

Welcome to Academy Learning Center!

Virtual Tour 2020



Academy Learning Center



ALC is a public, self-contained school for students with Autism or Multiple Disabilities, located in Monroe Township. We offer an ABA program with a collaborative team approach involving special education teachers; instructional aides; speech, occupational and physical therapists; vocational teacher; physical education teacher; art and music teachers; transition coordinator; Board Certified Behavior Analysts; case managers and administrators.

Front Lobby

After you enter the front doors, you will visit the main office to sign in. Our lobby has a waiting area with an aquarium that is maintained by our students.



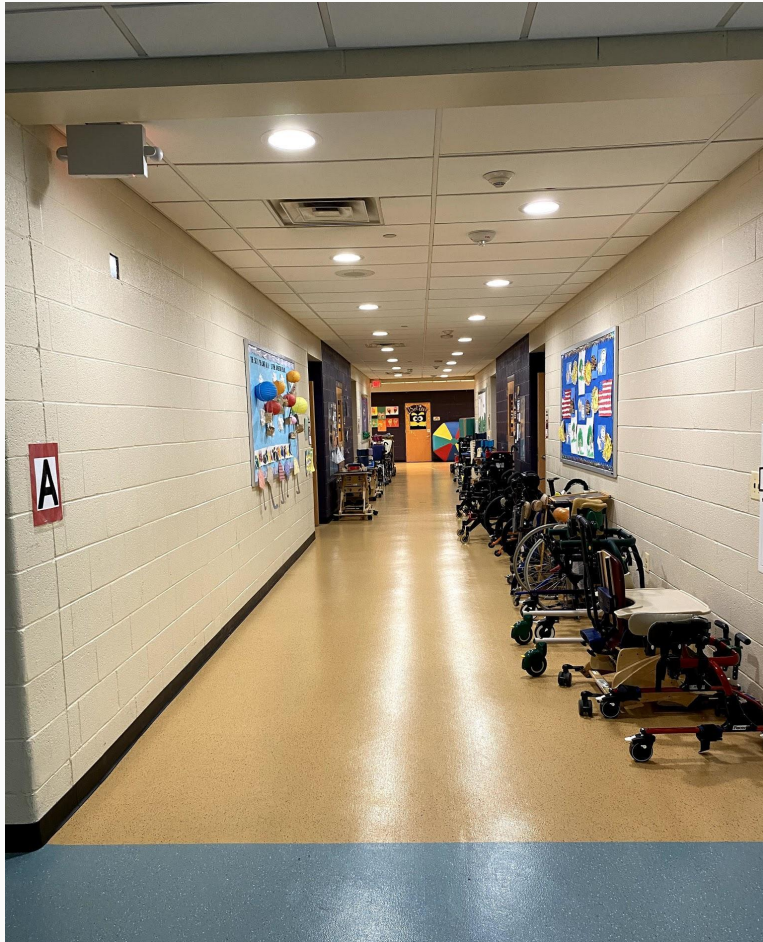
Throughout the year, the glass wall is decorated with student art work.



Classrooms



Our school consists of 18 classrooms, divided into 3 hallways or “wings” by student age. Currently there are 12 classes for students with autism, with a student to staff ratio of 2:1; and there are 6 classes for students with multiple disabilities, with a student to staff ratio of 3:1. Our students range in age from 3 to 21 years old. Class sizes vary from 6 students in the younger grades to 9 students in the secondary classes. Each classroom is staffed by a certified Teacher of Students with Disabilities, along with 2-5 aides. Some students may have a 1:1 aide or an individual nurse as mandated in their IEP.



A-Wing Classrooms

This wing contains 6 classrooms for our youngest group of students, from ages 3 to 10 years. Developing communication, social, and early academic skills are important here. A separate school entrance and playground adjoins this wing.





Each classroom throughout the building is set up with work stations that are individualized for student needs, and has a SmartTV for interactive group lessons. There is a bathroom and storage closet in every classroom.



A1 classroom:
preschool/early learners



A4 classroom

B-Wing Classrooms

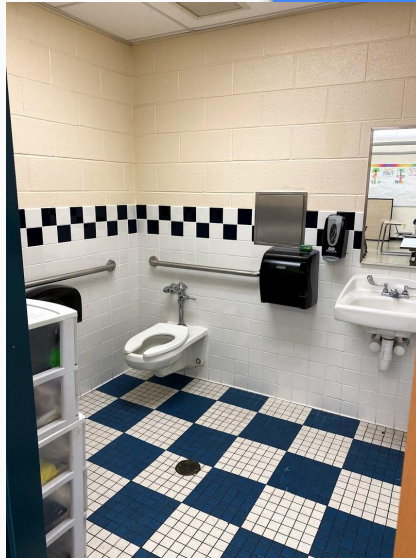
This wing contains 6 classrooms for our middle aged group of students, from approximately ages 10 to 15. Students are selected for each room based on their individual needs, and optimal peer groupings.

