

ASSISTED LEARNING

THE FACS PROGRAM

The FACS program (Functional Academic Curriculum & Skills) provides a quality education within a Christian-school setting for students who cannot learn in the regular classroom due to cognitive or emotional limitations.

Elementary and Middle School students study core academics and social/life skills in the FACS room and are integrated into their grade-level class for “special” classes. The curriculum includes language arts, math, science, social studies, Bible, and social skills. Computer skills are also taught, as they are integral in today’s society. Students who demonstrate ability can be integrated for other core academic subjects, as well.

High School students transition into functional academics, with a focus placed on skills that are used in everyday independent living in the adult world. These skills include Bible, cooking, health and safety, interpersonal relationships, government, community living, cultural literacy, job skills, and consumer math. Students have the opportunity to attend general electives and academic classes as appropriate. In their senior year they may participate in a daily, off-campus Basic Occupational Skills class sponsored by the IU 13. This gives them a chance to develop and rehearse specific “on the job” training. Students who wish to continue for a thirteenth year may do so at Lancaster County’s School to Work programs.

FACS at a Glance

- Individualized instruction in reading and math
- Group instruction in science, social studies, and Bible at the Elementary and Middle School levels
- Group instruction in Bible, cooking, health and safety, interpersonal relationship, government, community living, cultural literacy, job skills, and consumer math at the High School level
- Participation in grade level classes and activities as appropriate
- Itinerant learning support in general education classes
- Adapted physical education and handbell choir are offered to all FACS students
- Coordination with IU 13 for Basic Occupational Skills and School to Work programs
- Small class size with lower teacher/student ratio
- Flexible schedules based upon student need and ability
- Speech and language therapy are available through the IU 13

DISCOVER CENTER

The Discovery Center is a program established by the National Institute for Learning Development in Norfolk, Virginia. It is designed to meet the needs of students with identified, specific learning disabilities. The student participates in one-on-one educational therapy in an intensive program designed to stimulate deficit areas in perception and cognition. The goal of therapy is twofold: 1) to enable the student to become independent and successful in the regular classroom and 2) to make it possible for the student to achieve at a level commensurate with his God-given potential. Students meet with an educational therapist for two 80-minute periods each week. Parents are trained to follow through at home with crucial elements of the therapy process. The number of years a student is enrolled in the program depends on the severity of the deficit and the consistency of commitment to the therapy program. Discovery therapists work with general education teachers to make accommodations for student success. The goal of therapy is for students to need fewer and fewer accommodations as they progress.

SEARCH AND TEACH

Search and Teach is the early childhood component of Discovery. Using the Search test, kindergarten and first grade students are identified as ‘at risk’ for difficulty in learning to read. The Teach component prescribes a specific program of therapy to prevent learning failure and its emotional consequences. Students work one-on-one with a therapist for four 20-minute sessions per week.

DIRECTED STUDIES

The Directed Studies program is structured to provide instructional assistance to students in grades six through twelve for whom success in the regular classroom is a challenge. The course is designed to help students master content, while developing study and organizational skills. In addition, the students enrolled in the course are eligible for individualized accommodations as indicated by testing, teacher observations, student self-evaluation, and past performance. Directed Studies is offered as a small-group class meeting five days a week.