



Our students walk into a warm embrace,
and walk out with the ability to embrace the world



AlphaSchool.com



HarborSchool.com



TheGatewaySchool.com



Welcome to Harbor School!

We thank you for visiting us and for considering our school for your child. As you educate yourself about the various options to best meet your child's educational needs, we want to highlight what sets us apart from other private school programs.

We believe that all parents want their children to be happy and feel safe at school. The staff at Harbor has extensive experience and the longevity to support each child to feel good about who they are and to promote positive interactions with their peers.

The student population at Harbor is quite diverse, as we work with children and youth who present with unique challenges. Our staff works as a team to develop highly individualized and dynamic academic programs incorporating therapeutic supports to meet each student's learning style to ensure successful progress.

We believe the key to our students' success lies in their motivation to work through their challenges and in our highly motivating activities and programs. Our music, art, and dance programs foster positive outlets for our children and enhance self-expression and creativity. We also strive to have each child use their strengths to support others and foster a true sense of community within our school program.

Each and every family whose children attend Harbor remain at the heart of our daily efforts. We seek to be a positive support to each family, to help them access resources for their child, and to connect them with other families as part of a broader community.

In the words of one of our parents, "Harbor is a place of shelter, embracing all who enter. Our students are docked in stability, given a safe haven, and held in highest esteem because of their worth as human beings, while recognizing their particular contributions and skills."

We look forward to sharing our school with you.

— Amy Brandon, Principal at Harbor School, Eatontown, NJ





Our Academic Program

Harbor School of Eatontown, New Jersey, operates as a private day school, approved by the New Jersey Department of Education, providing public school districts with an enhanced alternative program for students ages 3-21 with disabling conditions.

The program uses an individualized and holistic approach to meet the functional academic and behavioral needs of the most challenging students from sending districts.

Our academic program is aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and incorporates social, emotional, behavioral, and functional learning, in addition to the core content areas of language arts, math, science including STEM, and social studies. Our students also take part in courses in health, physical education, art, and music to complement the core classes.

Differentiated instructional strategies are practiced, and instruction is delivered through multiple approaches, including auditory, visual, tactile, and kinesthetic methods. We recognize that all students learn in multiple and various ways.



Subject Areas of Our Academic Program

Our academic/instructional subjects include:

- ✓ Computers
- ✓ Functional living skills
- ✓ Handwriting
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Language arts literacy
- ✓ Literacy and reading
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social studies
- ✓ World languages

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Certified teachers assisted by trained paraprofessionals provide individualized and small-group instruction in a small-class setting. A multisensory approach is used with individualized and modified techniques. A wide variety of materials are used to help the student reach his or her full academic potential.

Our Range of Standard Educational Programs and State-of-the-Art Programs

Our academic/instructional programs include:

- ✓ Discrete Trial Trainer
- ✓ Edmark Reading Program
- ✓ Handwriting Without Tears
- ✓ IXL
- ✓ Low Level High Interest materials
- ✓ PCI Reading Program
- ✓ Reading Milestones Program
- ✓ Spectrum Math
- ✓ Steck Vaughn materials
- ✓ Touch Point Math
- ✓ Unique Learning System/News-2-You
- ✓ Vizzle

Extended School Year

Our school recognizes that for many students, it is vital to continue their academic and social skill development year round. To address these needs, Harbor School offers a 30-day, full-day extended school-year program, available upon district approval, in order to continue the educational and support needs of a particular student.



We encourage you to visit our school's website often to stay informed about any updates or changes to our academic and other support services.



Our Career Education and Transition Program

Transition services at Harbor School are defined as a set of activities that are designed in an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-school activities. This includes community participation, independent living, integrated employment, and in-school activities. The transition plan is a vision of the student's future after graduation that is defined by the student with input from the parent, the school team, and community participants. We emphasize functional vocational education training with development of academic proficiencies.



