



The Mill Creek School

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About Us - For more than 45 years, Mill Creek School has been a setting where students who struggle with emotional or social concerns, difficulty adjusting to a mainstream school environment, or who exhibit patterns of self-defeating behavior, have the chance to experience success in school. Mill Creek strives to create a school setting that feels safe to students who have felt anxious, misunderstood, or unsupported, and where they can learn to make healthy choices, appropriately handle peer pressure, and establish satisfying and meaningful relationships while working toward successfully completing high school and transitioning into adulthood.

Mill Creek is a comprehensive, coeducational secondary school licensed by the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Departments of Education. A curriculum is offered for students in grades 7 through 12 for emotionally and socially troubled adolescents ages 12 to 20. Students attend Mill Creek School as an alternative to their home school.

The Student Who Needs Mill Creek School - Some students come to us with identified learning differences and the frustration that accompanies such challenges. Students may also struggle with disorganized thinking, anxiety, or overwhelming feelings of depression. These feelings often lead to patterns of avoidant behaviors or self-destructive thoughts or actions. For a struggling adolescent, the most inviting aspect about Mill Creek is its calm, supportive, individualized atmosphere.

A Rich and Varied Program - The academic program at Mill Creek is uniquely varied for a school its size. A maximum enrollment of 60 students ensures a low teacher—student ratio that enables staff and students to get to know each other well. The staff maintains high standards and expectations of student achievement. Students either return to their home school districts or graduate from Mill Creek and go on to attend two year or four year colleges as well as vocational training programs.

Services Include:

A Full Academic Curriculum is offered to challenge and enrich students ranging in ability from average to gifted. The curriculum is differentiated and designed to meet each student's academic needs. In addition, students have the option of enrolling in creative arts courses, including improvisational music, graphic design and visual arts.

The Learning Center provides focused assistance for those students who need greater individualized instruction or have additional credit requirements.

Afterschool Support is offered four days per week upon request to students who choose to take advantage of individual tutoring.

Career and Transition Counseling begins when students enter the program and continues throughout their enrollment. Students develop a Transition Binder designed to help them identify career paths and guide their explorations into future endeavors. In addition, an annual Career Day is held to provide students with exposure to guest speakers' career perspectives.

Group Counseling helps students learn how to manage conflicts and social issues within the school and home.

Social Skills Training provides instruction to students who have social and communication difficulties. These areas can include challenges with understanding social cues, reading body language, and expressing thoughts and feelings appropriately.

Community Service Projects offer students opportunities to participate in a variety of voluntary activities. The purpose of these activities is to help students increase their self-esteem and socialization skills, help them develop a deeper understanding of their responsibilities as citizens in a community, and provide them with an opportunity to gain the positive experience of helping others.

Parent Support Group is designed to educate and support parents and guardians about issues that directly impact their child's ability to be successful in an educational setting. Topics are determined by parent interest and identified needs.

The School Psychologist applies expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior to help students succeed academically, behaviorally, and emotionally. The school psychologist also collaborates with students, families, and Mill Creek teachers to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment that strengthens connections between home, school, and the community.

Mill Creek Advisor - A key role of each teacher is to serve as the advisor or case manager to a small group of students. Responsibilities include providing guidance for meeting academic requirements and individual education plan goals. Teachers maintain ongoing communication with parents, school districts and therapists.

How to Apply - Admission to the program at Mill Creek begins with a referral from a school district or other public agency, a mental health professional or a family member. All of the relevant educational and clinical records are submitted to an admissions committee. The next step is an interview with the prospective student and his or her family. The interview is designed to determine if the program is compatible with the applicant's needs and the likelihood of success for the student. If the Mill Creek staff, the student and family agree that this may be an appropriate placement, the student is invited in for a one or two day visit before a final decision is made.

Tuition Fees - Tuition for most students is paid through reimbursement by the school district in which they reside. Reimbursement eligibility is reviewed during pre admission to assure that adequate funding is available. To obtain information about current fees and reimbursements, contact the school's office at 215.471.4900 x 100, or fax to 215.471.9639.