



# FRIENDSHIP

---

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Knowledge | Faith | Character*

## Specialized Learning Center

Focus Learning & Academic Success

Friendship Christian School recognizes the value of all individuals as “fearfully and wonderfully made” by God (Psalm 139:14). With this in mind, Friendship Christian School and the Specialized Learning Center are committed to partnering with the home to develop the spiritual and academic growth of all students.

Friendship Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policy, financial aid policy, athletic and other school administered programs.

# Specialized Learning Center

## Focus Learning & Academic Success

### Director

Renee Hemric, MA Special Education

- BA, Elementary Education and Bible
- [rhemric@friendshipchristian.net](mailto:rhemric@friendshipchristian.net)

### Teaching Staff

- Breanna Adkins, MA Special Education
  - BS, Elementary Education
  - [badkins@friendshipchristian.net](mailto:badkins@friendshipchristian.net)
- Cheryl Boehme, MA Teaching and Learning
  - BS, Elementary Education and English
  - [cboehme@friendshipchristian.net](mailto:cboehme@friendshipchristian.net)
- Grace Meng, MS Recreation and Resources Administration
  - BA, English Language
  - [gmeng@friendshipchristian.net](mailto:gmeng@friendshipchristian.net)
- Carrie Spruill, BS, Special Education
  - Minor-Elementary Education
  - [cspruill@friendshipchristian.net](mailto:cspruill@friendshipchristian.net)
- Margaret Scott, BS, Elementary Education
  - Minor-Learning Disabilities
  - [mscott@friendshipchristian.net](mailto:mscott@friendshipchristian.net)

Web [www.friendshipchristian.net](http://www.friendshipchristian.net)  
Phone 919.872.2133

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is designed to assist students who have a documented learning disability, ADHD, or a processing deficit. While these students have the potential to learn, they may struggle to reach their potential in a regular classroom. The goal of the program is to encourage students who may have become frustrated with learning by helping them realize their true potential. We do this by recognizing their strengths and giving them the tools they need to gain success in areas of weakness. Students are carefully nurtured and encouraged, but also challenged to develop strong study skills and work habits.

## Resources

For students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8th grades:

- Small group resource classes are available for students who need small group instruction with a teacher who specializes in teaching students with learning disabilities, ADHD, and processing deficits. Classes offered are Resource Math and Resource English. These take place at the same time as the regularly scheduled grade level classes in those subjects.

Additional resources for students in 6th through 12th grades:

- Tutorial Study Hall is available to students who can keep up in the regular classroom but need daily assistance with study skills, organization, additional time for test-taking, and occasional re-teaching of material. Middle school students who are enrolled in English or Math Resource classes may enroll in Tutorial Study Hall also for assistance with their other courses.

## Objectives

- To provide assistance in areas of difficulty
- To determine appropriate accommodations and/or modifications for students in general education classes
- To assist the student in developing study skills, time management skills, and personal organizational strategies
- To participate in scheduled parent/teacher conferences when requested
- To assist parents and faculty members in understanding best practices for instructing students with disabilities
- To prepare students to be successful in general education classes

# FOCUS LEARNING CENTER

Friendship Christian School is unique in that we accept students who have intellectual disabilities, Autism, Down syndrome, etc... Students will receive core class instruction in small resource classes targeted to their specific learning needs. Students will participate in elective classes as well as inclusion opportunities throughout the day. When these students enter sixth grade, they may enter the Focus Learning Center which concentrates on general academics and life skills. Careful planning and review of the students' past academic performance and current cognitive and achievement levels will assist in making this decision. Students enrolled in the FLC program will participate in the independent living skills program which includes a working coffee shop, and opportunity to learn gardening skills in the FLC garden, basic household management skills including cooking and baking, laundry, and other important life – management skills. These students would be eligible to receive a diploma in an Occupational Course of Study.



# ELIGIBILITY

## Areas of Eligibility

A specific learning disability is defined as a significant discrepancy between ability (IQ) and achievement in one or more academic areas:

- Oral Expression
- Listening Comprehension
- Written Expression
- Basic Reading Skills
- Reading Comprehension
- Mathematic Calculation
- Mathematic Reasoning

Other exceptionalities:

- ADHD/ADD
- Autism
- Downs Syndrome
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Developmental Disabilities

Documentation of the disability from a physician or psychologist/psychiatrist must be submitted to the Resource Director in order to verify eligibility.

