

Saint Athanasius Catholic Academy
6120 Bay Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11204

Mrs. Gina Auricchio
Learning Center
2018-2019 School Year

Learning Center: Policy Statement

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! I am extremely happy to start another wonderful year as the Learning Center teacher. I have been teaching at St. Athanasius Catholic Academy for the past eight years; three of those years as the third grade teacher and this will be my fifth year as the Learning Center Teacher/Coordinator. I have a strong background in education, which includes a Masters in both Special Education, and Childhood Education. In addition, I have New York State Certifications in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education, and Special Education. I worked with the Department of Education for eight years teaching a diverse population of students in kindergarten through eighth grade. I look forward to teaching your children and anticipate a year of great accomplishments as we work together to enrich your child's school experience.

As educators, our concern is the: emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth of your child. It is our goal that parent, educator, and child will work together as a support system to ensure each child's greatest potential is achieved. Essential to the realization of this goal is open communication between parent and teacher.

St. Athanasius Catholic Academy has a policy of meeting the needs of all students. For many years, the Learning Center has been an integral part of our school. Its primary purpose is to re-enforce, review, and practice basic reading/writing and math skills in a small group setting using a multi-sensory hands-on approach to learning. Instruction is differentiated focusing on the student need and ability. Assessments are ongoing throughout the school year to measure the student's current levels of performance.

The following is a basic overview of what students will be working on in the Learning Center. The curriculum is aligned with the New York State Common Core Standards. Collaborating with classroom teachers in

grades 1 through 8 allows me to give the students the extra support they need to help them achieve grade level standards.

Grades 1-3

We firmly believe that early intervention can be the key to enable students to become independent learners. Therefore, in grades 1-3 the Learning Center helps students learn strategies that will enable them to overcome their weakness. Utilizing multi-sensory strategies to help students learn will give many of the “at risk” students a strong foundation and in many cases help eliminate difficulties in their future educational endeavors. For the students who continue to show signs of learning differences, the parents/guardians will be given the support and information they need to get the appropriate help for their child.

Grades 4-5

For students in the middle grades 4-5, the Learning Center helps them prepare for the challenges of state exams in language arts, math, and science. Through the use of strategies and critical thinking skills, the students will be able to apply these skills and become independent learners. In the Learning Center we devote a great deal of time in preparing our students for the challenges of these exams focusing on reading comprehension skills which will help students in all subject areas. In addition, we work on multi-step mathematical problems, which build critical thinking skills and connect math concepts to the real world.

Grades 6-8

For students in junior high grades 6-8, the Learning Center helps them develop study skills for all subject areas in conjunction with the development of critical thinking skills and answering higher level thinking questions. The primary goal is to further the development of these students to become independent learners and prepare them for high school.

Students with IESP's

For students with Individual Education Service Programs (IESP's), the Learning Center acts as a resource to provide these students with the accommodations and modifications they are entitled to. In addition, any further support services that student's may need such as: Speech/Language, Counseling, SETSS, Title I - Reading, Math, and ESL, are coordinated through the Learning Center so that students can achieve a higher degree of understanding and work to fulfill the objectives listed in their respective IESP. As the Learning Center Coordinator, I advocate and work as the liaison with the Department of Education Committee on Special Education (CSE) to ensure that all paperwork is up to date and that your child is receiving the services he or she is entitled to.

Assertive Discipline Plan

While attending the Learning Center, students will realize through positive re-enforcement that it is important to believe that they have the ability to learn and achieve their goals. This experience will enable them to develop self-confidence so they will be able to do the best they can. In the Learning Center, we use a reward system that enables students to go for a prize when they reach their goal. This system of rewards and consequences empowers students to take responsibility for their actions. Using this assertive discipline plan, I have seen students strive to work to achieve their goals, yielding positive results.

School Website

I encourage parents to check the school website for information and updates, and to see the great things we are doing in Learning Center. In addition, there are recommended educational websites that your child can use to practice their skills at home.

Final Thoughts

Please remember your child's education is extremely important; so, if you need to contact or meet with me, please do not hesitate to do so. I can be reached by calling the school office at (718) 236-4791 or via email at gauricchio@stathanasiusacademy.org.

I would like you to know, I consider parents and teachers to be a team with one common goal, which is the success of your child and our students. I thank you for trusting me with God's most precious gift...your child.