



Harvard Elementary School Primary Years Programme Special Educational Needs Policy

The mission of Harvard Elementary School, with the support of our community, is to empower each student with global awareness, knowledge, skills, and values necessary to make a better world.

At Harvard, we believe in shared responsibilities of students, staff and parents:

- All teachers and support staff model the International Baccalaureate (IB) Attitudes in their daily interactions with students, each other, and all members in the Harvard community. Teachers and support staff create an inclusive learning environment in the classroom and school to support all students in developing into IB Learners.
- All students participate in creating and establishing the classroom essential agreements and model attributes of the IB Learner Profile.
- All parents are invited and included to become partners with the school. Various opportunities exist to increase parental engagement.

Four Principles of Good Practice

1. Affirming identity and building self-esteem

The diverse affective needs of all students are affirmed and supported in various ways:

- ✓ Donovan Park field trip
- ✓ Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Expo
- ✓ On-line bullying prevention
- ✓ Enrichment programs – Musical Theater, Art, Spanish, Social-Emotional curriculum (Harmony and Restorative Circles)
- ✓ Literacy Night
- ✓ Awards Day

2. Valuing prior knowledge

The diverse educational background of all students is shared and utilized in building the foundation for new learning.

- ✓ Interest inventory
- ✓ Class discussion
- ✓ Wonder Wall
- ✓ Anchor charts
- ✓ Student portfolios

3. Scaffolding

Effective teaching strategies are implemented to scaffold challenging learning concepts and foster critical thinking skills.

- ✓ SMART Board technology
- ✓ Technology labs
- ✓ Peer buddies
- ✓ Manipulatives
- ✓ Small group activities
- ✓ STEM projects
- ✓ Exhibition
- ✓ Robotics and Coding
- ✓ Multimedia

4. Extended learning

Student learning is extended by combining high academic expectations with learner-centered practices through IB planners and extracurricular activities.

- ✓ Extended library hours
- ✓ Accelerated Reader
- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Math enrichment/Number sense
- ✓ Science enrichment
- ✓ Robotics/Multimedia

Support for students and teachers through the RTI process and 504/Special education services

Teachers provide differentiated instruction for all students. Student academic needs are identified and addressed using the Response to Intervention (RTI) model. There may be times when a student does not demonstrate adequate progress in spite of academic interventions. An Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) is a committee which serves as support for the learner. The IAT will convene to identify additional strategies or make a referral to determine eligibility for 504 or special education services.

Students who qualify for 504 services receive appropriate modifications and accommodations in the least restrictive environment, the regular classroom setting. Students who qualify for special education services receive academic instruction based on the Individual Educational Plan (IEP). Special education services are delivered in the inclusive learning environment or using the pull-out model.

Support for parents

Counseling services are provided at Harvard Elementary, along with the Adopt-a-Buddy program. Memorial Hermann Hogg Clinic is a free community resource for students at Harvard Elementary. In addition to the Hogg Clinic, our community resources include Family Services of Greater Houston, Legacy Community Health Services, Good Neighbor Healthcare Center and La Nueva Casa de Amigos.

Communication and Evaluation of Special Educational Needs Policy

The Special Educational Needs policy is available on the school website. It is reviewed annually by teachers, staff and parents.