Community-based Instruction (CBI)

CBI activities include:

- ✓ Food shopping
- ✓ Travel training
- ✓ Volunteering
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Job sampling/Structured Learning Experiences (SLEs)

Students are given the opportunity through Structured Learning Experiences (SLEs) to work at a local participating business that has agreed to partner with us. Our staff works closely with the personnel of each business prior to and during the job placement. Employment specialists (SLE instructor and/or job coach) from our staff accompanies each student to the job site to assist them in performing their required tasks. They also ensure appropriate interaction with coworkers, customers, and supervisors.

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Students have community-based SLEs at the following types of work sites:

- ✓ Chain stores
- ✓ Libraries
- ✓ Offices
- ✓ Plant nurseries
- ✓ Restaurants
- ✓ Retail stores



In-School Activities

In-school activities include:

- ✓ Activities of Daily Living (ADL) training
- ✓ Accessing vocational resources, such as Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and centers for independent living
- ✓ Classroom businesses held either daily or weekly
- ✓ Entrepreneurial businesses
- ✓ Employability skill development (resume writing, interviewing skills, job applications)
- ✓ In-school job and work safety training
- ✓ In-school Structured Learning Experiences (SLEs)
- ✓ Interest Inventories
- ✓ Prevocational instruction

We also seek out individual job opportunities based on student interest. The school staff is committed to assisting students in acquiring the skills that will enable them to live independently, be actively involved in their communities, and be able to find employment and the appropriate supports.



Our Creative Expression Programs

The creative expression programs at Harbor School are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic. Our integrated programs of dance, theater, music, and art are all keys that can unlock the fullest potential of each student. A strong emphasis is placed on self-expression through participation in a variety of highly motivating activities that enhance social skills development.



Dance and Theatre Program

Our dance program is taught by a certified dance instructor. This program is structured to encourage physical fitness, discipline, and self-expression, as well as an appreciation of music and movement.

We offer a full range of expressive dance techniques and instruction, including:

- ✓ Ballet
- ✓ Hip-hop
- ✓ Jazz
- ✓ Lyrical
- ✓ Tap
- ✓ Theatre

Art Program

Inspiration is the key for every artistic work produced in art class. Each student is given the opportunity to create their own style and use art as a means of expression.

Our art program includes exposure to different art styles, principles, and techniques. The art program was featured in "I Am an Artist," a film documentary that explores the world of children with disabilities. In this documentary, young adults gain confidence under the gentle guidance of their teacher.

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Music Program

Our music program is led by a board-certified music therapist. Group sessions are focused on increasing self-expression, socialization, and communication through activities such as rhythmic drumming, instrumental improvisation, music listening, movement songs, and songwriting.



Our music program includes:

- ✓ Adaptive music lessons
- ✓ Chorus
- ✓ Elementary and high school guitar
- ✓ Hand bells and tone bells
- ✓ Individual music therapy
- ✓ Voice class

Winter and Spring Shows

Each year, the expressive dance, theatre, music, and art skills our students have developed are featured in our winter and spring shows, in addition to other special events.



Our Behavioral Support Programs and Services

Harbor School strives to integrate a variety of behavioral support programs, treatments, and approaches that can provide a safe and nurturing educational environment. Our vision is that individuals with disabling conditions are entitled to a full and meaningful life. Our behavioral support programs seek to empower each student with skills for life, work, and recreation. We believe that every individual possesses the dignity and potential to contribute to a better world.

The range of behavioral health challenges and therapy support services are unique for each student. Therefore, your child's specific needs and challenges will be discussed in detail so that we can better ascertain what programs would work best for a particular student.

Here is the range of behavioral therapy programs we offer at Harbor School.