Wendy's Picks

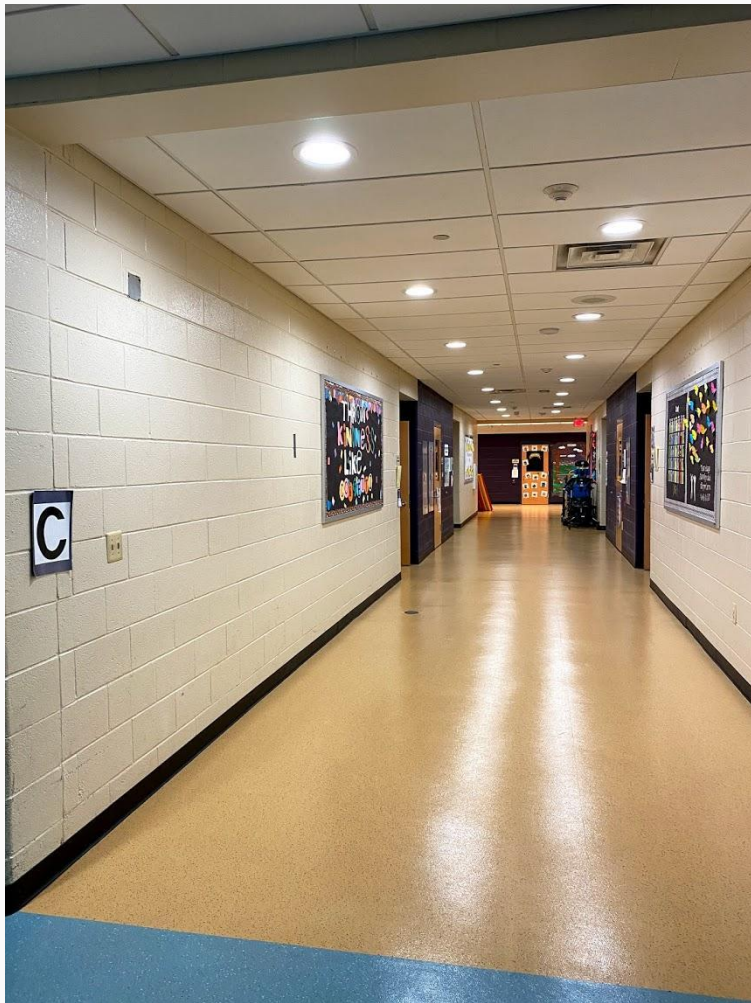




B3 classroom



Daily schedules are posted in every room to help students understand the structure of each day. Academic programs are addressed daily, with a focus on self-help and daily living skills, as well as socialization and independence. Several classrooms of older students in the B wing are introduced to pre-vocational skills, and begin to visit the vocational room as part of their schedule.



C-Wing Classrooms

This wing contains 6 classrooms for our oldest group of students, from ages 15 to 21 years. A separate exercise area is available along with close access to the ADL and Vocational classrooms.





C6 classroom



The focus of the daily program for our older students is to prepare them for the transition to adulthood. Students participate in school- based jobs, as well as community-based work experiences. Functional academics are taught, with a greater emphasis on social opportunities, leisure activities, and life skills. Students participate in weekly clubs, and CBI trips are regularly planned.



