



Academic Program

The curriculum at NHA complies with Arizona grade level standards. Our teaching staff selects what are referred to as Power Standards. This allows the teachers to choose topic units that contain important foundational and/or building block skills and reduces the need to try and cover the breadth and volume of content typically covered in mainstream schools. However, the caliber and rigor of that content taught is always presented to meet the requirements at each child's expected grade level. Course descriptions are handed out at Back to School night. Students within the program is aligned with their general education peers. NHA staff consult with students' homeroom teacher once a week to ensure that students are on the same (close to) academic track as their peers.

Behavior Program

Each classroom has a full-time assigned behavior specialist who is trained in CPI behavior management. This person is with the students during classes as well as transitions. The role of the behavior specialist is to manage the Positive Behavior Teaching (PBT) system for that classroom as well as offer support and training for in home PBT management. In addition to these responsibilities, the behavior specialist conducts weekly social skills lessons, collects behavioral and IEP (Individualized Education Program) goal data, develops and implements positive behavior plans (as needed), leads Behavior Skills Trainings (BST) in small groups and individualized settings.

Counseling Program

The goal of the counseling program at the New Horizons Academy (NHA) is to assess and effectively treat children and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral disabilities who have struggled in the academic setting, home, and community. The NHA school psychologist's role is to foster and nurture strong relationships with the students, parents, our multi-disciplinary staff, and community based mental health providers in order to support the student's progress in their IEP (Individualized Education Program) goals and eventually transition back to a less restrictive academic setting. The school psychologist works collaboratively with the academic and behavioral staff to assess, develop, and implement therapeutic goals and interventions to help alleviate symptoms and behaviors related to emotional and behavioral disabilities.

Program Overview

New Horizons Academy's mission is to help children to acquire and use functional coping strategies to more effectively and appropriately manage dysregulated emotions mismanaged behavior so they can return to a less restrictive setting in a 1-9 month period.

The school is comprised of five full days classroom designed to work with 1-10 students. Students participate in a full day academic program that embeds daily therapeutic and behavioral services. All referrals to New Horizons Academy are made by special education director and principal who works collaboratively with parents who are concerned about their child's progress and behavior in their current setting.

A team of two-three professional staffs each classroom: a special education teacher and teaching assistant, and/or a behavioral specialist. Using the IEP (Individualized Education Program) as its foundation, NHA staff formulates an integrated treatment plan that addresses each student's identified behavioral, socio-emotional and academic challenges.

The special education teacher and a teaching assistant/behavior specialist focus their instruction towards helping students master essential grade level academic skills in small group formats. Accommodations and scaffold are offered as needed. NHA's curriculum is fully aligned with the Arizona State Standards and students must have the capacity to access and participate in that level of academic rigor. Testing is always administered with the accommodations prescribed in the student's IEP (Individualized Education Program).

The school psychologist is a professional who works with our students and their families to help alleviate potential sources of mood dysregulation and strengthen students' self-esteem and their family relationship. NHA school psychologist provides individual/group/family therapy, as well as overall therapeutic case management and coordination of care with other community service systems and agencies.

The teaching assistant/behavioral specialist develops and oversees both the classrooms and each individual's positive behavior support system. They also train the family how to support the NHA Positive Behavior Training system in the home. The Behavioral Specialist identifies environmental antecedents that trigger problematic behavior and then teaches students a set of pro-social coping strategies to replace that student's maladaptive behaviors.