Behavioral Therapy Services

Application of Behavioral-based Interventions and Techniques

We use techniques to reduce and/or eliminate maladaptive behaviors, including:

- ✓ Aggressive behaviors
- ✓ Attention-seeking behaviors
- ✓ Destructive behaviors
- ✓ Non-compliant behaviors
- ✓ Self-injurious behaviors
- ✓ Stereotypical behaviors

Functional Behavioral Assessments

To ascertain the function or reason for problem behaviors, we use a variety of assessment tools, including:

- ✓ Direct observation
- ✓ Parent and staff interviews
- ✓ Review of records





- ✓ Screening tools
 - Functional Assessment Screening Tool (FAST)
 - Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC)
 - Functional Assessment Interview (FAI)

Collaboration With Instructional Staff & Related Service Professionals

We work with a variety of professionals, including:

- ✓ Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- ✓ Classroom and specials teachers
- ✓ Counselors
- ✓ Occupational therapists
- ✓ Physical therapists
- ✓ Speech therapists

Behavioral Intervention Plan Development

Based on the results of the Functional Behavioral Assessment, we develop a behavioral intervention plan. This plan describes the problem behavior, hypothesizes as to why the behavior occurs, and outlines positive intervention strategies.

Curriculum Development Based on the Needs of the Individual

We develop a curriculum that is tailored to the needs of each student. This curriculum is designed to help the student acquire skills, including:

- ✓ Academic skills
- ✓ Activities of daily living
- ✓ Community skills
- ✓ Functional communication
- ✓ Leisure and play skills
- ✓ Safety skills
- ✓ Social skills
- ✓ Vocational skills

Direct Staff Training

We train staff on a variety of behavioral topics, including:

- ✓ Data analysis to monitor and determine the effectiveness of interventions
- ✓ Design and implementation of data collection

Parent Assistance and Training

Parents are taught specific behavioral techniques to assist in the generalization of skills learned in school to the home and community environments.

Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) and Team Safety and Care

We utilize the non-violent crisis intervention program, which is a safe, non-harmful behavior management system designed to help staff provide for the best possible care, welfare, safety, and security of disruptive, assaultive, and out-of-control individuals – even during their most violent moments. Crisis intervention is a small segment of time in which staff members must intervene with another person to address a particular behavior.

Our School-Based Program

In collaboration with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC), we offer a school-based program. The goal of this program is to create a healthy environment for learning that promotes academic and life success for all of our students. UBHC and Harbor School partner to develop prevention and intervention strategies to meet this goal. This service, offered at no charge to the parents, allows us to better address the mental health and psychiatric needs of some of our more challenging developmentally disabled students.

The school-based program provides a range of free and confidential mental health services, including:

- ✓ Case management/referral services
- ✓ Crisis intervention
- ✓ Family counseling
- ✓ Individual counseling
- ✓ Medication management with child psychiatrist
- ✓ Staff consultation
- ✓ And more



A child psychiatrist visits once a week to meet with specifically identified families/ students for medication management. Our mental health clinician works collaboratively with the psychiatrist, staff, families, and students. Through this process students are observed, and teachers are advised. From there we develop a behavior plan, which monitors the student's progress. In addition, this program provides individual and family counseling and facilitates crisis intervention as needed to support the positive mental health of our students.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying are continuously monitored. We are specialists in investigating, reporting, and resolving any incidents of maltreatment.

Meet Some of Our Behavioral Support Staff

Kelly Eager-Zweig, BCBA

Kelly graduated from Northeastern University and earned a master's degree in Board Certified Behavioral Analysis (BCBA) at Georgian Court University. Kelly has been pursuing effective practices to educate students with autism for over 20 years. She has been a behavioral therapist for 9 years and a BCBA for over 5 years. Kelly has worked in private schools, public schools, and home therapy settings to reduce problem behaviors and increase functional and social skills.

Kelly has unique experiences that are an asset to Harbor School, as she is both a therapist and a parent of a son with autism. Through her collaboration with our instructional staff and related services, Kelly has proven to be an effective behaviorist.

Debra Shanin, MSW, School Social Worker

Debra provides individual and group counseling to Harbor students and works closely with all classroom teachers. She graduated with an MSW degree from NYU and brings almost 30 years of experience in the field of social work and human services.