## Determination of Eligibility

Students who are applying to Friendship Christian School for the first time and wish to be considered for enrollment in the Academic Success Center or the Focus Learning Center must produce a current IEP or current psycho-educational testing (within 3 years). The SLC Director will review those records. If she determines that there is the possibility of an opening for the student, she will notify the Admissions Director who will then contact the parents to proceed with the online application process. (Be sure to check the box on the application for Academic Success Center or the Focus Learning Center). Once the initial online application is completed and the application fee is paid, the SLC Director will contact the parents to set up a meeting to describe the program in more detail and determine which resource classes the student may be eligible for. Following that meeting, a second interview with the administration will be scheduled by the Admissions Director.

Current students of Friendship Christian School who are struggling to perform at grade level in their core courses may be considered for enrollment in the Academic Success Center. The teacher, parents, and SLC Director will meet to discuss possible interventions to be considered before initiating the referral process. If the student continues to struggle, the SLC Director will recommend the student for testing by an outside licensed educational psychologist for IQ and achievement testing. Test results will be used to determine whether or not it is appropriate to place the student in resource classes.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Student Responsibilities

We expect students to:

- Follow directions
- Complete assignments on time
- Demonstrate a cooperative attitude
- Attend all help classes offered by teachers
- Ask for help whenever necessary
- Accept help when it is offered by a teacher
- Be on time to class with proper materials
- Listen in class and take notes when appropriate
- Demonstrate effort
- Inform resource teachers after a failed test or quiz
- Attempt all assignments
- When absent, make up all missing work
- Treat all other students with respect

## Parent Responsibilities

God has given parents the leadership role in their children's education (Deut. 11:18-19; Eph. 6:4, Ps. 78:1-8, Ps. 127:3-5, Prov. 19:27). It is the purpose of Friendship Christian School to partner with the home to provide a quality Christian education, both in the general setting and the resource setting.

The SLC Director will maintain regular contact with parents through email, phone, or face-to-face meetings when appropriate. Parents are encouraged to contact the SLC Director regarding their questions or concerns at any time.

We depend on parents to:

- Follow specific, agreed upon teacher recommendations regarding their child.
- Provide a designated study time and study area at home each evening for homework.
- Check RenWeb weekly or more often to stay apprised of assignments and grades.
- Monitor student's homework agenda and homework.
- Encourage and praise their student for notable accomplishments and improvements made.
- Support teachers' efforts to help their student be successful in the classroom.

## General Education Teacher Responsibilities

Our Resource teachers work very closely with general education teachers in helping them understand the learning differences of the students in their classrooms. They offer strategies for instructing the resource students and give assistance with applying modifications as necessary.

- Notify resource teachers when student fails test
- Implement the agreed upon modifications and accommodations
- Communicate with parents regarding low test scores or concerns
- Copy resource teachers on emails to parents regarding behavior or academic concerns



# ACCOMMODATIONS

Only students who have a documented learning disability, ADHD, processing deficit, or a cognitive impairment, and who are enrolled in either an Academic Success Center resource class and/or Tutorial Study Hall are eligible for an Individualized Student Plan (ISP).

Accommodations are alterations made in the way that academic content is presented or assessed, but does not alter the curriculum standards or grade level of the material. Accommodations are not noted on the student's report card.

Examples of accommodations are the following:

- Preferential seating
- Allow student to take picture of notes on board
- Allow calculator use
- Allow student to use formulas
- Do not deduct for spelling
- Allow use of audible books
- Extended time for tests
- Allow for separate setting for tests
- Read aloud for tests

# MODIFICATIONS

Modifications are changes that are made to the curriculum for students with disabilities who are unable to comprehend all of the content in a particular course. For example, assignments might be modified significantly for a student with cognitive impairments that limit his/her ability to understand the content in the student's general education. These modifications are documented on the student's report card and transcript, and are only allowed if the student is receiving a general track diploma.

Examples of modifications are:

- Reduce amount of information the student is required to master for tests/quizzes.
- Alter writing and reading assignments to match student's ability.
- Shorten memorization assignments.
- Adjust spelling and vocabulary lists.



## DIPLOMA OPTIONS

**College Prep Course of Study:** Most students enroll in Friendship Christian School with the understanding that they are entering a program of courses that will prepare them for college. The high school curriculum is distinctly College Preparatory (CP) in design and includes Honors (H), and Dual Credit (DC) classes. ACT of 17 is required.

**General Course of Study:** Students who are enrolled in the Academic Success Center and who need a reduced course load are eligible for a General Course of Study. Students who graduate with this degree will be able to attend two year college. They may also be able to attend a four year college but may be required to take pre-requisite courses before or during their freshman year of college. ACT score of 15 is preferred.

