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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NewHope Academy is a therapeutic day school serving the needs of students with Emotional Disabilities, Autism/Aspergers, Other Health Impairments, and Specific Learning Disabilities. Since its inception in September of 2000, over 500 students have utilized our program acquiring coping skills ensuring their success whether returning to their home school, continuing their education, or entering the job market.

### OUR MISSION

NewHope Academy's mission is to provide students with a safe, therapeutic, and educational environment where they develop skills to become effective learners, gain personal insight, and acquire coping strategies to not only earn school credit, but achieve their intellectual and social-emotional potential.

### CURRENTLY WE SERVE

- Grades 6 – 12
- Ages 11 – 21 years
- Students in the average to superior range of cognitive ability
- Students with:
  - Emotional Disturbance (ED)
  - Autism/Aspergers (AUT)
  - Other Health Impairment (OHI)
  - Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
- An average enrollment of 65 students
- An average daily attendance of 93%
- Ten junior high students (grades 6-8)
- 55 high school students (grades 9-12)



### OUR GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

At NewHope, we provide students with a small, safe, and supportive educational environment where we treat them with respect and protect their privacy. Academic and personal success at NewHope is based on:

- Appreciation of individual differences and support for the development of the student's individual goals
- Discovering the student's strengths and understanding his/her challenges in learning how to advocate in an effective manner
- The application of a concept we call the "Principle of Time and Place"

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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



Curriculum Night

- Academic integrity is maintained by addressing the Common Core Standards and/or Illinois State Learning standards in each academic subject
- Classroom environment that is student-based and interactive
- Tools that facilitate the development of executive functioning abilities and organization skills
- Student accommodations made based on cognitive strengths and needs
- Active case management that maintains ongoing contact with parents and home school

## TREATMENT MODEL

- Multi-context treatment approach (in session, at home, in the classroom)
- Collaborative goal development with the student and his/her family
- Required family participation in treatment
- Focus on emotion-management skills
- Individualized and group social skill development
- Coordination of care with outside professionals (therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, tutors, etc.)
- Parent support groups

## THE NEWHOPE STUDENT



### Tends to:

- Have an average to above-average intelligence
- Withdraw socially and emotionally
- Experience difficulty “fitting in” a mainstream environment
- Have difficulty reading social cues
- “Slip through the cracks” until their problems are severe
- Procrastinate (specifically with homework assignments and long-term projects)
- Have difficulty with executive functioning
- Have talents in art and music
- Have the potential for academic achievement
- Struggle with gross and fine motor skills
- Difficulty with social skills
- Use frequent illness as a means to avoid school and may become “school phobic”

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- Appear sad, lonely, hopeless, or depressed
- Harbor anger and hostility but does not act out violently in school or in the community

### **THE SCHOOL DAY/YEAR**

NewHope Academy is an 11-month program consisting of three semesters.

- During Semester I and Semester II, students are enrolled in six academic courses and one elective course per semester. Final exams are taken during Semesters I and II. NewHope typically begins the school year in August and graduation occurs at the end of May for a total of 176 days. Hours of operation are 8:00am-2:30pm Monday through Thursday. 9:00am-2:30pm on Friday.
- During Semester III, students complete two courses, earning two high school credits at an accelerated pace during the months of May, June, and July, 28 days total. Students must maintain a 90% attendance rate to earn this credit. Hours of operation are 8:00am-1:00pm Monday through Thursday. 9:00am-1:00pm on Friday.

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## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

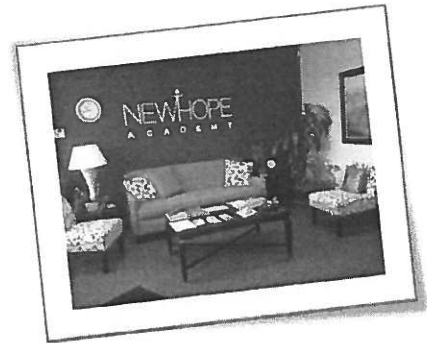
NewHope Academy (NHA) is currently leasing 13,000 square feet of warehouse space that has been converted into a school. This space limits enrollment to 65 students and we have consistently operated at maximum capacity. NHA currently services students in grades 6-12; however, with additional physical space, we could increase our current programs and services as well as open our doors to students in the elementary grades and for post high school programs.

We are interested in expanding our space. Additional space would fit our needs, allowing us to serve over 75+ students. In the year 2012, the State of Illinois outsourced 8,582 students to therapeutic day schools. Of the disabilities outsourced, NHA serves three of the four fastest growing disabilities; Emotional Disabilities, Autism, and Learning Disabilities. Due to our current space limitations, we are in the unfortunate position of turning away students in desperate need of our therapeutic and educational services. A larger space would enable us to immediately accept appropriate students versus putting them on a waiting list and/or losing them to other facilities.

NHA is among the best therapeutic day schools in the State of Illinois; known for rigorous academics and dynamic therapeutic



services. **NHA teachers are dually certified in content area and special education and all therapists are Licensed Clinical Psychologists.** All staff are full time and dedicated to supporting students academically and therapeutically. Most importantly, when students transition to their next environment, they are prepared to compete with their peers academically as well as manage their emotions to become successful adults.



Our well-trained and highly-qualified staff are the reason why NHA is known as the best school in Illinois serving the needs of bright students with emotional challenges. NewHope is recognized as a National School of Excellence through National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET). In addition, NHA was recently listed on [TheBestSchools.org](http://TheBestSchools.org), as “One of the best schools in Illinois to work with students with Autism.”

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