Some of her specific focuses are providing counseling services for those students who are deemed appropriate. She provides individual counseling – utilizing talk therapy as well as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) – to each student and helps them reflect on the connection between their feelings and their behavior. She offers group counseling – using reality talk and board games – to enhance students' social skills in a peer environment.



Our Life Skills (Activities of Daily Living)

At Harbor School, life skills development is an integral part of the transition program we begin implementing when a student turns 14. Below are the main goals we strive to achieve with each student to the best of their abilities. Developing practical and functional living skills in order to prepare students to be future adults – whether in the home, community, or work environment – is key to their development.



Independent Living and Activities of Daily Living Objectives

Our life skills instruction has a variety of objectives, including:

- ✓ Communication and social skills
- ✓ Cooking, cleaning, and laundry skills
- ✓ Functional academics and reading
- ✓ Hygiene, health awareness, and nutrition
- ✓ Impulse control and coping strategies
- ✓ Managing home tasks, such as making a bed
- ✓ Organizational skills
- ✓ Overall daily living skills
- ✓ Problem solving and conflict resolution
- ✓ Self-advocacy
- ✓ Time and money management

Community-Related Life Skills Development

Our life skills instruction develops a variety of skills, including:

- ✓ Banking, debit card use, and check writing
- ✓ Familiarity with public transportation, travel training, and exposure
- ✓ Functional academics and reading, such as signs, prices, maps, and money use
- ✓ Shopping and purchasing
- ✓ Use of the public library



Preschool Program

At Harbor School, we strive to nurture and develop the essential needs of our younger students. The spectrum of our preschool program includes building up early literacy, daily living, social and emotional development, dressing, feeding, and toileting skills.



An Overview of the Harbor School Preschool Program

Our preschool program develops a variety of skills, including:

- ✓ Multiply Disabled classroom serving 3-5 year olds with multiple disabilities, Autism, and severe sensory needs
- ✓ Focus on communication, social interaction, orientation, mobility, and physical developmental needs
- ✓ Individualized learning experience aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards and geared specifically to each student's needs
- ✓ Multi-sensory instruction, minimal visual clutter, sensory stations, and adaptive technology
- ✓ Low lighting and distraction free areas
- ✓ Certified teacher to work with students with sensory impairments
- ✓ Intensive Speech/Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Behavioral support



Our Parent and Family Support

Our job is not complete unless we strive to support parents and families on an individual basis. We understand the challenges you face every day. Our goal is not only to serve our students during the day, but also to inform and educate the parents and families at home. Through education, workshops, and our website, we strive to build a stronger support system for all of our students.



Our School's Website

It is vital that each family stays in touch with the information we supply on our website, from our "Parent Resources" section to our ongoing monthly articles. In addition, as a child ages and begins a transition process, it is even more crucial that the families stay informed about the regulations, laws, and services that can be in place to better serve each child through the years.

Workshops

Throughout a given school year, we host a variety of workshops and seminars to better inform families of the complexities and challenges of raising a child with special needs.

Some of these workshops or seminars are presented by professionals in the field of special education. Others consist of families sharing their story to help one another.

Additional Support Components

We provide other types of parent and family support, including:

- ✓ Parent-teacher conferences
- ✓ Progress reports
- ✓ PTA-sponsored field trips
- ✓ Serving as a liaison with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), and other transition/adult agencies (such as PrimeTime Center)

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We Are There for You

Questions, concerns, feelings of being overwhelmed with options and choices ... these are all real-world challenges, and we work to provide the information you need to help your child over the years. At Harbor School, our teachers, therapists, and staff at all levels strive to complete your family support system to the best of our abilities.



Our Related Services

Harbor School's related services are an integral component of the educational team. We provide occupational therapy, physical therapy/adaptive physical education, speech therapy, and nursing services based on a child's IEP. We employ a collaborative model that utilizes current evidence-based treatment interventions. We strongly encourage home and school communication so that we can partner with families to design each child's individualized program.