**Occupational Course of Study -** The Occupational Course of Study covers the basics of the core subjects which specifically focus on post-school employment and independent living. Successful completion of this program will provide the student with a solid, basic education but will not meet the requirements for entrance to a four year college or university. Students may be able to attend post-secondary institutions with programs that specialize in intellectual disabilities. ACT not required.



# GENERAL POLICIES

## Individual Student Plan (ISP)

Only students who are enrolled in either a resource class and/or Tutorial Study Hall are eligible for an Individualized Student Plan (ISP) generated by the school. This ISP is an analysis and summary of the student's strengths and weaknesses, based on testing done by a licensed psychologist, standardized testing, and recommendations from the ASC teachers. The ISP team (regular classroom teachers, ASC teacher, and parents) will discuss and agree upon the following:

- Diploma options (for students in 9th-12th grade)
- Honors, Dual Credit, and/or Resource classes the student will be enrolled in
- Eligibility for accommodations on standardized testing
- Classroom accommodations for general education classes
- Course modifications for general education classes

Students who are not enrolled in one or more ASC resource classes will not be given an ISP, and therefore will not have special accommodations and/or modifications.

## FEES

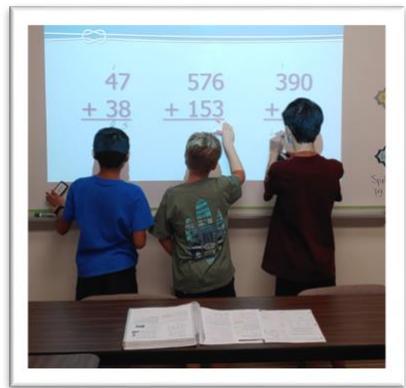
Fees are updated yearly and are available on the Tuition Fee Schedule.

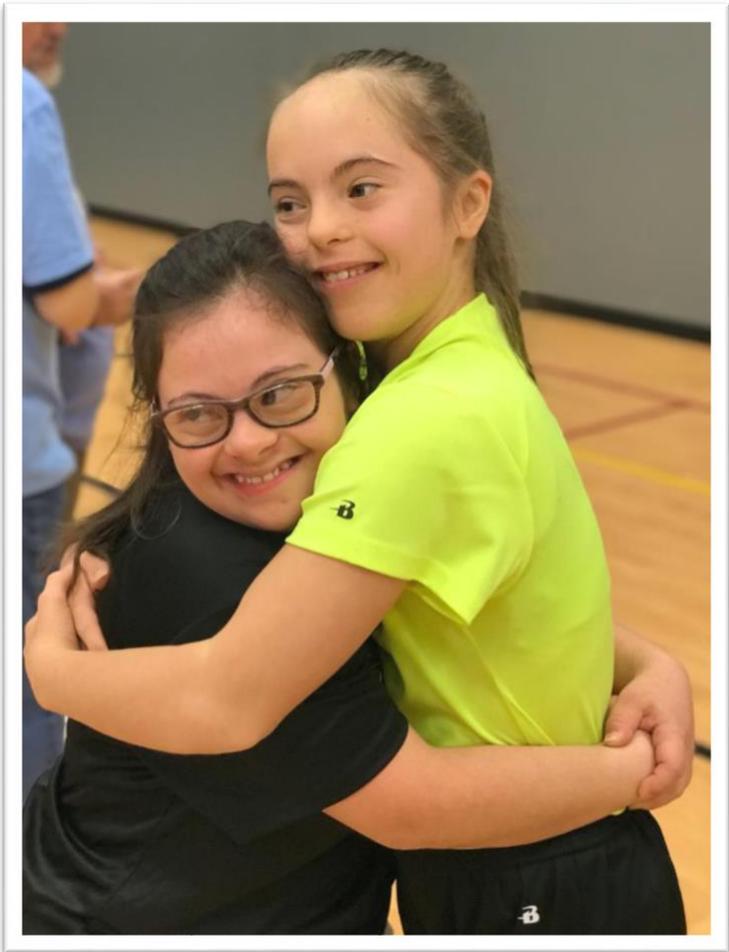
### Focus Learning Center

- The tuition for this program is separate from the regular school tuition due to the smaller teacher vs. student ratio.

### Academic Success Center

- The cost of the program is dependent on the number of classes taken. The fee will be added to the student's annual tuition and distributed according to the desired payment plan.





“I

will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Psalm 139:14