C4 and C6 classrooms

Special Activities



100th Day of School
Celebration



Prom



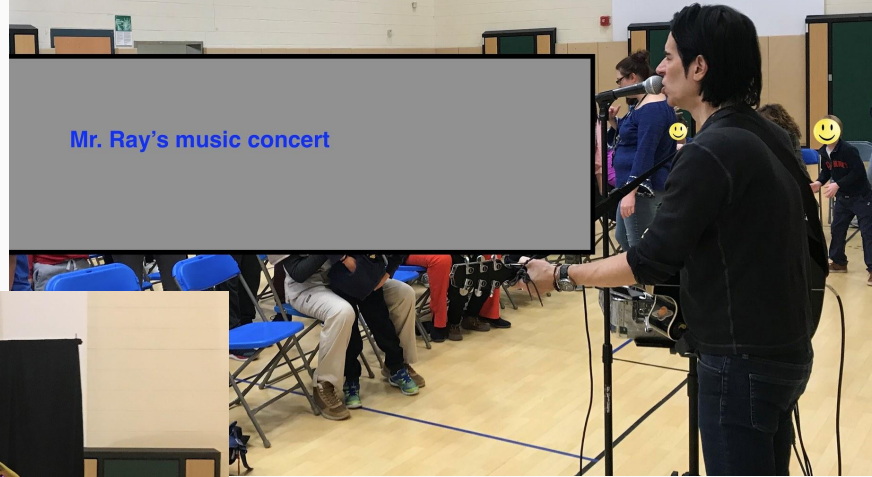
Movie
Day



ALC is KIND!



Special Activities



Mr. Ray's music concert



Bubble Mania



Star Lab

Speech Therapy

Students receive individual speech therapy according to their IEP. Therapy rooms are located between each classroom in every hallway. In addition to individual sessions, students in the autism program also receive integrated speech sessions twice a week, in which the speech therapist pushes in to the classroom to work on a variety of skills. Speech therapy focuses on teaching receptive and expressive language skills utilizing a total communication approach. Depending on each student's needs, therapy may target articulation, verbal behavior, sign language, and alternative communication such as PECS, iPad apps, and other devices. Speech therapists work with teachers to provide appropriate communication supports for students as needed. Training is also provided to staff and parents on assistive technology and eliciting language. AAC evaluations can be conducted at the request of the IEP team.



Speech Therapy Rooms



There is an observation window between each therapy room and classroom, so parents can observe their child in the classroom without being seen.

Occupational Therapy

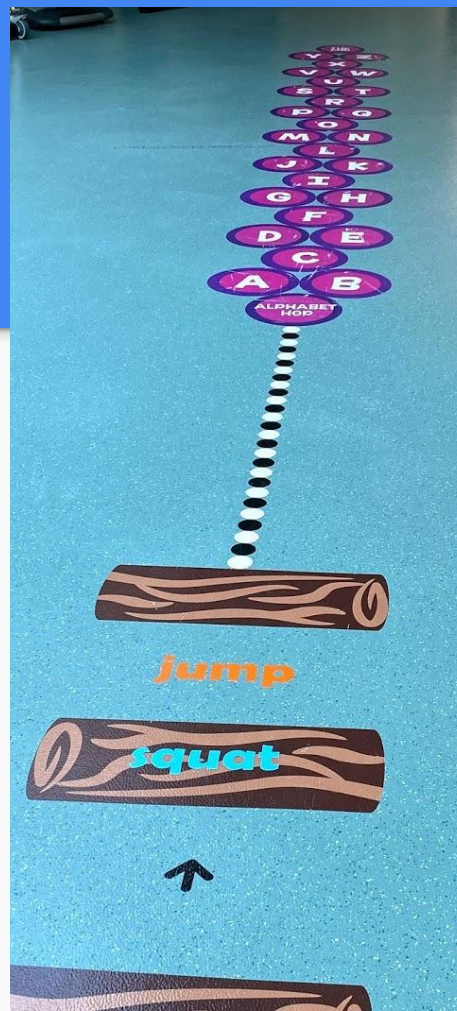
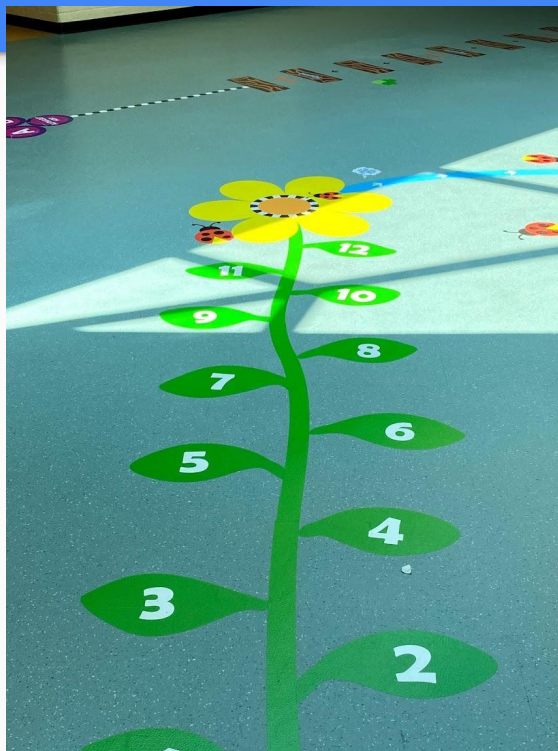
Students receive individual OT according to their IEP. Sessions typically occur in the OT/PT gym, where students work on various proprioceptive, fine motor, self-help, daily living, and vocational skills. The Daily Living Room is also utilized to work on functional life skills such as making a bed, preparing simple meals, washing dishes, and doing laundry. A sensory room is available for students to address sensory integration needs on an individual basis. In addition to individual sessions, all students receive integrated OT sessions twice a week, in which the therapist pushes in to the classroom to work on a variety of skills. The OT's also work with teachers to provide appropriate adaptive supports for students as needed.

