



## **DERON I**

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*Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
A member of The Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey*

# THE DERON

SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY, INC.



Founded 1967  
[www.DeronSchool.org](http://www.DeronSchool.org)

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## Deron I Union

1140 Commerce Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083

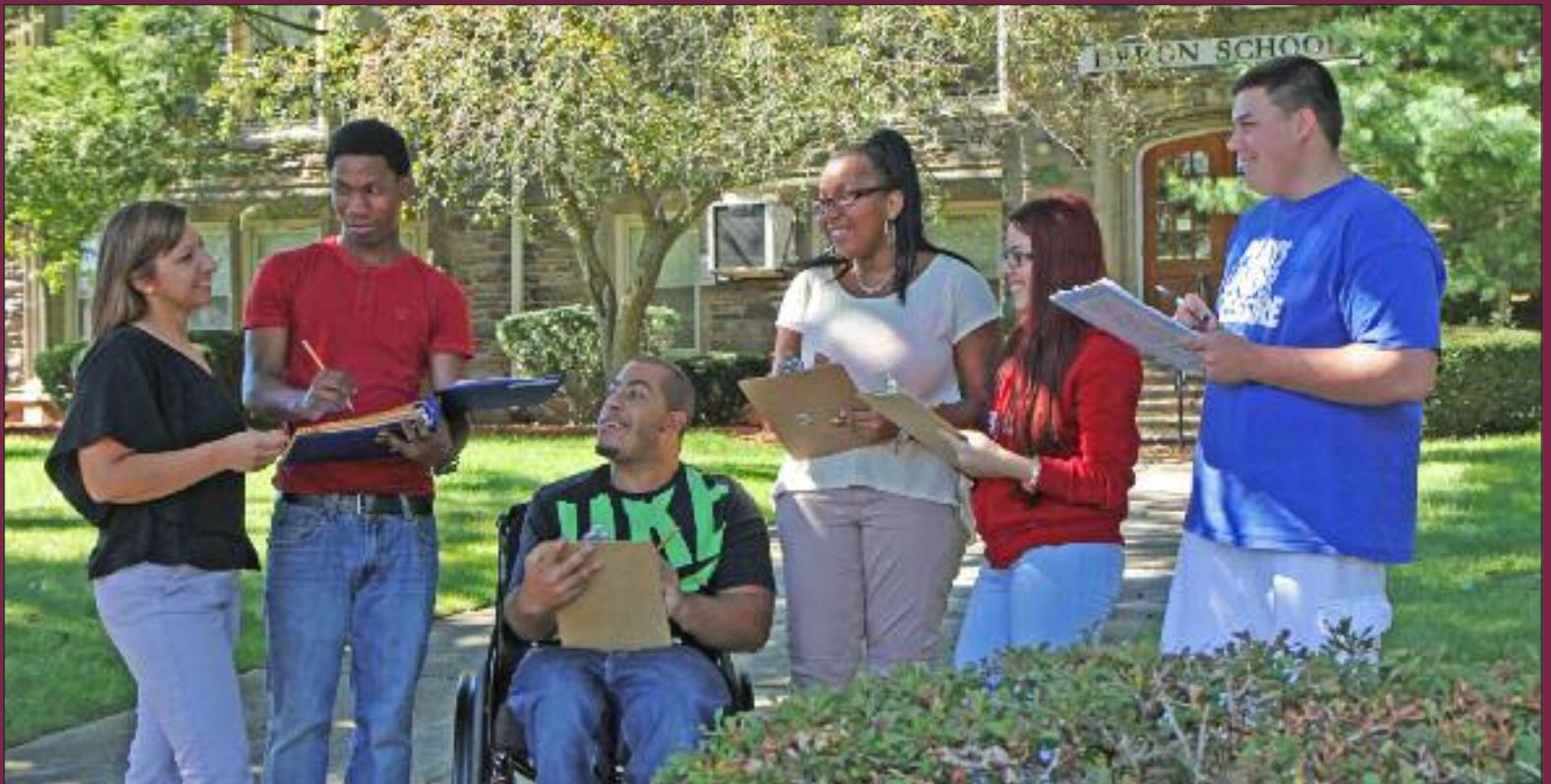
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## Deron II Montclair

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The Deron School of NJ, Inc. serves students with special needs ages 5-21 on one of two campuses: Deron I - Union and Deron II - Montclair. As a New Jersey Department of Education approved private day school for students classified Eligible for Special Education and/or Related Services (ESERS), students come from counties throughout New Jersey. Quality programs are tailored for students in all eligibility categories including students on the autism spectrum.

