

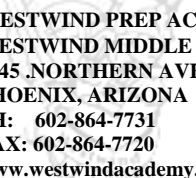
Westwind Children Services

Inclusive Education Philosophy

Westwind Children Services embraces the philosophy of full inclusion, believing that special education students can best be educated in the regular classroom. Our teachers accept responsibility for all students in their classroom and modify, accommodate and adjust teaching techniques and classroom activities to meet the unique learning abilities of all students. Special education staff supports the regular classroom teacher with this process. There are not two distinctly different types of students, e.g. “special” and “regular”. All students are individuals with their own unique set of physical, intellectual and psychological characteristics that influence their instructional needs. There are not two discrete sets of instructional methods – one set for “special” students and another for “regular” students. Individualized instructional programs are designed for each student.

Basic Beliefs and Expectations

- Inclusion is the underlying philosophy by which all students are educated.
- All students are educated with chronologically age appropriate peers.
- All students are educated full time in the general education classroom.
- All students learn and develop individually and the curriculum is modified or adapted to allow students to progress at their individual rates. Students are not penalized for the inability to progress at grade level.
- General education teachers assume responsibility to teach and meet the cognitive, affective and social needs of all students with special education teachers and staff providing support.
- Teaching strategies that facilitate the education of multi-level abilities in each class are used by all teachers (e.g. cooperative learning, project learning, mastery learning, curriculum compacting, independent projects, flexible groupings, learning centers, and teaching to learning styles such as visual, auditory and manipulative)



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