OT / PT Gym



Students have access to suspended equipment (platform swing, spandex swing, etc), therapy balls, trampolines, and other strengthening and therapeutic equipment.

Sensory Path



Sensory Room

The sensory room contains various activities that provide auditory, visual, tactile, and kinesthetic input. There is a bubble machine, fiber optic lights, vibrating mat, sound machines, and many other activities.



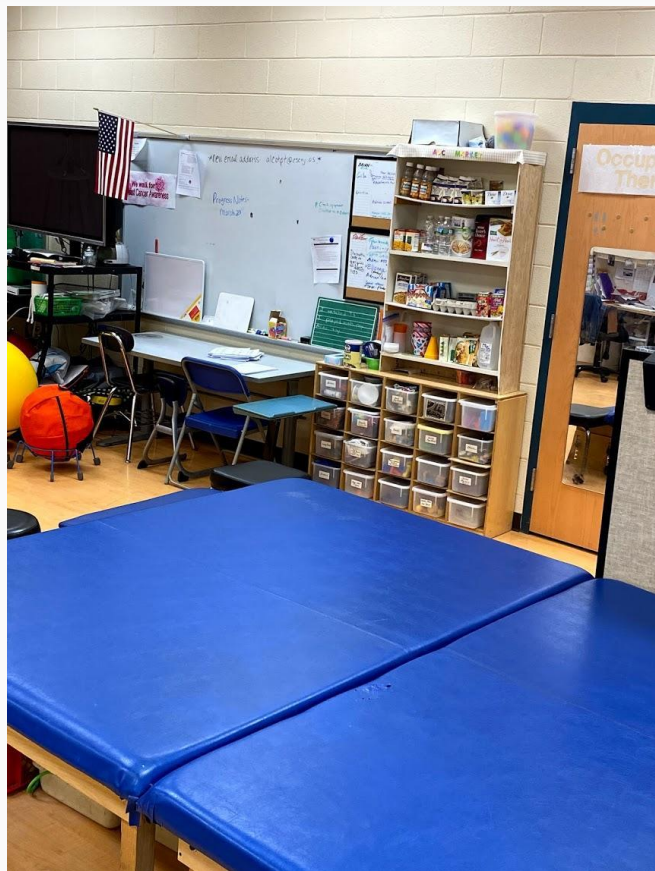
Weighted and
compression vests



Physical Therapy

Students receive individual PT according to their IEP. Sessions typically occur in the OT/PT gym, where students work on various gross motor and strengthening skills. A large exercise table is utilized to assist with stretching exercises. Fitness equipment is available to teach students to engage in a healthy exercise routine. The PTs train staff and parents on the use of adaptive equipment, and help develop schedules for using the equipment. In addition, all students have home exercise plans to further their development.

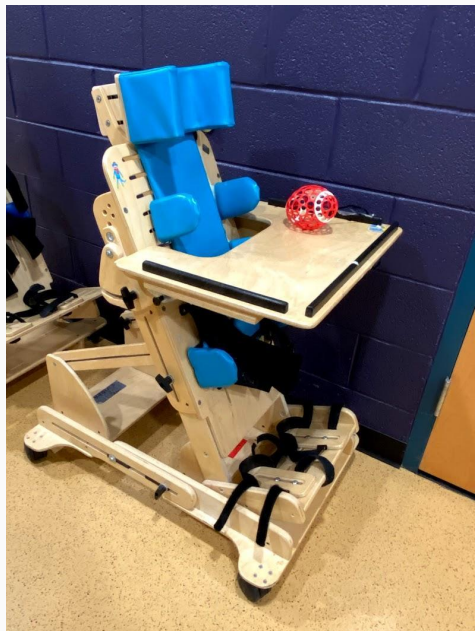
Physical Therapy Fitness Equipment



ALC maintains a large inventory of customized adaptive equipment such as gait trainers, wheelchairs, adaptive strollers and standers for all ages. Medical equipment suppliers come to ALC regularly to customize equipment for students at school and in the home.



