshua (30) who has Down syndrome. Her recent contributions to the Down syndrome community include serving as a producer on the upcoming film *Ethan’s Law*, organizing the Ethan Saylor Memorial Film Festival, Digital Resources Curator and Adult Programming Coordinator for the 321 eConference, blogging and other various activities as founder of The Road We’ve Shared.

As “The Road” Scholars is a new project, we invite other teachers to submit outlines for courses they would volunteer to teach, either for parents/caregivers or self-advocates. The courses are taught via the free online course management system, Moodle.

## “For The Love Of Musicals”

This course is a six-week long look at musicals that have appeared on Broadway and/or the big screen. Each week students will learn about four musical productions and complete an activity based on each film/theatrical production. Weekly topics include:

- From Broadway to The Big Screen Part 1 (Vintage)
  - *Grease*
  - *Funny Girl*
  - *Hello Dolly!*
  - *The Pirates of Penzance*
- From Broadway to The Big Screen Part 2 (Modern)
  - *Annie*
  - *Dream Girls*
  - *Mamma Mia!*
  - *Rock of Ages*
- From The Big Screen to Broadway
  - *Hairspray*
  - *Shrek*
  - *Cry Baby*
  - *Xanadu*
- Disney Musicals
  - *Beauty and the Beast*
  - *The Lion King*
  - *Mary Poppins*
  - *Newsies*
- Award Winners - Tony Awards
  - *A Chorus Line*
  - *Cats*
  - *Memphis*
  - *Hamilton*
- Award Winners - Oscars
  - *Sound of Music*
  - *West Side Story*
  - *Oliver*
  - *Chicago*

All movies are rated G - PG13. There is no age requirement for participation in this course, however the films rated PG13 may be unsuitable for younger students.

The basic structure of the course:

- Each week four new films/productions are featured, based on the topic of the week.
- Each film has an introduction page that provides selected facts and video clips. (We have tried to make sure each clip comes from a licensed source - most are from YouTube)
- Following the introduction there is an activity based on the film. Types of activities include matching games, forum discussions, dance lessons, etc.
- Each Saturday during the six-week course we will have an online meeting via BigBlueButton - a free, online resource.

Students can work at their own pace, on their own level. We only request that the activities for the week are completed before the Saturday discussion.