

Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Newark

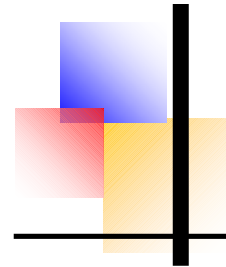
Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System

Mount Carmel Guild Schools

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MOUNT CARMEL GUILD SCHOOLS

Private Schools for Students with Disabilities



"Believe and Succeed"

The **Mount Carmel Guild Schools Corporation** is an affiliated corporation of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. Our two special education schools are approved by the State of New Jersey as Private Schools for Students with Disabilities.

Mount Carmel Guild School and Preschool, located in Bloomfield, NJ, serves children ages 3-7 who are eligible for special education and related services. The school emphasizes the education of significantly handicapped children through intensive related services (speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy).

Mount Carmel Guild Academy, located in West Orange, NJ, serves children in grades K-12 with a behavioral disability educational classification. The Academy emphasizes vocational preparation for older students.

Both schools serve students with Autism Spectrum Disorders using the principles and methods of Applied Behavioral Analysis. Students are provided with a highly structured program that focuses on the development of interpersonal / social skills, speech and language skills, self-help and job skills.



ACTIVITIES

Throughout the school year, students are provided with opportunities to participate in activities outside of the school. Activities include bowling, ice-skating, roller-skating; and trips to The Newark Museum, the Yogi Berra Museum at Montclair State University, NJ PAC, and the PNC Bank Arts Center. Participating in these outings gives students the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities outside of the classroom.

ADMISSIONS

Students are referred by their home school districts for enrollment at the **Academy**. Administrative and clinical staff reviews referral materials for prospective students. If appropriate for the school, a student is invited for an intake interview, along with his or her parent / guardian and child study team case manager. Following the intake interview, prospective students are invited to return to the **Academy** for a one-day trial visit. If all is successful, an offer of acceptance is then extended to the parent and child study team.

With the development of more effective coping and interpersonal skills, students will become less easily distracted during the learning process. As students experience increased academic and behavioral success, they become stronger candidates to be considered for return to their home districts or a less restrictive environment.

TECHNOLOGY

The **Mount Carmel Guild Schools** design their curriculum to include consistent exposure to a range of media. Computer use allows students the opportunity to learn and understand the intricacies of contemporary technology. Each classroom uses audio equipment with individual head sets to individually expose children to a broader spectrum of language use.

The use of computers and the internet at the Schools helps to bridge the “digital divide” and allows students from various backgrounds to access knowledge and acquire skills needed in modern society.

Education becomes more interesting for students as graphics and video are incorporated into instruction. Computer simulations provide students with the means to explore novel environments. Students enjoy the high level of interactivity, which positively impacts their motivation to study.

Through the use of distance learning, students are able to experience a variety of out-of-school activities without leaving the building. Museums and other Locations throughout the United States allow the students to experience a wide range of educational opportunities.

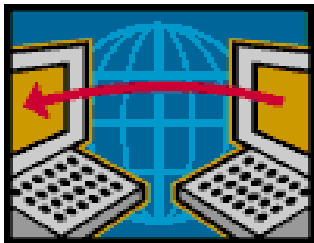


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MOUNT CARMEL GUILD SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL

PURPOSE

The purpose of the **Mount Carmel Guild School and Preschool** is to stimulate academic interest and improve behavioral control for disabled children, aged 3-7, who are autistic and / or cognitively delayed. It provides a highly structured school program through learning experiences and therapies and by providing support services for parents.

Educational program

Our Preschool-Primary School is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education for children ages three through seven for special education and related services. Established in 1995, the education program follows the Core Curriculum Content Standards and is taught using a developmental approach and ABA discrete trials.

The Preschool-Primary Program provides customized educational programs for children with autism and for those classified as preschool disabled with one-to-one support in the following areas:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Play Therapy
- Nursing – pediatric nurse with a specialty in acute care.

Referrals and admission inquiries may be made to 973-639-6622.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The **Mount Carmel Guild Schools** engage the parents of students to help ensure their children's success in the program. This engagement occurs through:

- A Fall “meet and greet” for parents to meet each teacher and therapist involved in their children's education
- Daily communication between teachers and parents via a notebook carried in the children's backpack
- Parent-Teacher conferences twice a year
- Accessibility of the school nurse to discuss health-related matters
- Availability of teachers, therapists, and social workers for phone and in-person consults upon request
- Issuing of progress reports and report cards

Parent meetings are held regularly to provide the necessary tools to foster children's social, emotional, and academic growth. Parents are afforded the opportunity to exchange ideas and join a network of caretakers faced with the challenges of rearing children with special needs.



TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION

The **Mount Carmel Guild Academy** helps its older students with career development, employment preparation, independence, and integration into the workplace and community. The educational program in grades nine and ten focuses on the traditional high school academic classes as well as providing exposure once a week to a variety of potential vocational areas including: culinary arts, building trades, advanced arts, advanced computers.

The educational program in grades eleven and twelve segues from the traditional academic program to provide more focused transitional opportunities in the previously mentioned vocational areas. Students select one or more of the advanced classes and seniors, whose schedules allow, may take one of the classes for a double period four days a week.

The Academy provides off-site supervised job sampling for high school seniors at community businesses. The job sampling includes opportunities in restaurants, janitorial services, nursing, automotive maintenance, child care, retail services, and recreational arts and crafts.



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Medically Compromised Children

Mount Carmel Guild School and Preschool provides inclusive care for medically compromised children with chronic illnesses:

- medical care (tube feedings, medication),
- accessing sound medical advice, and
- addressing issues that can be a distraction to learning.

The nurse assist s parents in making medical appointments, answer health questions, and discuss concerns and treatment.

Speech and Language Therapy

Speech-language specialists are licensed by the New Jersey Department of Education and hold Certificates of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Speech and language evaluation and therapy services address receptive and expressive language skills, augmentative communicative skills, oral motor therapy, apraxia, and feeding therapy. Therapy is individualized to meet the specific needs of each child. Our approach is one of total communication, utilizing each child's strengths to increase his or her ability to be an effective communicator and a successful classroom student.



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Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy is provided by therapists certified by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy and licensed by the State of New Jersey. OT evaluations are performed by therapists in the referring school districts. The duration and frequency of therapy sessions at the **Mount Carmel Guild School and Preschool** are based on the recommendations contained in these evaluations.

Our occupational therapists create individualized treatment plans to address the specific needs of each child. Plans focus on improving visual-motor skills and neuromuscular skill to facilitate success in classroom work. Therapists use a variety of treatment techniques with a focus on sensory integration.

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy is provided by certified therapists licensed by the State of New Jersey. PT evaluations are performed by therapists in the referring school districts. The duration and frequency of physical therapy sessions are based on the recommendations contained in these evaluations.

Physical therapists create individualized treatment plans to address the specific needs of each child. Plans focus us on improving sensory motor development, gait and mobility training, and gross motor skills.

COUNSELING AND BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS

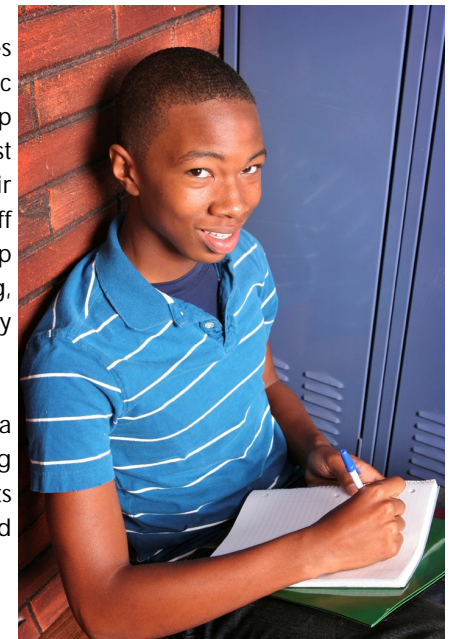
The **Mount Carmel Guild Schools** provide a therapeutic environment that encourages and fosters the full development of each student's potential. Positive and appropriate behaviors are recognized and reinforced within each program. Each school implements a behavior management system that promotes optimum social, emotional, and educational growth and development. The system has been designed to be appropriate to the developmental level of the students in each school.

Through a token economy, students' positive behaviors are rewarded to increase the frequencies of these behaviors.

Throughout the **Mount Carmel Guild Schools**, the behavior management system is intended to create within each student an internal desire to achieve as well as to instill a sense of personal pride.

School Social Work services provide a strong therapeutic component and help develop intervention strategies to assist students in managing their behavior. Our professional staff provide individual and group counseling, family counseling, and mobilize needed community resources.