Deron is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the Council of Private Schools for Children with Special Needs, The Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey, as well as ASAH, an association of schools and agencies serving the special education community.



THE DERON SCHOOL

MONTCLAIR • UNION

STOP

# Mission Statement

The mission of The Deron School is to provide a comprehensive school experience within a warm, supportive, structured learning environment that empowers students to reach their highest level of independence and achievement. Deron prepares students with disabilities to lead successful, productive lives, allowing them to become contributing members of their community. Our students discover talents, cultivate strengths, conquer challenges and fulfill dreams.

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# The Deron School of New Jersey

## Our Story

More than forty years ago The Deron School was founded by Ron and Diane Alter. As young professionals working with children with multiple disabilities, they realized that the educational programs offered in public schools were not meeting the needs of these children. Ron and Diane decided to launch a unique educational institution with a nurturing, structured environment where children with learning disabilities could experience academic success and reach their full potential. The school first opened its doors with a single student in a one-room program. Since then, Deron has grown to two campuses offering programs that meet the needs of elementary through high school students with learning disabilities. As The Deron School moved forward and expanded, family members Eric, Kenneth and Lori have joined Ron and Diane in their commitment to maintaining the high standards of this innovative program.

## The Keys to Our Continued Success

The Deron School provides comprehensive programs that enable academic, social and emotional growth for each child. A variety of programs are offered to meet each child's specific needs. We believe that tailoring the educational program is paramount to success at The Deron School and beyond. The review of each student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is an ongoing process involving students, parents/guardians, teachers and the Child Study Team.

## Curriculum & Instruction

Academics are a priority at The Deron School. Research-based curricula is aligned with Common Core and NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. A variety of curricula are used to meet the needs of our students' varied abilities and educational levels. Small classes with high staff to student ratios ensure individual attention and active participation. Content areas include English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, 21st Century Life and Careers, Science, Technology, Health and Physical Education as well as Visual and Performing Arts. A variety of assessments are used to develop the pace and direction of a student's educational program.

Many technologies and applications are used throughout the school. Classrooms are equipped with desktop and laptop computers, SmartBoards, JTouch boards and iPads. Programs are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure students are afforded the use of the most up to date technological advances.

We are committed to providing our staff with ongoing training and professional development needed to keep abreast of current teaching methods, strategies and educational resources.

## Exploring Talents and Interests

Deron offers a variety of stimulating activities for students to explore and develop their personal interests and talents. Enrichment programs provide students with the opportunity to participate in Art, Music, Workshop, Woodworking, Sewing, Computer Graphics, Drama, sports, cheerleading, and other recreational activities.

There are numerous opportunities for students to participate in fun-filled social events as well as extracurricular activities. During the school day students can participate in Student Council, cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, swimming, spelling bees, science and social studies fairs, student craftsman fairs, drum ensemble, the school play and concerts. Monthly after school socials provide students with the opportunity to interact with their peers in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Students at both campuses participate in the Community Service Program and experience the rewards of serving others through outreach projects and in-school and community-based programs. Students participate in activities that foster community involvement and good citizenship, encouraging them to become responsible members of society.

## Encouraging Positive Student Behavior/ ABA techniques and strategies

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a process of studying and modifying behavior and it is changing the face of education throughout the world. The Deron School incorporates the latest advances in this science by using many student driven methods under the umbrella of ABA. Strategic methods of positive reinforcement are utilized to increase positive behaviors. Realistic and attainable goals are developed throughout the school year and modified as often as needed by a Behavior Analyst.

### ABA AT DERON

- Naturalistic teaching
- Verbal behavior techniques
- Fluency-based instruction
- Pivotal response training
- Positive behavior interventions
- Discrete trial teaching



ON HIGH SCHOOL  
ERS  
TIGERS  
VARSITY  
VOLLEYBALL  
PRIVATE SCHOOL  
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS  
2009

TIGERS  
46  
BONUS  
6:57  
GUEST

EXIT

Athletics



## Staff and Support Services

The Deron School is proud of its heritage as a family-operated school committed to meeting the needs of students with disabilities. The school's staff of certified and licensed professionals is dedicated to providing students with the tools they need to learn and grow. Every member of the Deron team participates in the educational and developmental process. Teacher Assistants complement the faculty by providing individualized attention in the classroom and throughout all daily activities.

Faculty and staff keep up to date on current developments in education and related fields by attending in-service workshops. In addition, Deron maintains ongoing professional relationships with post-secondary universities such as Seton Hall and Kean, offering practicum and student teacher placements at the school.



