

## CHURCH FARM SCHOOL RANKED AMONG NATION'S BEST

The Church Farm School in Exton has been named among the top 50 boarding schools in the United States by *Business Leader Magazine*. The private, all-boys school on Lancaster Ave. was ranked 44th in the nation based on a number of factors including SAT scores, endowment and college attendance after graduation.

According to the magazine, Church Farm School “accepts 33% of applicants; 100% of its 2014 graduates were accepted to four-year colleges. The all-boys school keeps grade years small, with graduating classes averaging around 40 students.”

The Hill School in Pottstown (ranked 26th) was the only other Pennsylvania boarding school to make the top 50 list. Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire topped the list at number one.



## VALLEY FORGE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES EXPANDS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND LEARNING CHALLENGES

Valley Forge Educational Services (VFES) continues to develop programs to serve children with developmental and learning challenges. “Families come to us seeking an alternative solution to traditional, larger academic settings,” said Grace A. Fornicola, PhD, executive director of VFES. “Their children learn differently and find our strength-based approach refreshing.”

While the specific needs and diagnoses may vary, research consistently reveals that children with developmental and learning challenges benefit from early intervention. From speech-language impairments and motor learning disabilities to anxiety and sensory sensitivity, implementing strategies and treatment plans early to address concerns allows for greater gains for children with challenges and delays. Additionally, children make the most progress when receiving intensive and individualized treatment.

In September 2014, The Luma Center’s StarPoint therapeutic Pre-K/K program began its inaugural school year. New in 2015, The Luma Center will offer StarPoint 2 for

children aging out of the Pre-K/K level. Both programs serve children who benefit from the extra time to develop the foundational skills needed to jumpstart his or her education through a language-rich curriculum and play-based academic approach. Also in September 2014, The Vanguard School’s elementary program opened three speech-language intensive classrooms to serve children with various speech/sound disorders.

According to Dr. Fornicola, “These programs develop core language, literacy and math abilities as well as self-regulation, executive function and social-interaction skills.” Curriculum and instruction are tailored to the unique learning profile of each student, and clinical services are provided in accordance with a child’s need.

In some cases, as a result of early intervention, the need for intensive instruction and clinical services becomes less necessary. VFES programs and services are continually evolving as it receives increasing referrals from school districts and area service providers for children with developmental and learning challenges. ■



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