



The Elaine Clark Center

Heart of Hope Academy

What is Heart of Hope Academy? The Academy at the Elaine Clark Center is a GAC Accredited K-12 school for children with special needs emphasizing functional life skills training, adaptive technologies, applied academic curriculum, and community based vocational training.

What is our Philosophy? Heart of Hope Academy at the Elaine Clark Center believes every person has talents and gifts to achieve personal fulfillment, illuminating a significant value to society. Through social emotional growth, one can develop abstract thinking, which in turn facilitates academic competencies to learn.

One size does not fit all; therefore our staff works diligently on various curriculums that reflect and meet the student's need. Our primary goal is to provide an environment where student reach their level of independence. Lessons and interactions incorporate developmental, individual processing differences, and relationships.

We use a diverse array of learning modalities while implementing a powerful selective range of programs that focus on communication, functional academic skills and community based learning.

Communication:

Our communication curriculum is a collective language package designed to facilitate communicative exchanges based on independence, spontaneity, and social experiences. Our core belief is that communication is the foundation of all aspects of growth and development. We focus on each child's competencies and maximize their greatest potential through a holistic approach. Our primary teaching theory is to promote the use of positive reinforcements by stimulating learning. A solid base is built from using this authentic approach: intrinsic motivation will lead to positive student involvement.

Student participation is validated through a highly enriched environment exposing them to enhanced social interaction and experiential learning. Heart of Hope Academy's educators work very hard to expose our population to the external world by sensory perception, and then through the process of reflection, they are capable of conceptualizing ideas that eventually help interpret their world.

Applied Functional Academics:

Our approach to teaching academics stresses the applicable use of concepts. We emphasize the understanding of basic life skills, such as: two cans of soup at \$ 3.00 each will cost \$6.00 total. All lessons have practical meaning and therefore; more effectively engage learning and spark motivation. Heart of Hope recognizes that in order for our

students to generalize their learning they must have the opportunity to visualize and manipulate information through various modalities of presentation.

Community Based Vocational Training:

We have formed partnerships with local businesses enabling daily community based activities. Public outings provide opportunities for students to interact and experience success in real life working environments.

We strive to make this a positive and rewarding experience so that students will develop social skills. Real life experiences will cultivate self-confidence enabling them to meet their potential of becoming responsible productive members of our community.

Heart of Hope employs assistive technology to provide a number of relevant opportunities for students to master learning goals. Computers with touch screens, picture symbol communication and computer based learning activities are some of the many methods used to aid motivational learning.

Heart of Hope encourages a collaborative effort that engages the involvement of teachers, parents, students, therapist, consultants and other significant support facilitators. School to home intervention is also incorporated into the education plan to better assist and meet the demands of everyday challenges. The progress that our students have attained is demonstrated through confident self-esteem interactions and positive connections that give every one of them the hope and encouragement necessary for future aspirations.