## RELATED SERVICES

- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Therapists
- Counseling
- ABA Therapy

## Parental Involvement

Our services extend beyond the classroom, in that we work with families to help them understand all aspects of their child's experience at Deron. Parents are kept informed of academic, social and behavioral growth of their child through regular communication. Parents are invited to attend many special events throughout the year. We also pride ourselves on our "open door" policy and welcome parents to visit Deron at any time.



## Deron I-Union

Serving students ages 5-21

# Building Skills for Tomorrow

All students at Deron are working towards achieving their highest level of independence through tailored programs, participation in Community Based Instruction and individualized positive reinforcement. Community Based Instruction (CBI) is a nationally recognized umbrella term defined as: sustained and repeated instruction that takes place in the community rather than in the school building. CBI is a research-based instructional methodology used to provide “real life” opportunities to teach Common Core and NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. We believe that even our youngest learners need to participate in CBI in order for them to reach their greatest potential.

We emphasize social skills and character development with our entire student body throughout all curricula. Some of our specialized programs include Great Beginnings, PLUS and Prep.

## Great Beginnings

The “Great Beginnings” collaborative service delivery model can outperform traditional methods for serving students with autism, language-learning disorders and a range of other disabilities. In collaborative service delivery, the behavior analyst is an integral member of a team consisting of educators, the speech and language pathologist, occupational therapists, physical therapists, parents, and the student. Team members work together to formulate an individual educational program for each student. The team devises all treatment goals, testing methods, intervention plans and data systems to enhance the student's academic and social functioning in the school environment. All team members are aware of the student's entire curriculum, and typically share responsibility for specific educational goals. Together we help our students discover talents, cultivate strengths, conquer challenges and fulfill dreams.



## PLUS

The PLUS Program is designed for students ages 14-21. This unique program offers the benefits of a traditional high school program infused with strong daily living skills and prevocational components. In addition to subject areas addressed in a traditional classroom setting, Community-Based Instruction provides hands-on experiences in the school and the surrounding community.

During the first phase of the prevocational program, students work within the school setting. Using this approach students gain the skills needed to participate in Structured Learning Experiences (SLE) where they go out to work for a portion of the day shadowed by a Deron School Job Coach. While they begin as unpaid learning experiences, many students are eventually offered paid positions. Some of our community partners include Stop & Shop, Walgreens and Kean University.

## PREP

High school students who require a more rigorous academic program have the option to continue on to the Montclair campus after completing one full year in our "preparatory" program. Over the course of the year Prep students work towards completion of their high school requirements, take part in Community-Based Instruction and all other activities at the Union campus. Our team of social workers, teachers and administrators make every effort to ensure that students and their families are able to make a smooth transition to the Montclair campus.

### The PLUS Program

- P**reparing for the future
- L**earning employment skills
- U**nderstanding our community
- S**ocial skills development





## Deron II-Montclair

Serving students ages 14-21

# Preparing to Meet the World Head On

Deron offers a well-rounded program for learning disabled students ages 14-21. The program emphasizes the development of skills for independent living and career preparation while building academic, social and interpersonal skills.

Small class sizes with a high staff to student ratio facilitate effective individual and small group instruction. In accordance with their academic abilities and interpersonal skills, students are placed in one of two programs. In our traditional high school program, students switch classes for different subject areas. Students in self-contained classes receive all academic instruction from one teacher and travel to their special subjects like Art, Music and Gym as a group. Each successive level encourages greater independence.

The academic program for all students meets the graduation requirement of the New Jersey Department of Education. In addition to Math, English Language Arts, History, Science, Social Studies, Health and Physical Education, students take classes in Fine Arts, Food Service, Life Skills and Transition. They can choose electives and enrichment courses that provide for more in-depth study and additional skill development.

Athletic programs include volleyball, softball, basketball, soccer and cheerleading. Visual and Performing Arts include vocal ensembles, drama, fine arts, textiles and woodworking. Students may participate in Student Council and other school-wide events such as dances and after school socials.

Shared-time placements are available. Deron offers a half-day program, with some students participating in one of the county's vocational-technical programs for the remainder of the school day. Others attend Deron on a part-time basis, spending two or three days a week at the school and the remainder of the week at a facility for job training development.



## PACE

Many students ages 18-21 choose to continue their education to gain additional employment skills. These students are afforded the opportunity to participate in our PACE program. The PACE team works closely with students and parents, sending districts, employers and service providers to successfully ensure each individual's ability to live as an independent adult and retain long-term employment.

All students receive Support Services including Counseling, Physical, Occupational and Speech & Language Therapy as directed in their Individualized Education Plans.