Changing and stretching tables are available in MD classrooms.

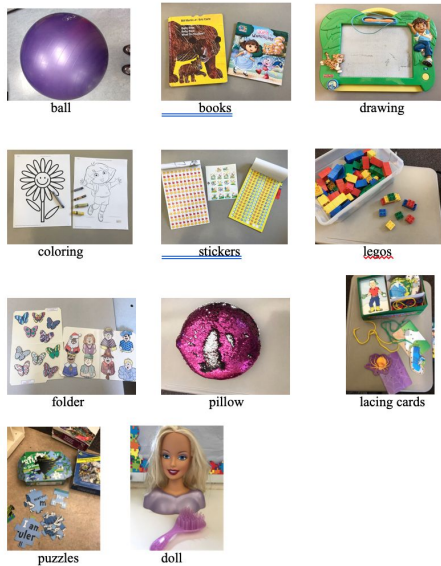


Adaptive PT Equipment



Behavioral Supports

Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) are on staff who work with all classrooms to conduct functional behavior assessments, develop methods for data collection, and develop Behavior Intervention Plans in collaboration with classroom staff and therapists. Parent training and home visits are available. The BCBAs can work with PerformCare or other home-based providers for continuity of services. Information can also be provided to doctors for evaluation of medication management upon request. Supports include token systems, visual cues, behavior contracts, social stories, calming techniques, verbal behavior, functional communication, and self-regulation. All staff are trained in CPI's Non-Violent Crisis Intervention program.



Steps to Calm Down



1. Ask for a break.

break

2. Sit down in break area.



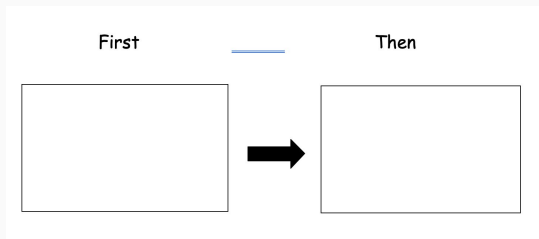
3. Take 3 deep breaths.



4. Count to 10...Slowly!



5. Are you calm?



Good Choices

1. I will keep my hands and feet to myself.



2. I will use nice words to say what I want,



Can you help me?

I need a break.

instead of screaming or yelling.

3. I will quietly wait my turn or wait for an activity to start.



4. I will follow directions and listen to my teachers without arguing.



5. Its ok when someone tells me no or when there is a change in my schedule.



You can't do that now.



I'm ok!

Health Services

ALC has 2 nurses on staff. The nurses provide a wide range of services including administering medication for students, administering feedings for students if needed, and coordinating with nursing agencies for students with a 1:1 nurse. We provide annual school health screenings with vision, hearing and dental referrals. Nurses also attend field trips to provide for the medical needs of students while in the community.



Daily Living Room

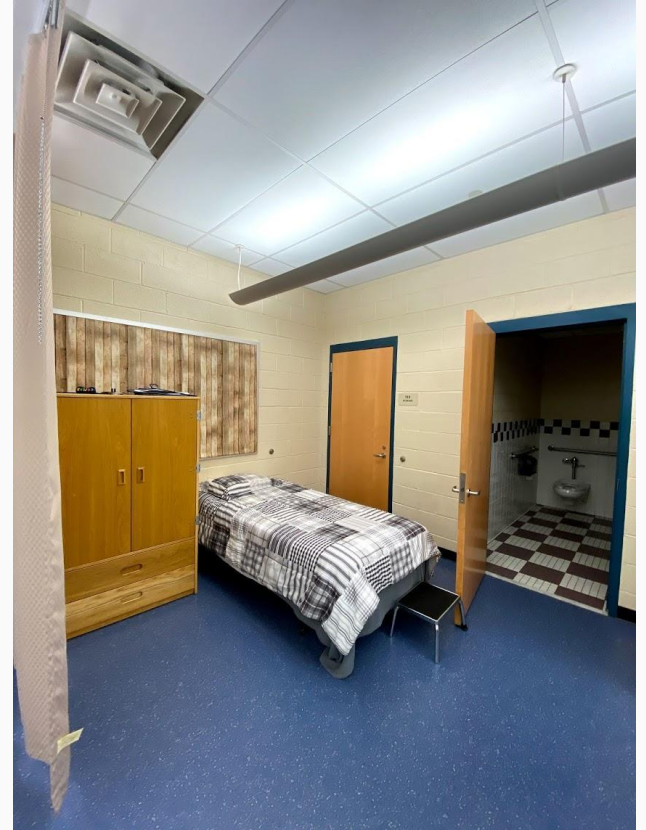
The Daily Living Room is available to all students to work on functional life skills. All classes learn simple meal preparation skills. The room is also utilized for Social Lunch twice a week for older students.



