



THE
DERON
SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY, INC.





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Nearly four decades ago, as Ron and Diane Alter worked with multi-handicapped children, they realized that existing educational programs in the public sector were not meeting the needs of these children. That realization led to the creation of the Deron School.

Gradually, over the next thirty-seven years, the Deron School grew from a one-room school with two students to two full-sized schools providing essential elementary and high school educational services to more than 275 students transported from eight New Jersey counties.

www.deronschool.org

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

Education Means Growth In Many Areas

At the Deron Schools, educational programs focus on student achievement in academics, behavior, self help skills, and fine and gross motor coordination. Each student is carefully evaluated to make sure their individual program best meets their specific needs and talents. Periodic review of the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is a collaborative effort between the student's parent, teacher and the Child Study Team.

The latest innovative and special teaching methods and materials – including computer technology – are used to develop fundamental skills, concentration and self-confidence. All classrooms are equipped with state of the art learning aids including computer internet access.

Academics

Academic subjects are structured to follow the N.J. Core Curriculum Content Standards. Students are supported and encouraged to progress at their own pace in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, visual and creative art, and health. Small classes provide opportunities for greater individu-



alization (i.e. one-to-one and small group instruction).

Physical Development

Physical education and development is an important part of the educational program and students at Deron participate in gym class at least twice a week. Experienced physical education teachers help students, through adaptive activities, to learn and practice skills in individual and team sports, swimming, weight training, and exercise. There are sports competitions through intramural



games at Deron and also with teams from other schools. The Deron physical education program builds strength, skill, agility, sportsmanship, poise, confidence and coordination.

Transition

A key element of the Deron School experience is its transition program, which helps prepare stu-



dents to go on to their next placement, whether it be educational, pre-vocational training or into vocational work-related placement in the community. Students may leave Deron to be included into regular classrooms or resource rooms, self-contained special classes within their school districts, workshop settings or group homes. (See Deron II High School for more information).

Opportunities For Developing Talents and Interests

The Deron Schools offer a variety of activities. Students enjoy art, music, games, crafts, sports, cooking, movies, cheerleading, dances, computer arts and newspaper reporting. Field trips to interesting locations help broaden student experiences and teach socialization skills.

Deron's calendar also includes holiday parties, student counsel meetings, talent shows, track and field events, spelling bees, the NJ Student Craftsmans Fair, assembly programs and the Deron II Prom. Activities to promote community involvement and good citizenship encourage students to become responsible members of society.

Breakfast and Hot Lunch

Deron participates in the National School Lunch Plan and Breakfast Program. In conformity with the guidelines set down by the Bureau of Child Nutrition, well-balanced meals are available to students.

Encouraging Positive Student Behavior

Deron's approach to behavior management and discipline includes positive reinforcement of acceptable behaviors. Teachers use behavior modification tech-



niques in the classrooms. Realistic and attainable goals are developed throughout the school year.

Expectations

Students at the Deron Schools are viewed as individuals with potential. It is the goal of the program that students attain their highest possible level of achievement. Although the first priority is the acquisition of essential material and procedures, students with greater capabilities are encouraged to attain higher levels with movement toward less restrictive placements where appropriate.

Extended School Year

ESY programs, available at both the elementary and high school levels, give students the opportunity to continue their educational program,



uninterrupted, through-out the summer months. While fulfilling requirements of a student's IEP, this program allows for continuity and retention of academic skills.

Students are challenged and motivated through individualized academic instruction, physical education, swimming lessons, field trips, speech and language therapy, and classes in arts & crafts, music, cooking and gardening.

The Behavior Management program is consistent with the full year experience and is incorporated into all facets of the student's daily schedule. As during the regular school year, breakfast and hot lunch programs are available. All instructional classrooms are air-conditioned.

The Extended School Year program offers an array of transitional activities in community experience, recreational outings and career awareness.



Staff includes year-round administrators, teaching and support personnel, as well as other activity leaders who contribute to making this program successful.

Administration, Faculty, Staff & Support Services

The Deron Schools are proud of their heritage as a family-operated school, founded and grown through commitment, dedication and vision to

best serve the needs of students with disabilities, embracing the diversity of all members of our overall Deron Schools family.