Our related services include:

- ✓ Collaborative team meetings with classroom staff
- ✓ Collaborative use of physical, sensory, communication, and health strategies
- ✓ Coordination of services with sending districts
- ✓ Individual/small-group sessions
- ✓ Ongoing staff education to promote the well-being of our students
- ✓ Staff and parent training in specific techniques
- ✓ Utilization of a dynamic treatment model

Occupational Therapy

Our occupational therapy services include:

- ✓ Academic readiness skills
- ✓ Classroom seating and positioning for educational success
- ✓ Development of modifications for independence in handwriting/self-care
- ✓ Life skills
- ✓ Pre-vocational skills
- ✓ Self-regulation and coping skills
- ✓ Sensory motor, perceptual motor, and fine motor skills

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Physical Therapy/Adaptive Physical Education

Our physical therapy/adaptive physical education services include:

- ✓ Balance and strength training
- ✓ Functional mobility skills
- ✓ Home exercise programs as well as parent training
- ✓ Integration of activities such as swimming, cheering, and dance
- ✓ Integration of intramural sports
- ✓ Orthopedic concerns
- ✓ Training in gross motor coordination skills

Speech Therapy

We utilize a total communication approach to facilitate effective interactions with others.

Our speech therapy services include:

- ✓ Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC)
- ✓ Oral motor and feeding interventions
- ✓ Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS)
- ✓ Speech generating devices
- ✓ Verbalization, gestures, and sign language
- ✓ Voice Output Communication Aides (VOCA)

Nursing

Our nursing services include:

- ✓ Administering first aid, emergency care, and daily prescribed medications
- ✓ Completing annual health screenings
- ✓ Maintaining health and immunization records
- ✓ Providing parent support and guidance regarding student well-being
- ✓ Providing physical assessments (completed by a certified registered school nurse)
- ✓ Providing skilled nursing care
- ✓ Providing staff training in medical procedures and precautions



Social Skills Programs and Services

Our after school Social Skills Program provides students who require additional social skills programming after traditional school hours with a fun and engaging learning environment. Parents and guardians can feel comfortable knowing that their children are not only receiving professional academic support, but also interacting with their peers in a physically and emotionally safe environment. Students participate with their peers in structured and invigorating recreational and cooperative team-building activities that encourage social skills.



The Harbor School Social Skills Program is supported by classroom teachers and a group of paraprofessionals who are familiar with the students, their learning styles, and who can support their needs for social-emotional learning. Additionally, the Social Skills Program is in collaboration with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC), and their clinician, who add an additional layer of support and experience in helping our students develop the social and emotional skills needed for life in and out of school.

Which Students Are Eligible for Our After School Social Skills Program?

Eligibility for our after school Social Skills Program is based on measured progress (including progress reports, classroom anecdotal notes, and observations of the student's individual needs). The Harbor School staff consistently monitors students' behaviors, social skills, communication, academics, and self-help skills.

The IEP team should consider this program based on the student's individual needs regarding the development of behavior, social skills, communication, academics, and self-help skills. An analysis of the student's IEP goals and objectives may reveal that continued focus is needed, with an emphasis on generalization of skills. The IEP team should consider the educational and emotional performance that requires instruction and intervention beyond the typical school day. The students' participation in the after school program will allow for meaningful progress towards their IEP goals and generalization of skills.



Goals and Objectives of Our After School Social Skills Program

Goals and objectives of this program include:

Peer Relationships and Friendships

- ✓ Dealing with peer pressure
- ✓ Dealing with teasing/bullying
- ✓ Friendship management
- ✓ Getting attention in positive ways
- ✓ Introducing yourself appropriately
- ✓ Properly using the phone
- ✓ Sharing friendships

Conversational Skills

- ✓ Allowing others to join conversation
- ✓ Entering/exiting a conversation
- ✓ Flexibility of topic; continuing flow when the topic changes
- ✓ Greetings
- ✓ Staying on topic
- ✓ Taking turns in conversation; not interrupting others
- ✓ Tone of voice

