

## Introduction

We began offering Special Services at The Kirk of the Hills Christian Day School in 1995 to assist covenant children identified with specific learning differences, which include mild to moderate learning disabilities, attentional skills, as well as the academically talented, in developing the necessary skills to achieve their God-designed potential. Individualized and smaller group instruction is provided using a wide variety of educational approaches known to utilize and enhance the student's strengths while addressing their academic and social concerns.

## Eligibility

Special Services intervention is available to students in first through sixth grades who possess cognitive abilities within the normal range and have been determined to have a primary educational need in the areas of learning disabilities, language disorders, attention deficits, or superior achievement potential as demonstrated through a standardized evaluation.

## Application Process

Students must be accepted into KDS through the regular enrollment process. Copies of all previous academic information and recent psycho-educational evaluations must be reviewed by the Special Services staff. Application may be made at any time. Early application is advised, due to limited enrollment. Current KDS students are given first consideration, and new students will be accepted as space is available.

## Staff

The Special Services staff has set its standards high. They have many years of experience in special education programs and have continued their own personal education beyond graduate degrees. Participation in professional organizations, conferences, and specialized workshops keeps them abreast of current trends and best practices in the fields of learning differences.

Qualified teacher assistants are provided to enhance the programming needs of the intensive classrooms.

## Current Programs

### Consult

Consult Services are available to assist classroom teachers and parents in developing program modifications for students demonstrating mild learning deficits, behavioral concerns, or superior academic potential. All instruction is carried out in the general education classrooms. An Individualized Support Plan (ISP) is developed for each child receiving modified or alternative curriculum. The Special Services Consultant works in cooperation with the classroom teacher, parents, and other professional services where appropriate.

### Resource Room

The Resource program is designed to serve students with mild deficits in academic skill areas, developmental delays, and/or other

special learning needs. The Resource Teacher assesses educational needs and provides assistance in designing and implementing instructional programs and interventions directed toward the remediation of reading or other academic deficits. Students in grades one through six receive supplemental or alternative instruction individually and/or in small groups. An Individualized Support Plan (ISP) is developed for each child receiving Resource services. The Resource Teacher works in cooperation with the classroom teacher, parents, and other professional services where appropriate.

### Intensive Classrooms

Three intensive classroom programs have been created to assist students identified with moderate learning deficits. The Lower/1st and 2nd grade, Middle/3rd and 4th grade, and Upper/5th and 6th grade classes are limited in size to ensure a smaller student-teacher ratio. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed for each student. Multisensory remedial instruction is provided in all age-appropriate subjects. Students also receive instruction in organization, study, and social skills. A personal understanding of unique learning differences and self-advocacy skills is also encouraged.

Extensive consideration has been given to selection of the most appropriate learning materials and curricula for the Special Services student. A brief overview is provided here for further explanation.\*

## Reading

Most students receive direct reading instruction using a multisensory teaching approach emphasizing systematic, sequential phonics. The S.P.I.R.E. Language Program (Special Program for Individualized Reading Excellence) materials are specially designed for the student who learns best with a structured, systematic approach to learning reading and spelling. This comprehensive program includes specific strategies in decoding, vocabulary development, comprehension, and reinforcement in reading fluency.

## Math

Each student will participate in a hands-on success oriented curriculum which develops a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts in all areas of math. Saxon's Incremental Development program provides the student with opportunities to learn new material in small parts with time provided for ample practice of the new skills. Real-life applications are provided in each lesson.

## Written Expression

All language skills are integrated through the implementation of a structured multisensory approach which develops an understanding of language, its expression, and composition through modeling, practice, and review. Several programs used include Easy Grammar and Step Up to Writing.

## Bible, Science, and Social Studies

The students will follow the general KDS curriculum at the age-appropriate level with

modifications and adaptations provided to meet the individualized needs of the child.

## Co-Curricular Classes (Art, Music, P.E., Foreign Language and Library)

The student will follow the general KDS curriculum at the age-appropriate level with modifications and adaptations provided to meet the individualized needs of the child.

## Related Services

Speech & Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy are not presently available through Special Services at KDS. Therapy is available at no charge through the S.N.A.P. after-school program with the Special School District, or may be contracted with private therapists. More information is available by contacting Special Services.

\*Participation within the general KDS program is encouraged for all students to the extent deemed appropriate, with recommendation of the IEP team (includes the parents, classroom teacher, support staff, other professionals, and the student, when appropriate). This includes all non-academic and extra-curricular activities.



THE *KIRK OF THE HILLS*  
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# Special Services

*“The Kirk of the Hills Christian Day School assists Christian parents in the nurture of covenant children, educating them in a Christian world and life view, according to the truth of God’s Word, equipping them to be disciples of Christ, impacting His world.”*

**As a covenantal school, we recognize that the families in our school have children with a wide range of learning needs. The Special Services Department is designed to help address some of these special needs.**

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