Each school is staffed with a Director, a full-time Principal and numerous support personnel. With fully certified Teachers of the Handicapped, Speech Therapists, Prevocational Specialists, Physical Education Teachers, Social Workers and School Nurses, a team approach is employed with

every member participating in the overall educational and developmental process. Teacher Assistants complement the faculty, providing a student/staff ratio that affords greater individualized attention.

In-service workshops keep faculty and staff members up-to-date with new developments in education and related areas. In addition, Deron maintains an ongoing professional relationship with several post-secondary schools (i.e. Seton Hall University, Montclair State University & Kean University), offering practicum/student teacher placements.

Social Workers are employed full-time at both schools and act as liaisons with parents and district Child Study Teams. They communicate regularly with students, providing direction and guidance in both social and academic areas. Students receive counseling on an as-needed basis. Social Workers also coordinate long-term planning with our staff and Child Study Teams, and are available to assist parents in establishing communication with appropriate social agencies and support services.

Certified Speech/Language Therapists eval-

uate, plan and carry out corrective techniques for students who exhibit speech, language or hearing impairments. Therapy is provided in both individualized and small group settings for those referred by their child study teams.

School Nurses are available full-time in up-to-date health offices at both schools. They supervise all medical and first-aid care, including the dispens-



ing of medications and care of students with seizure disorders, asthma and other health needs. Student growth and development is carefully monitored. Deron provides testing/screening for vision, hearing, blood pressure, scoliosis and tuberculosis, with dental evaluations conducted by the New Jersey Foundation of Dentistry. In addition, nurses work with the faculty to design and implement health and safety education for students.

Physical and Occupational Therapy services are contracted by the district Child Study

Teams for those students whom they determine to be in need of therapy. Deron provides an appropriate setting and supplementary equipment to facilitate these services.

Eligibility of Students and Admission Procedures

The Deron Schools are designed for students ages five to twenty-one, classified Eligible for Special Education and/or Related Services (ESERS). Offering programs for Multiple Disabilities and Language and/or Learning Disabilities, Deron accommodates students in various eligibility categories.



Referrals to the schools are accepted from Child Study Teams, parents, psychologists, social workers and physicians.

All admission and placement inquiries should be referred to the Director at each school.

It is requested that all previous evaluations, psychological, educational, physical, social history, and other reports be submitted at time of application. If it appears that our program may be appropriate, an interview will be arranged with parents, the child and the Child Study Team. On the basis of the evaluations, reports and interview, a decision will be made to determine if the Deron program meets the needs of the student.

A student is never refused admittance on the basis of race, creed or national origin.

Upon entering the school, the student's program is designed to reflect the Goals and Objectives set forth in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Once a child is accepted into the program, transportation is provided and arranged for by the local sending district. Deron staff supervises all school arrivals and departures.

The Deron I Elementary Program: Great Beginnings

Students ages 5-14 are provided with a well rounded program that promotes academic



achievement, interpersonal skills and social development. Components of the program include:

- **Activities** to develop conceptual knowledge, perceptual skills, and fine and gross motor coordination.

- **Academics** with curricula in Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Physical Education/Health. All curricula are developed in accordance with New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

- **Music** classes, including singing, listening skills, movement, music history, creative activities and instrumental instruction.

- **Art** classes that help develop fine motor skills, include the use of scissors, tracing and painting, color and shape discrimination and the opportunity for self-expression using various modalities.

- **Workshop** class where students learn to exercise positive job-related work habits, behaviors and skills while receiving an orientation to the workplace and exposure to a variety of work experiences. A broad range of activities encompasses development of production skills, a hands-on approach to daily living skills and practical job experiences within the school.

- **Peer Tutoring** provides lower functioning students with extra assistance in all subject areas. Higher functioning peers tutor one-to-one or in



small-groups, encouraging academic achievement and providing social interaction.

- **Clubs/Enrichment** provide extra curricular activities including sports, art, music, chess, cooking, newspaper reporting, painting and crafts. These activities support and enhance basic concept development while providing the opportunity for social interaction.

