

**What is the purpose of the Learning Lab?**

The purpose of the Learning Lab is to support students in all content areas; develop and nurture self-esteem within the students and help students reach their full potential. The Learning Lab addresses the needs of the 'whole child.'

How many FHC students receive services from the Learning Lab?

Currently, the Learning Lab supports 33 FHC students with an ICEP (Individualized Catholic Education Plan) and recommended accommodations. In addition to providing support to students with an ICEP, the Learning Lab provides support to 37 students using a Response To Intervention (RTI) model in the areas of Math and Reading. The Learning Lab supports ALL students in the classroom as staff from the learning lab 'push into' classrooms on a regular basis.

Who is the resource team that serves the Learning lab?

The Learning Lab was established in 1999 by a group of parents that wanted additional support services for their children. Rather than divide their children among different schools for the sake of additional support, the parents requested the implementation of the Learning Lab. Mrs. Betty Ann Shanley and Mrs. Jackie Carpenter were instrumental in the inception of the Learning Lab. The Resource team currently consists of Stephanie Faratci, Mickey Weldon and Emily Twomey, Reading Specialist.

What is the process for students getting help from the Learning Lab?

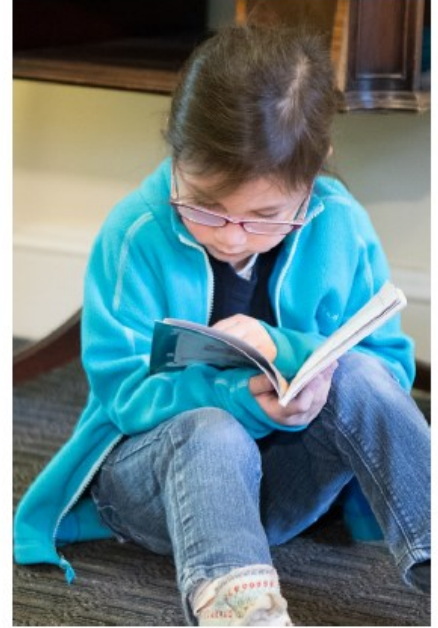
Students in grades Senior Kindergarten-8th grade are screened 3 times per year in the areas of Math and Reading using the AimsWeb Plus Program. Based on these results, teacher input and classroom performance, students may be candidates for additional support. As candidates, FHC students are then further assessed to identify specific weaknesses in Math and Reading. If shown to be necessary, FHC students may receive Response to Intervention (RTI) instruction in a fluid, small group. Over time, if progress is not evident, further evaluation may be necessary to determine if a learning disability exists. If the comprehensive evaluation determines that there is a learning disability, an ICEP (support plan) is established and implemented by all staff members.



How does the Learning Lab assist students?

The Learning Lab assists students in many ways; to include:

- Executive functioning
- Classroom support and curriculum modification
- Study skills, test preparation and long-term projects
- Multi-sensory approach to teaching
- Scribe for students with difficulty in written expression
- Coordination of other support services

**How is progress monitored?**

Progress is monitored through classroom performance, self-sufficiency, teacher feedback as well as student feedback.

What benefits does a child receive in working with the Reading Specialist?

The Reading specialist works one-on-one or in small groups to provide literacy interventions to students spanning from PK-8. Focus areas include writing, phonics, fluency, phonological awareness, spelling, comprehension and vocabulary using a variety of intervention programs. Throughout the intervention, data and student growth are tracked across all areas. The reading specialist communicates with families on a weekly-basis in an effort to meet goals and report progress. The curriculum supplement and provision of resources to support differentiation by the reading specialist fosters success and confidence in all areas of literacy.

What do you think people should know about the Learning Lab?

The learning lab is a place for ALL students, whether it be for additional support before or after school, a quiet place to take tests and make up tests when absent, and a place to get individualized support in all areas of learning. The Learning Lab is **NOT** a replacement for good instruction or differentiation in the classroom. The Learning Lab does not carry a stigma and is not considered to be a place where ONLY different learners go to be successful. The Learning Lab is not separate from the regular classroom instruction—it is part of it. Thanks to the commitment of the Principal and staff of the learning lab, students gain the skills and strategies to be successful.

