

Frequently Asked Questions

Hope Hall is a general education setting for students who struggle with learning. Students at Hope Hall are parentally placed and is not a licensed Special Education placement.

Teaching Style

Hope Hall utilizes the Dolce Method for Learning Mastery, an approach created by our Founder and Executive Director, Sister Diana Dolce. This style of teaching employs all of the senses to ensure student engagement, and full understanding of content presented.

Class sizes

In our Elementary and Middle School, our classes are no larger than 12 students. In our High School, our classes are no larger than 15 students.

Class groupings

- Grades 3 - 5: There is only one class per each grade level. There are no more than 12 students in each class. Students stay with their grade level group all day and grades 3 - 5 eat lunch and have recess together. We do not participate in the NYS testing for grades 3-5.
- Grades 6 - 8: There are two sections for each grade level. There can only be 12 students per section (24 students total per grade level). The sections are divided into A and B groupings. This is based on the student's rate of learning. If a student needs a little more time, a little more review and a little more repetition, they are in the A group. Students who can pick up on material a little faster and may not need a much review and repetition are placed in the B groups. We do not participate in the NYS testing for grades 6-8.
- Grades 9 - 12: There are two sections for each grade level. There can be 15 students per section (30 students total per grade level). The sections are divided into A and B groupings. This is based on the student's rate of learning. If a student needs a little more time, a little more review and a little more repetition, they are in the A group. Students who can pick up on material a little faster and may not need a much review and repetition are placed in the B groups. In High School, our A groups earn a local diploma and our B groups earn a NYS Regents diploma. Both diplomas are suitable for entry into 2 and 4 year college programs.

Tuition

The total cost to educate a student at Hope Hall is \$22,000. Every student receives a scholarship and no family pays more than \$5,700 per student for high school or \$5,200 per student for elementary and middle school. Families can apply for additional financial aid. Upon acceptance and during the registration process, each family is given financial aid paperwork to complete. It is then returned to our finance department for review.

Transportation

The students' home district is responsible for transportation. Upon acceptance, transportation forms are provided to the families and transportation is then requested with their district of residence. Many districts abide by their transportation deadlines/dates for requesting transportation.

Special Education

Many students who attend Hope Hall receive support through a 504 Accommodation Plan or an Individualized Educational Services Program (IESP). 504's are managed through Hope Hall and do not require any further paperwork or consent to transfer over to our building. IESP's are managed with the support of our district of location, Gates Chili. In order for an IESP to be active, consent forms need to be signed by June 1st for the upcoming school year. If it is past that date, the IESP will be inactive for the upcoming school year.

With active IESP's students can be provided the following services; Resource Room, Consultant Teacher, Speech Therapy, Counseling, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, an Autism Consultant and Audiology. At Hope Hall we can not offer special education programs such as self contained classrooms or 1 to 1 aides. If a student has a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) or a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), we are unable to support those as well. If a student needs these types of support, their needs exceed the scope of what our school can offer.

Social/Emotional/Behavioral Supports

The focus of Hope Hall's educational environment is for students who need a multisensory learning approach with a reduced pace to their academic curriculum. While we can focus on the whole student as a learner, Hope Hall has a very small staff. For this reason, we do not have ample support for students who are struggling with emotional regulation and/or behavioral needs.

Counseling Program

At Hope Hall there are 2 building counselors, one that works with grades 3 - 7 and one that works with grades 8 - 12. These counselors support all students but more specifically, those students who do not receive counseling on their IESP.

Each class has a regularly scheduled social emotional learning class with one of the counselors. During this time, counselors are able to work with the whole group on social skills, coping skills, social communication and many other social emotional learning topics.

Athletics

After School sports are available for students to participate in. We have a no cut policy so any student who wants to participate can do so. Sport options are soccer, basketball, run club and intramural activities such as badminton, volleyball, bounce ball and flag/no touch football.

Dress Code

Hope Hall requires students to follow a dress code. Students must wear a Hope Hall t-shirt, Hope Hall polo shirt or a Hope Hall sweatshirt. Those can be purchased through us upon acceptance. Additionally, black, navy or khaki dress pants, skirts or capris are appropriate. Students will have dress down day opportunities throughout the year.

Electronics

Hope Hall is an unplugged zone for electronics. This means students are allowed to have their cell phones and gaming/music devices on the buses but once they have entered our building, they are collected and kept in the main office. Before leaving for the day, students will be given back their devices.