DERON II's High School Program: Learning to Meet the World Head On

Deron II's Academic and Employment Orientation Programs offer students ages 13-21 opportunities to develop concept awareness, abilities and skills relevant to productive, independent living. There are classes in academic subjects, pre-vocational areas, daily living skills and employment orientation.

- **Academic classes** include essential Mathematics (time, money management, basic operations and measurement), Language Arts (basic reading skills, writing skills, functional reading



vocabulary and enjoyment through recreational reading), and Science and Social Studies (relevant topics such as current events and the environment). All curricula are developed in accordance with New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards.

- **Employment Orientation** instruction concentrates on providing job readiness skills, job seeking skills, awareness of routine employment practices and development of a responsible work

ethic. Students are instructed in organizational skills, time management, interpersonal relations, employee-employer relations, appropriate workplace appearance, completion of job applications and interviewing procedures.

- **Pre-Vocational classes** offer hands-on experience in *woodworking, sewing, food service* and *industrial production*. While developing skills in these areas, emphasis is placed on application of appropriate job-related behaviors and practices as taught in the Employment Orientation classes.

- **Daily Living Skills** are taught in classrooms, in the community and in a simulated apartment within the school building. In addition to learning about personal health, hygiene, grooming and safety, students practice appropriate social interaction to enhance self-esteem. Students have the opportunity to practice housekeeping skills, and are introduced to community resources and facilities which can help them cope successfully beyond the home setting.

- **Classes in Art, Music and Physical Education** provide opportunities for students to



develop their talents while exploring these areas as potential sources of recreation. In addition to instructional classes, students are given the opportunity to participate in school performances, artistic demonstrations, art exhibits and intramural/interscholastic athletic competitions.

- **Enrichment Classes** provide for in-depth study in the various pre-vocational, phys-ed and arts classes, with placement determined by the student's preference and teacher recommendation.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities** such as field trips, guest speakers, Student Council, social



dances, student programs and school assemblies round out the Deron II Program.

- **The Behavior Management Program** provides students with a structured set of behavior guidelines which allows them to develop behaviorally, socially and emotionally through consistent reinforcement of appropriate behavior. Recognition, through a structured rewards system leads to greater self-discipline enhancing self esteem. Strengthening these skills helps students to be successful and productive.

- **Transition** activities are based upon individual student's needs, interests and abilities. A wide variety of transition services, designed to meet the diverse needs of students, incorporate the following:

- Work Experiences
- In-house job placements with experience in the process of interviewing and hands-on training
- Job touring, sampling and shadowing through the Residency Program with Liberty Science Center
- Shared-Time Placements with county Vocational-Technical Schools, Occupational and Vocational Training Centers
- Supervised Community-Based Work Placements

Community Experiences

- Practical application of classroom instruction, exploring stores, restaurants, etc.
- Travel Training (public transportation, navigation, pedestrian safety)



- ▶ Community Service Outreach Program (senior-care facilities, charitable organizations)

Linkages with:

- ▶ Summer Youth Employment & Training
- ▶ Agencies
- ▶ Summer Camp Programs
- ▶ Adult service providers and governmental agencies to facilitate student's transition to young adulthood



Parental Involvement and Rights

Parents play an integral role in the development of our students. They are informed of progress on a regular basis through written reports and personal and telephone conferences. Parents are invited to Open Houses and many special events throughout the year, and are encouraged to visit at any time on an individual basis.

A major role of Deron School is to assist the parents in understanding the goals and objectives of the educational program and their relationship to the growth of their child.

Under New Jersey State law, parents of disabled children have special rights. They are, in brief:

If you think your child has a disability, you have:

The right to have your child fully tested by your school district, at no cost to you.

The right to see the results of this testing and all other records about your child.

The right to have your school district consider the reports of people outside the district who have tested your child.

The right to a Written notice of the district's decision about your child's disability and the reason for the decision.

If your child has a disability, you have:

The right to a free, appropriate public education for your child.

The right to have your child educated in a setting which is as "normal as possible."

The right to have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) written for your child.

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