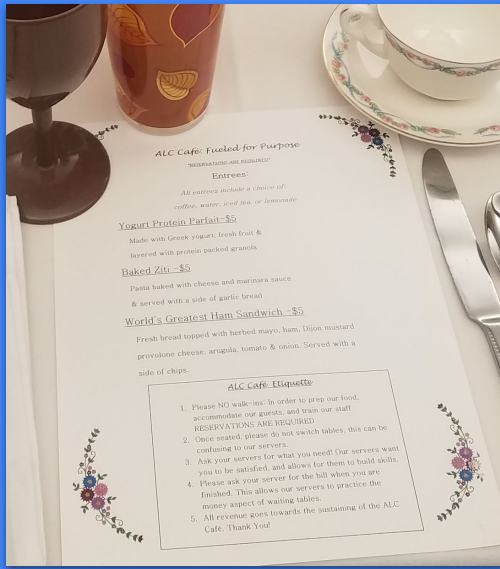
Daily Living Room



As appropriate, each student can learn to use the microwave, oven, cooktop, washer, dryer, and dishwasher in the ADL room for real life experiences. A bed and closet are available to teach making a bed, and hanging up and folding clothes. A separate shower is also available.



Fueled for Purpose Cafe



Twice a month, the ADL room is transformed into the Fueled for Purpose Cafe, where a full lunch is prepared and served by students to paying staff members. Students work in all aspects of the cafe, from organizing reservations, planning and printing menus, shopping for food, preparing food, table service, hosting, managing the table checks and payment, and set up and clean up.

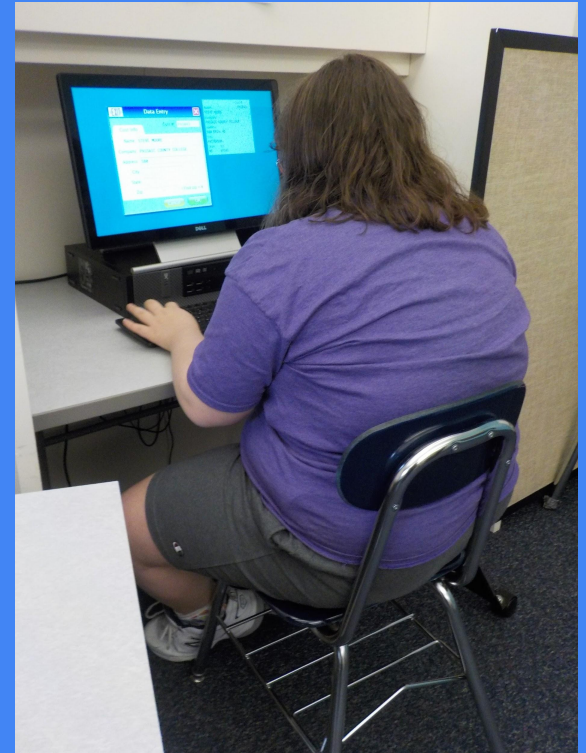


Vocational Skills Program

Students begin learning pre-vocational skills in the classroom, such as matching, sorting, packaging, and assembling materials. As students become more proficient, they begin to expand these skills in the Vocational Education Room. Students go to the job board to find their assignment, then go to that station to complete their job. In addition, school job modules are available for students who are at least 14 years old. These jobs include building maintenance tasks such as sweeping, vacuuming, cleaning surfaces, and taking out garbage/recycling; clerical tasks such as making copies, shredding paper, making deliveries and filling orders; filling the vending machine; and working in the kitchen. When students are 16 years old, they are eligible for a paid work study program in the community at locations such as retail stores, grocery stores, assisted living facilities, library, and pizzerias.