Eye Contact

- ✓ Using eye contact to acknowledge the listener
- ✓ Using eye contact when talking to others

Body Language

- ✓ Body language cues
- ✓ Indicating that you're listening to others

Cooperative Play Skills

- ✓ Choosing an activity
- ✓ Compromising
- ✓ Ending a game
- ✓ Joining others in play
- ✓ Winning and losing

Assertive Skills and Conflict Resolution

- ✓ Criticism and compliments
- ✓ Peer pressure
- ✓ Self-advocacy

Empathy

- ✓ How to convey that you understand others' feelings
- ✓ How to read nonverbal cues

Emotions

- ✓ Appropriately expressing your own emotions
- ✓ Identifying your own emotions
- ✓ Keeping calm
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Reading others' facial expressions

Expectations From Home

- ✓ Encouraging students to get together with peers
- ✓ Encouraging time management skills
- ✓ Internet safety
- ✓ Parent feedback/input





Other Benefits of Our After School Social Skills Program

This program creates a physically and emotionally safe environment that is conducive to learning, while improving social and communication skills. Our program adds a strong youth development focus, including life skills, positive communication, conflict resolution, goal setting, and decision making. For children who face behavioral or social skill obstacles for success during school hours, the after school hours can be a time to attempt to eliminate these barriers and improve education of the "whole child."

The Harbor School staff recognizes the need to address social deficits experienced by students that make it difficult for them to successfully participate in typical activities at home and their sending school districts. Students who participate in our after school program will acquire the specific skills necessary to participate, not only in school, but also in society.



Our Technology

Harbor School strives to provide students with the most up to date advances in technology. We always look toward the future to ensure our students have access to the tools and proven instruction that helps to further their skills and abilities as they get older. Through desktop applications and hardware, STEM, handheld devices, and robotics, we are always building a technology-based foundation to help our students move from academics to real-world life skills. Our staff is kept up to date on the use and application of our technology solutions to better serve our students.

Meet Our Robot

We utilize a humanoid robot known as NAO, which we call Sheldon. We integrate this robotic friend to support teachers with in-class talks and help children with a variety of disabilities reach new levels of greatness. Sheldon is personalized to students' needs through a fully programmable interface that can walk, talk, listen, and even recognize faces. With a variety of sensors, Sheldon is designed to help improve special education teaching by stimulating social interaction through play and allowing greater autonomy. We have discovered that Sheldon is naturally accepted by students of all ages by responding to voice commands and tracking each child's performance.

In-Classroom Devices

We infuse technological support and academics across all areas of our program, from web-based instruction in all content areas, to student support through communication devices such as FM systems and iPads, to our new STEM Lab (which focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math instruction through hands-on, project-based learning).

Our technology solutions include:

- ✓ Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC) systems to assist students with difficulties communicating, expressing themselves, and sharing their needs
- ✓ Interactive white board learning, such as MimioTeach

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- ✓ Software-based educational solutions, such as Unique Learning System, News-2-You, IXL, and Scholastic News
- ✓ Technology solutions to allow students to work on projects at home under the supervision of a parent/caregiver
- ✓ Utilization of iPads, tablets, and other computers to assist students in building both academic and life skills

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Lab

STEM instruction focuses on hands-on, project-based learning in science, technology, engineering, and math. Throughout the curriculum, students are given a problem and tasked with finding various ways to solve it. Students work independently and in small groups on building models; coding; media recording; and photo, audio, and video editing. Our STEM program is highly engaging for all students.



Our STEM Lab program is a project-based learning environment where students are engaged in:

- ✓ Group lessons and skill building
- ✓ Hands-on and minds-on connections
- ✓ Interactive activities
- ✓ Technology-driven instruction

The STEM program also provides job readiness skills, including:

- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Critical thinking and problem solving
- ✓ Literacy and adaptability
- ✓ Presentation skills

In summary, the technology we use acts as the perfect bridge for students with a variety of challenges and disabilities and furthers our continued mission to enable each student to reach their fullest potential.