



American School of The Hague Middle School Special Education Program

American School of The Hague will open a new program in August 2013 for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Students will have the opportunity to learn in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic, developmental, social, and adaptive needs.

Our Middle School Special Education Program will be classified as a self-contained classroom, with a strong emphasis on inclusion in the Middle School. Teaching this class will be a certified special education teacher, whose expertise in educating students with intellectual disabilities will ensure that your child is provided with the opportunity to reach his or her potential at American School of The Hague. The teacher will develop and guide student programs, modify the curriculum to make it accessible to your child, and ensure that students have the support needed for gaining greater independence and functional academic skills. In a small classroom environment students will receive both individualized support as well as the maximum opportunities to be integrated into mainstream classes. Teacher assistants will support students with their individualized plans in addition to working with them in their mainstream classes.

The Rationale for a Middle School Special Education Program

American School of The Hague is committed to the development of an inclusive school environment. Our priority is to develop a quality program that meets the learning goals of children with significant special needs. This includes having a highly qualified and experienced teacher designing functional academic programs for students while also ensuring that students in the program are provided with the opportunities to become integral members of our Middle School community.

Based on our knowledge of the education marketplace in and around The Hague region, we have identified the need for a program that can accommodate international secondary students who require intensive support in their studies. The development of this new Middle School Special Education Program complements an already strong Learning Support program at American School of The Hague and will assist us in addressing the needs of students in our community that we could otherwise not service. We are committed to serving the needs of our diverse, international community to the best of our ability and to admitting students having a variety of learning and developmental disabilities.

The Program

Students will have a home classroom taught by a special education teacher. A specialized curriculum will focus on functional academics that teach real world skills taught in conjunction with a modified regular curriculum. The curriculum will be able to accommodate students at a variety of skill levels within a single classroom. Throughout the day and depending on the students' interests and strengths, they will have opportunities to attend mainstream classes with a teaching assistant (or without if a high level of independence is present). Students would be

Rijksstraatweg 200
2241 BX Wassenaar
The Netherlands
Telephone +31 (0)70 512 1060
Telefax +31 (0)70 511 2400
www.ash.nl

able to attend lunch, breaks, special events, and after school activities with same-age peers. Students will have individualized learning plans that outline comprehensive learning goals for the year. Plans will be developed in partnership with parents and each student's team of experts.

Entering the Middle School Special Education Program

The Middle School Special Education Program is designed to meet the needs of the following students (subject to the full application and Admissions process):

- Students that are of Middle School/Junior High age
- Students that require a modified and individualized program
- Students that require intensive, long-term special education support in multiple areas
- Students with a current psycho-educational evaluation indicating an intellectual or developmental disability
- Students that have previously been educated in a self-contained special education-type program and/or have been assigned a 1:1 teaching assistant for program modifications

* Please note: We do not have the resources for students with a primary diagnosis of a social/emotional disability that would substantially disrupt the learning process.

In addition to the supports offered in the Middle School Special Education Program the American School of The Hague also employs two Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and a School Psychologist. The SLPs provide speech and language therapy to students in Preschool through Grade12. The School Psychologist administers psycho-educational evaluations for students in Preschool through Grade 12 and then works with each student's team to develop an appropriate program.

For further information regarding American School of The Hague Middle School Special Education Program, please contact Ms. Danette Sack (dsack@ash.nl), Learning Support Coordinator.

For information regarding the Admissions procedure for American School of The Hague, please refer to www.ash.nl/admissions and contact admissions@ash.nl.