

StarPoint 2 - K/1

Celebrating each child's strengths. Building a strong partnership with families. Developing the foundational skills needed to jump-start education.

StarPoint 2™ embraces the concept that each child learns differently. Our comprehensive full-day program recognizes each child's abilities while supporting his or her academic and therapeutic needs. StarPoint 2 focuses on developing the core areas of language, literacy and numeracy as well as self-regulation, executive function and social-interaction skills—strengths needed to transition into other learning environments. Our goal is to provide a positive classroom experience for children who would benefit from an alternative solution to traditional, larger classes in order to develop the foundational skills needed to jump-start his or her education. Staff employ a strengths-based approach, recognizing and teaching to the specific abilities and needs of each child.

StarPoint 2 was developed by a team of educators, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists who have worked in academic, therapeutic and clinical settings. Our staff have strong backgrounds and immense experience working with young children with developmental and learning challenges, furthering their growth and promoting their ability to succeed socially and academically.

Classes are taught by a certified special education teacher with ongoing support from, and collaboration with, a licensed speech-language pathologist and an occupational therapist. We utilize developmentally appropriate practices to provide a safe, supportive and nurturing environment wherein children develop academically, physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

For children who may have a speech-sound disorder such as Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) or general or global dyspraxia, the programs incorporate activities based on motor-learning theory and provide many opportunities to practice motor skills in classroom activities.

Program at a Glance

Classroom	Special Subject Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Circle• Math Class• Reading Class• Direct Instruction• Instructional Lunch• Recess• Project-Based Learning• Group Speech-Language Therapy• Group Occupational Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mileage Club• Art• Music and Movement• Library• Guidance• Science• Social Studies• Daily Living Skills• Social Games

StarPoint 2 is licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of Education under The Vanguard School license.



For more information or to arrange a tour, please call 610.296.6725 x128

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Schedule Descriptions

The StarPoint 2™ curriculum follows Pennsylvania Core Standards and incorporates the Harcourt StoryTown® Intervention reading curriculum, Saxon Math™, FOSS Science, TimeLinks Social Studies, Harcourt Health and Fitness and CEC Life Centered Education and Handwriting Without Tears®. The students may also receive individual occupational, physical and/or speech-language therapy as required by their Individualized Education Program (IEP). They also attend physical education, health, music, art, library, guidance and computer classes. Social skills development, science, social studies and outdoor learning are also included in the program. Children also participate in daily movement breaks which may include yoga and music movement to get their bodies ready to learn.

Welcome Circle

The welcome circle includes a welcome song, morning message and opportunities to facilitate social interaction with peers through attendance and review of math concepts including counting, time, calendar analysis and weather.

Mathematics Class

Saxon Math™, a research-based, holistic mathematics curriculum, introduces math as something that is all around us in nature and in every-day activities. A distinguishing feature of the curriculum is the use of an incremental approach for instruction and assessment. This approach limits the amount of new math content delivered to students each day, and allows time for daily practice. New concepts are introduced gradually and integrated with previously introduced content so that concepts are developed, reviewed and practiced over time rather than being taught during discrete periods of time, such as in chapters or units. Instruction is built around math conversations and activities that engage students in learning, as well as continuous practice with hands-on activities, manipulatives and paper-pencil methods. The program includes frequent, cumulative assessments used to direct targeted remediation and support to struggling students.

Reading and Language Arts Class

Harcourt StoryTown® is a developmental, research-based reading and language arts program that includes an organized, direct approach to teaching reading to our elementary school students. The program is grounded in the tenets of research-based instruction for reading and is aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards. The lessons are explicit and systematic. This curriculum includes instruction in the BIG FIVE major building blocks for reading success: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and text comprehension. Instruction includes the use of manipulatives,

visual aids and enrichment activities to instill the appreciation of literature. In addition, StoryTown® is aligned with the recommendations from the National Reading Panel in utilizing effective strategies and techniques for teaching children to read.

Through explicit, systematic instruction and carefully designed activities, this strengths-based approach helps fill the learning gaps and builds the foundational skills needed for reading and comprehension. A speech-language pathologist supports the classroom teacher in planning activities and incorporating oral directions and scripts into instruction to promote vocabulary and social-language development.

Group Therapy and Project-Based Learning

A speech-language pathologist co-teaches two sessions each week focusing on receptive and expressive language development in support of language arts. This includes directions, sequencing, concept and vocabulary knowledge, phonological awareness, auditory and language processing and motor speech production through group play and games.

Group occupational therapy incorporates movement, sensory input and visual perceptual and fine-motor activities to support academics, play, self-care and social-interaction skills. The Handwriting Without Tears® curriculum is utilized and the occupational therapist provides ongoing assessment and monitoring to support each child and his or her development of writing skills.

Students extend the skills and themes they have been working on in group occupational and speech-language therapies through project-based learning.

Direct Instruction, Independent Work, Science, Social Studies and Specials Classes

Students have opportunities to participate in independent work that supports their individualized academic needs including enrichment and reinforcing academic work in reading, writing or math. Using the 28-acre VFES campus, the StarPoint children experience many hands-on indoor and outdoor learning opportunities, building on a respect of nature, exploration and the use of hands-on investigation. Group problem-solving skills are a key focus.

Students will attend specials/subject-area classes in 30-minute blocks on a six-day cycle to include: art, music, health, social studies, science, guidance, library and physical education.