Vocational Education
Room



Data entry

Community Job Sampling Program

Students attend job sites with a staff member as their job coach.



TJ Maxx



Stop & Shop



Assisted Living facility

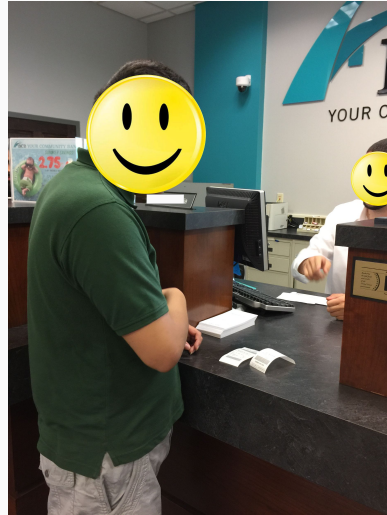


Community Based Instruction

Students participate in a variety of experiences in the community to generalize skills learned in school.



Bank



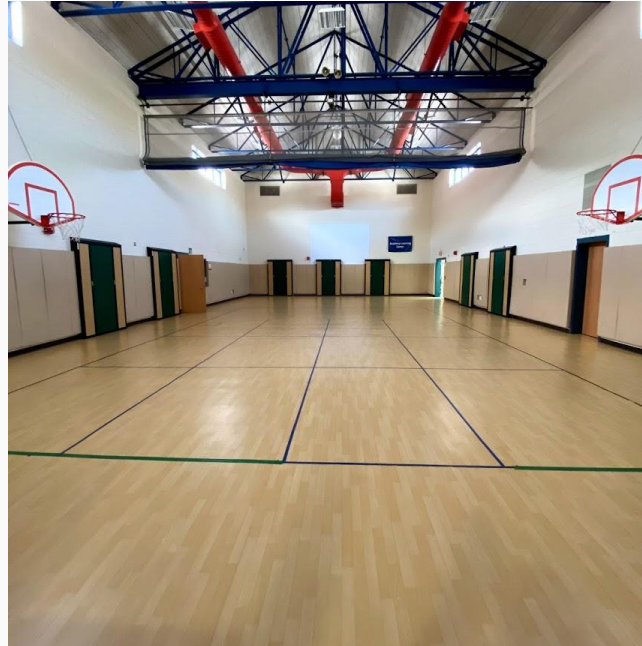
Post office



CVS

Adaptive Physical Education

All students attend gym twice a week for 30-minute classes. Our APE teacher leads the classes through warm-up exercises, group games, fitness activities, and modified sports. In addition, all classes have the opportunity to use the Aquatic Center at the Center for Lifelong Learning at least once a year for a 4-week cycle. Yoga classes are also occasionally provided by a local yoga instructor.



Art, Music and Library

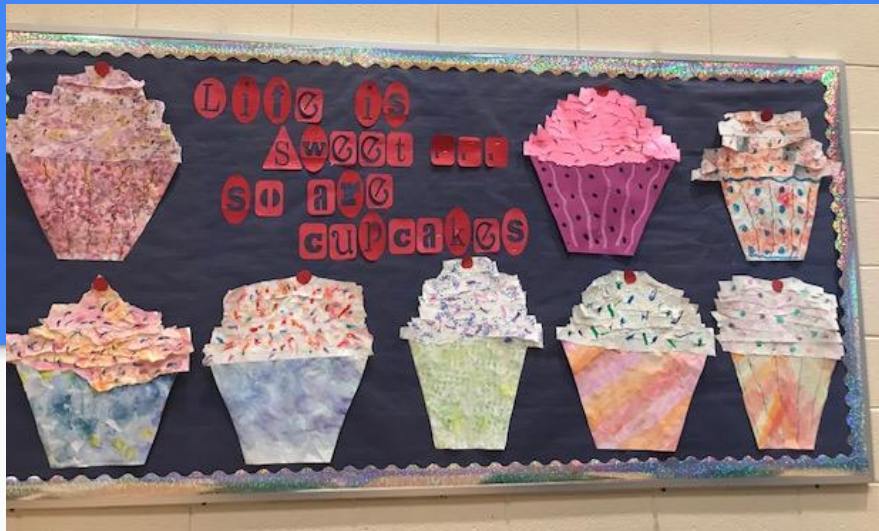


All students participate in art and music classes once per week for 30-minute classes. We hold a Winter and Spring music concert each year for families to attend. The art teacher provides a rotating display of student works. Students visit the school library regularly.

