

Villa Maria School at Dulaney Valley

Educational Program Description

Location

Villa Maria School at Dulaney Valley is located at 2300A Dulaney Valley Road and 2600 Pot Spring Road in Timonium, Maryland 21093. The school's phone number is (667) 600 3100.

Target Population

As defined in COMAR, Type I full day and residential Special Education and related services program for girls and boys with emotional disabilities, multiple disabilities, and specific learning disabilities in a Nursery School (Ages 3 and 4), Kindergarten, Elementary School (Grades 1 through 8; ages 5-14). The school has the capacity for 108 students. The school is in session 12 months or 215 days a year. Related services offered are medical, testing, psychotherapy, speech and language therapy. Services provided at an additional cost are occupational therapy, and one-to one aide services. Staff employed to implement the Educational Program includes: director of education, principal, assistant principal, certified special educators, classroom assistants, one-to-ones, clinical supervisor, licensed counselors and social workers (therapists), speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, therapeutic and wellness manager, nurses, psychiatrists, behavioral specialists, school placement supervisor, IEP coordinator, coordinator of curriculum and assessment, office manager, and administrative assistants.

Supervision of this program is the responsibility of the Director of Education who reports to the Administrator who reports to the Division Director who reports to the Executive Director who then reports to the Board of Directors.

Related Services

Related services offered include medical, psychotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language. Staff employed to implement the educational program include certified special educators, classroom assistants, licensed counselors and social workers, a speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist,

behavioral specialists, nurses, psychiatrists, principal/education director, and administrative head.

The facility

The program is located at two separate sites, 2300A Dulaney Valley Road and 2600 Pot Spring Road. St. Vincent's Villa (a residential treatment center) is also located at the 2600 Pot Spring Road address where some of the students reside. The staff at the residential facility consists of unit directors, behavioral specialists, psychotherapists, residential treatment counselors, and milieu supervisors. The Pot Spring facility is a two-story building that has six units, one gymnasium, a health suite and therapy, and administrative offices. The school classroom is located near the gym and near the Behavioral Specialists' office.

The main school facility is a one-story brick building divided into two wings. Located in the right wing are five classrooms, art room, music therapy room, chill space area, therapist/school social worker offices, and the Media Center. Located in the left school wing are six classrooms, speech/language therapy room, sensory/OT room, therapist/school social worker offices, school placement office, food service room, chill space area, Health Suite, Administrator office, Behavior specialist office. Located between the two wings are the reception area, conference room, chart rooms, and administrative offices. A playground is located outside, and a gym is located next door at the Villa Maria facility.

In a separate building on the school campus is our Environmental Sciences Center where students learn about science, ecology, and therapeutic gardening.

Instruction

Villa Maria School at Dulaney Valley serves some of the students who reside at St. Vincent's Villa as well as day students who come from the surrounding counties and Baltimore City. This graded school provides a basic academic program, which consists of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, special subjects include art, music therapy, physical education, environmental sciences/therapeutic gardening, health, and swimming instruction (during the

summer), and the media center. Specific curriculum objectives are individualized to meet each child's individualized educational program goals and objectives as well as behavioral needs.

Statement of Purpose and Program Goals

The Villa Maria School at Dulaney Valley embraces a trauma-informed educational approach to learning and growth. The goals of the program are as follows:

- A. To return each student to the least restrictive educational setting as soon as possible in order to provide the most appropriate educational program.
- B. To provide an educational skills program geared to the students' zone of proximal development.
- C. To provide an educational skills program that increases competence and builds resilience in students who have experienced trauma.
- D. To build positive relationships with students and families to ensure the best interest of the child is at the center of all decision making.
- E. To provide a curriculum of education which enables the student to successfully:
 - Improve measurable achievement levels in reading, writing, and mathematics
 - Improve language, both oral and written
 - Increase awareness of immediate and large environment
 - Build greater capacities to cope with school behavioral expectations
 - Plan for and make use of recreational leisure time.

Academics are a strong component of Villa Maria School at Dulaney Valley. We view each student as a successful learner. The daily schedule, the curriculum, and the classroom composition are all planned with this in mind. Within each class, the teacher and assistant teacher are able to give students the attention and help he or she needs. Tactile and technology-enhanced materials of instruction engage students and support their growth in skills.

The children who attend our school have experienced trauma, struggled in traditional learning environments, have psychiatric diagnoses, and needs in the areas of social/emotional development and behavior. These struggles have

interfered with their ability to be a successful learner. Therefore, each child will have a therapist and a child psychiatrist to help support these concerns and so that the child can be more available for learning in the classroom.

Parents and staff comprise the educational and treatment team for each student. Team communication happens in a variety of formal and informal ways throughout the year.

The legal authority responsible for governing and operating the educational program is Associated Catholic Charities, Inc.

2/4/2025