Music Therapy provides a supportive, non-threatening environment to help students address cognitive, physical, and social / emotional needs.



AUTISM EDUCATION

The Educational experience for students is determined by Individual Education Plans. Functional activities are designed so that the child will successfully develop the physical skills and abilities to function independently within the school and his / her environment. The program for students with Autism includes:

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). The principles of ABA are used to teach readiness skills, receptive and expressive language skills, academic skills, independent living and self-help skills.

Discrete Trial Training is the first behavioral training modality created specifically for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This is a very structured and repetitive teacher / trainer-directed teaching modality that breaks target skills down into discrete steps.

The Sensory Integration / Life Skills Room provides students with the appropriate environment to develop daily living skills.

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) provides visual communication techniques to help non-verbal and pre-verbal students communicate.

Social Stories are an effective way to teach social awareness, to problem-solve interpersonal conflicts, and to understand social rules.



Play Therapy

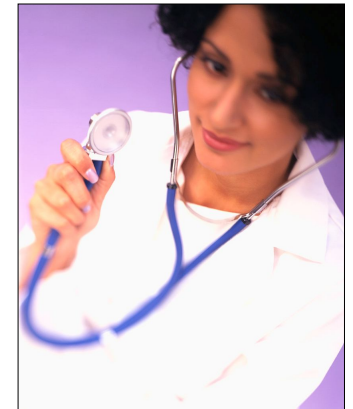


Play therapy is a form of counseling used to help young children express themselves non-verbally. Young children are often unable to express their feelings, fears, or concerns using words. Through the process of play therapy, a therapist gains insight into how children view their world. Children are able to work through stresses and gain a sense of mastery over them. Play therapy is based on the theory that children who are able to express apprehension through play and have an adult help them understand those concerns, disruptive or disconcerting behavior will decrease. The child will be happier and able to cope with everyday experiences.

Nursing Services

Nursing staff at Mount Carmel Guild School and Preschool provide:

- Administration of medication
- Emergency care
- Care for sick children
- Parent education
- Infant / toddler CPR training for staff



MOUNT CARMEL GUILD ACADEMY

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Founded in 1967, **Mount Carmel Guild Academy** (MCGA) moved to its current location in West Orange for the start of the 2003 – 2004 school year, after twenty-three years in Newark. Mount Carmel Guild Academy is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian, coeducational school offering a comprehensive program for learning and behaviorally disabled children in grades K through 12.

The school's 200-day program focuses on providing an educationally and clinically supportive environment for students between the ages of five and twenty-one. A certified teacher of the handicapped leads each class with the assistance of an instructional aide. Daily lesson plans reflect each student's IEP, which is collaboratively developed by the parent, child study team case manager and MCGA personnel. In addition, students are able to continue their academic and behavioral program in the summer by attending the MCGA Extended School Year program.

With the start of the 2006 – 2007 school year, classes for children classified with autism spectrum disorder were opened. Following the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis, each student works one-to-one with an adult, participating in discrete trial instruction, developing readiness skills, receptive and expressive language, pre-academic skills and skills of independent living.

All **MCGA** elementary / middle school classes are organized within a self-contained setting. Each class is led by a certified teacher with the aid of at least one instructional assistant. In addition to the full range of academic subjects, all students receive instruction in art, music, physical education, and social skills .

MOUNT CARMEL GUILD ACADEMY

Mount Carmel Guild Academy offers speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy to those students whose IEP indicates a need for such remediation. A certified Music Therapist conducts weekly sessions with each of the classes, which are intended to increase self-awareness, self-esteem as well as positive and appropriate peer interaction.

Students in grades 9 – 12 receive instruction within a departmentalized format and have the opportunity to explore potential careers in computers, fine arts, culinary arts, and building trades. Students can also participate in job sampling. Accompanied by a job coach, students are placed at actual work settings within the community where they have the opportunity to experience first hand a variety of potential places of employment.

All students participate in the school-wide Behavior Management System. Earning points for appropriate behavior and participation in academic activities, students work toward earning daily individual rewards in addition to a weekly all-school incentive. The System allows a student's behavioral progress to be objectively monitored. Coupled with the grades for academic work, student progress is reported to parents and child study teams through the report card.

Referrals and admission inquiries may be made to 973-325-4400 x 100.

