

# Support Services

## **American Academy's Learning Center Mission Statement**

The Learning Center's mission is to assist students in achieving academic success and enhance the life skills needed to be successful. This includes supporting students with English Language Learning support, reading and writing, math, and study skills. To accomplish this, we provide ELL support classes, individual and small group subject support classes, after school tutorials, online resources for credit recovery, write and implement Personal Education Plans (PEPs), alternative program options to accommodate learning or behavioral modifications, and summer school. Learning Center support is provided to students in KG-1 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Learning Center staff work collaboratively with classroom teachers to ensure that each child receives the specific support needed to gain a strong academic foundation. How the services are delivered may vary on the grade level.

### **The objectives of the Learning Center are to:**

- teach students about multiple intelligences and how this plays a role in their learning styles,
- develop effective learning strategies,
- re-teach and support students with learning gaps,
- help students manage daily tasks and supplies,
- communicate effectively with all stakeholders
- teach students how to be independent learners

## **Elementary English Language Learning Support**

In all ELL classes, the standards are set by the Common European Framework of References for Languages.

In KG-1 and KG-2 the students remain in the mainstream classroom. These students may receive support from an aide in the classroom that will assist with translation and/or a Learning Center staff member may be assigned to assist the classroom teacher with ELL support.

The Learning Center provides 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students with an ELL class using The Backpack series to provide support for identified students whose dominant language is not English. The Backpack Series offers English courses ranging from Starter Level to Level 6. After the AAM admission process is finished, an additional ELL test will be administered for all new students with low to mid range English abilities. The testing process will identify the students with the strongest need for support. Students will work to improve reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as well as master essential grammar, vocabulary and study skills needed to succeed at our school. Students are placed in ELL classes depending on proficiency rather than by age or grade level. We strongly believe that we are teaching the whole child and want the child to succeed academically and socially; therefore an emphasis is placed on helping students acclimate to their new school environment. We aim to provide support during their mainstream English time, but sometimes scheduling demands that we pull them from a language course.

## **Middle and High School Language Learning Support**

The Learning Center provides 6<sup>th</sup>-12th grade students with an ELL class using the Solutions series to provide ELL support for identified students whose dominant language is not English. The Solutions Series offers English courses ranging from beginning to advance. After the AAM admission process is finished, an additional ELL test will be administered for all new students with low to mid range English abilities. The testing process will identify the students with the strongest need for support. Students will work to improve reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as well as master essential grammar, vocabulary and study skills needed to succeed at our school. Students are placed in ELL classes depending on proficiency rather than by age or grade level. We strongly believe that we are teaching the whole child and want the child to succeed academically and socially; therefore an emphasis is placed on helping students acclimate to their new school environment. In the upper school, students are usually scheduled during one of their language courses. In some cases, a student may attend more than one ELL course in order to acclimate successfully.

## **In-School and After School Support Classes**

The Learning Center (LC) provides materials, opportunities, and expertise, institutionally or individually, to help all members of the American Academy community with the aim of reaching one's fullest potential. The LC staff members address the needs of any students who, due to their varied learning styles, rates of learning, or educational backgrounds, may require short-term or long-term support to perform successfully in school.

Learning Center staff members work with the faculty to understand the Personal Education Plans of our students with documented learning differences. These learning profiles are used to develop programs to enhance each student's strengths and provide support in areas where it is needed in order to help these students become confident, independent learners. In addition, an evaluation of educational testing, class observations, and consultations with teachers, parents, and advisors helps the LC staff determine the best strategies for working with a student. This may include arranging extra support when appropriate, ensuring that required accommodations are provided, or educating and supporting faculty and staff in their efforts to meet the needs of our students.

A PEP is written for a student when there is educational testing in the school file or an in-school child study has been conducted. Based on the PEP, teachers provide classroom accommodations, curriculum differentiation, and a modified schedule. Individual or small group classes may be mandated based on a child's Personal Education Plan (PEP). The LC is open for extra-help everyday at 7:15-8, 11:50-12:15, and 3:15-4:00. On Wednesday evenings it is open until 5:00. On specific assigned days, classroom teachers are available in the LC for subject specific extra-help. In addition, a full set of classroom textbooks are on hand.

In some cases, the student may be referred for extra after school tutorials at American Academy or an outside vendor. This service is fee-based.