



## *Educating And Nurturing Students with Learning Differences*

### *What Makes Us Different*

Highpoint Academy Coral Way Campus is designed for students who require a more individualized school setting due to their unique learning styles. We are a fully accredited Private School for Students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Our team of dedicated teachers and school administrators have created at Highpoint a Nurturing, innovative and supportive environment for students and parents. Our school is centrally located on Coral Way and SW 97th avenue near the Turnpike and Palmetto Exits. The campus is nestled on 5 acres of land providing our students ample green space areas for outdoor activities.

### *Instruction*

Our instructional program is based on the principle of **Mastery Learning**. Human learning does not take place on a single level, but is a stratified process. Unless a student has Mastered a sufficient amount of the knowledge to form a firm enough base on which to build the knowledge of the following year, he/she will not make progress in the next class. This means that there is a sequence that is to be observed in teaching. Certain concepts need to be taught first before it becomes possible to teach other concepts.

### *Educational Tiers*

The academic program is divided into 4 tiers. Students are placed into each tier as determined by their academic levels, age, and grade. These Tiers consist of:

- Primary Elementary
- Lower Elementary
- Upper Elementary
- Middle School

As students transition from one tier to the next, they must demonstrate **Mastery Learning** in the basic foundational skills in reading, writing and math that are required for meeting grade level benchmarks. The reasoning for this type of classroom placement is because the academic profile of students with learning differences varies in levels. Some students have a greater strength in math yet they struggle with reading comprehension. By addressing both the strengths and challenges in a child's learning profile, students can make amazing progress. **Our philosophy is that every student can learn... Just not on the same Day or in the same WAY.**

PRIMARY ELEMENTARY	LOWER ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE SCHOOL
<p>The program is developed for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade who are just developing the basic academic skills such as decoding, simple addition and subtraction, and sentence writing. The 2 teachers in the classroom personalize instruction by dividing the students into smaller groups determined by their academic profile.</p>	<p>Students who transition to the Lower Elementary program work at a more independent level while still receiving the support of 2 teachers in the classroom. This program services students in 2nd through 3rd grade. The academic requirements become more challenging as students' progress through the hierarchy of skills expected at this level.</p>	<p>In the Middle School program, students are divided by 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The class size varies from 7 to 10 students per teacher. Each middle school teacher is assigned a core subject. Students switch classes throughout the day for English, Math, Science and Social Studies. The goal of our middle school program is to prepare our students with a solid educational foundation that will help them acquire the skill needed to succeed in high school.</p>

## *Curriculum*

The Instructional Programs implemented at our school are research-based and clinically designed for students with learning differences. These programs have been proven effective in teaching students with mild learning and language disorders. We implement a unique arrangement of teaching procedures, adapted equipment and materials, accessible settings, and other interventions designed to help learners with special needs achieve a higher level of personal self-sufficiency and increased self-esteem. Since the curriculum is intervention-based, textbooks and student materials are not divided by grade but rather by skill set.

## *Weekly Monitoring and Progress Reports*

Our students are placed on a weekly progress report in which teachers can document the student's academic progress, test scores, and effort for the week. This progress report is sent home on a weekly basis to be reviewed by the parents. Students are also issued quarterly Report Cards every 9 Week grading period. Each student is issued a daily agenda on the first day of school which is used to write down HW, upcoming Tests, and is also used to communicate between school and home.

## *Standardized Testing*

Students in the Elementary Program are assessed at the end of the school year with the Kaufman Test of Achievement. Assessment Reports are sent to the parents and the school uses the data to develop the educational planning for the following school year. Students in the Middle School program are assessed in the Spring of each year with Stanford Achievement Test 10<sup>th</sup> Edition.

## *An Enrichment Program*

To motivate our students, our program offers a wide variety of extracurricular classes. Both elementary and middle school students are able to choose elective classes each semester. Elective classes include Oil Painting, Dance, Martial Arts, and preparation for First Communion (CCD). Additionally, all students receive Art, Music, and physical education classes.

## *Therapy*

In our program, students can receive all therapies in-house during their academic day from licensed therapists. As a result, parents can avoid having to taxi their children after school to different centers. Therapies offered at our school include Speech and Language, and Occupational therapy.

## *Fully Accredited School*

Highpoint Academy is accredited by COBIS, NCPSA, COGNIA and NIPSA. Our teachers are degreed, and clinically trained to work with children with special needs. Our program director, Dr. Jiliann De Villiers, has been in the field of Exceptional Student Education since 1988. She is responsible for the cognitive assessment, supervision, and monitoring of all students in the program.

## *Admissions Process*

Highpoint conducts an admissions evaluation of each applicant to ensure that our school is a right match for the student. The school team will evaluate your child's academic skills and observe social/emotional behaviors. You will be notified within 10 business days from the date of evaluation if your child has been admitted to the program.

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