Our unique school-wide behavior management program provides students with a structured set of guidelines and positive reinforcement to help them achieve behavioral, social and emotional goals. Throughout the process, prompts are faded slowly enabling students to gain life long skills and learn independence.

### The PACE Program

- P** rovider agency linkages
- A** chievement of academic potential
- C** onnection to community opportunities
- E** xperiences in appropriate work settings



## Transition

# Working for Today, Tomorrow and Beyond

Transition begins when a student enters Deron and continues throughout his or her school career. The program offers a multi-faceted approach, with all coursework and activities geared towards maximizing the individual's potential for independent, productive living. Activities based upon students' strengths, interests, needs and abilities are integrated throughout all areas of the school program.

## Community Based Instruction

Community Based Instruction (CBI) is a research-based instructional methodology used to provide "real life" opportunities to teach Common Core and NJ Core Curriculum Content standards. Deron is at the forefront of this movement as CBI is an integral part of our program. Students as young as age 5 have opportunities to practice self-help and daily living skills in the school building as well as in the surrounding community. Both campuses have a simulated apartment set up for students to practice skills such as cooking, laundering and housekeeping.

All students launch their "work careers" at Deron with in-school job placements. These positions provide students with opportunities to develop and practice good work habits and appropriate behaviors while also building skills that may be required for employment.

## Structured Learning Experiences

Education extends well beyond the classroom as students explore the community through Structured Learning Experiences (SLE). After developing the appropriate skill set through in-school jobs, students are able to go out to work in the community shadowed by a Deron School Job Coach to places like Walgreens, Stop & Shop, Kean University and Hackensack UMC Mountainside Hospital.

Structured Learning Experiences allow students the opportunity to apply what they've learned in the areas of travel training, retail exchanges, dining experiences and the use of public facilities and services. Sampling a variety of jobs helps students understand their own strengths and interests and prepares them to make a successful transition into the next phase of their lives.

Deron's social workers assist graduating students and their families with the important task of registering with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and/or the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS).



# Extended School Year (ESY)

## A comprehensive 30-day summer program

The Deron School offers Extended School Year (ESY) programs for students who are eligible to attend under the Federal Requirements of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). These programs are designed to stop regression and to help students maintain academic, social and behavioral growth over the summer. Every student with a disability under IDEA must be considered for ESY services.

In addition to their academic coursework, students participate in Physical Education, including structured and recreational swimming, daily living skills, Music, Art, Workshop, Woodcrafts, gardening and other outdoor experiences.

Students enjoy many opportunities for hands-on learning in our summer program through community experiences and field trips to a variety of destinations. Traditionally, ESY programs employ a school-wide theme with related activities and a culminating event.

During ESY, students continue to receive Related Services including Speech and Language Therapy, Counseling, Occupational and Physical Therapy. The behavior management program is consistent with what students have become accustomed to during the school year.

ESY enrollment is open to all eligible Deron students as well as students who attend other programs during the regular school year but may be seeking an extended program.



# Admission Process

Applicants are accepted throughout the school year. The admission process involves the following:

**Student Eligibility:** The Deron School's, Union campus serves students ages 5-21; the Montclair campus serves students ages 14-21 who are classified Eligible for Special Education and/or Related Services (ESERS). Our Multiple Disabled program accommodates students with a variety of disabilities including students on the autism spectrum.

**Referrals:** Students are referred to The Deron School by child study teams, directors of special services, parents, social workers, psychologists, physicians and a variety of other agencies. Monthly open houses provide opportunities to tour the facilities and gather information about our various programs. Please call or check our website at [www.DeronSchool.org](http://www.DeronSchool.org) for upcoming open house dates.

**Intake/visit:** Prior to an intake, Deron requests all available reports including a current IEP, all pertinent medical information, current levels of academic functioning and/or other input and evaluations from the student's previous teachers, therapists or doctors. If it appears that one of the Deron programs is appropriate for the student, an interview will be arranged for the child, parents and child study team member.

**Acceptance:** A joint decision will be made by both the applicant and Deronl personnel based on the interview, evaluations and reports to determine if the placement is appropriate.





# Parental Rights

Under New Jersey state law, parents of disabled children have special rights.

*If you think your child has a disability, you have the right to:*

- Have your child fully tested, free of charge by your school district
- See the results of this testing and all of your child's records
- Have your school district consider the reports of individuals outside the district who have tested your child
- Receive 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 are entitled to:*

- A free, appropriate public education for your child
- Have your child educated to the maximum extent appropriate in the general curriculum
- Have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) created for your child

*Please contact either campus for a complete copy of the Parental Rights in Special Education (PRISE) publication.*