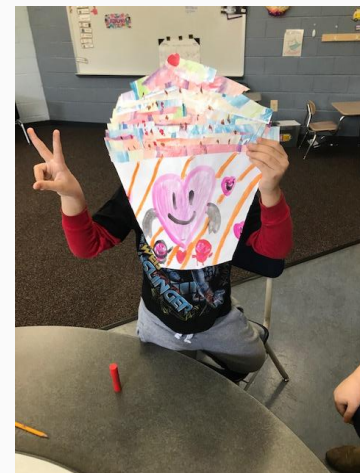
Library/Music Room

Music class





ART PROJECTS



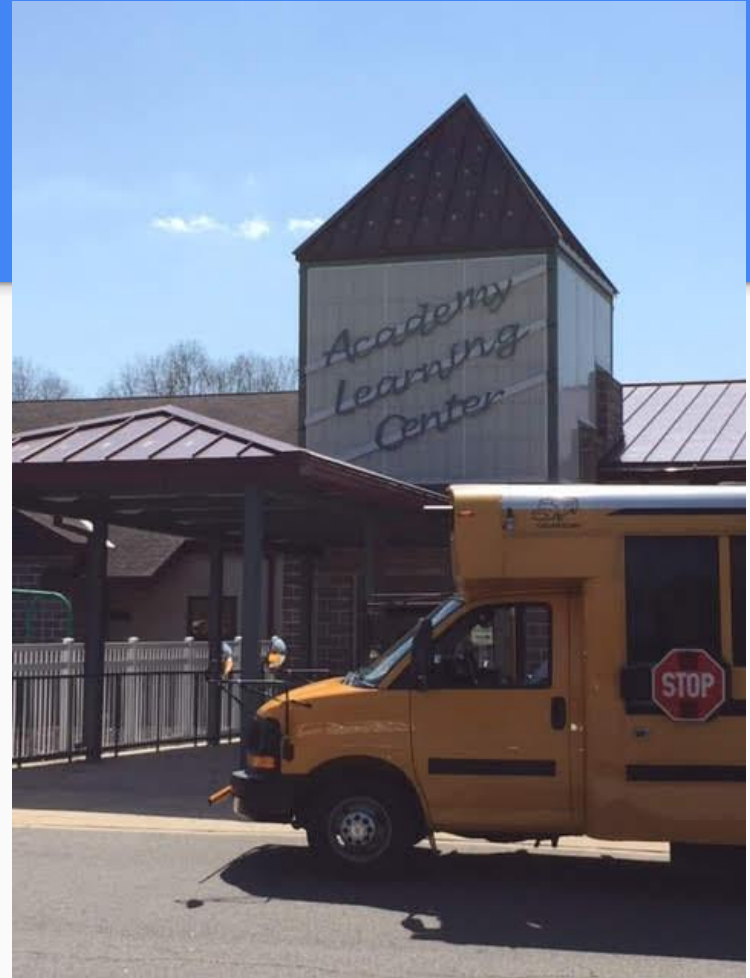
Cafeteria / Breakfast and Lunch Program

Breakfast and lunch are available daily for purchase. Students may also bring their own food from home. Refrigerators and microwaves are available. Younger students have lunch at 11:30, and older students have lunch at 12:00. A divider separates the gym during that time for the lunch room to be set up.



Student Arrival / Dismissal

Transportation is provided by the student's home district. Each morning, the buses pull up to one of the side entrances. Students are not permitted off the bus until a staff member is present to escort them to their class. With parent permission, some students are able to do this independently, or with shadowed supervision. Each afternoon, students wait until their bus number is called before walking to their bus with a staff member (or independently if permitted to do so).



Outdoor Activities



There are 3 playgrounds available for students. Two are enclosed, and one is in the field in the back of the school. There is a paved pathway around the perimeter of the building for students to walk and exercise when weather permits. Recently, a nature trail was created as part of an Eagle Scout project for our students. Some students also work on activities such as gardening and landscaping. We have Field Day in the spring; and Sprinkler Days and a Water Fun Day during the summer program.

Playgrounds



Nature Trail





Thank you for
taking our virtual
tour!

Closing Remarks

Due to the state restrictions related to COVID-19, we are unable to have you visit us in person. We hope this presentation provided you with a sense of what our school looks like, and that you have a better understanding of what our program offers. We hope you will be able to visit our school in the future! On behalf of the ALC administration and staff, we hope you and your family remain safe and healthy during this difficult time. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Contact Information

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