



Learning for life.

The Upper School Learning Center at San Diego Jewish Academy

The Learning Center at San Diego Jewish Academy provides educational assistance, during school hours, for students in sixth through twelfth grade to increase their success in the classroom. By combining educational and therapeutic techniques and a global approach to learning, the Learning Center is directed by an Educational Therapist, Brenda Moss, M.Ed., who serves as the case manager and coordinates a team of professionals to meet the student's needs. Unlike tutoring, which is often associated with one subject or content area, educational therapy is broader, emphasizing strategies to help children learn more effectively. Goals include restoring self-esteem, improving the learning process, developing learning strategies, and helping the child feel more comfortable in the classroom. In addition, the Learning Center is supported by experienced subject specialists in Math and Hebrew.

Skills Assessment

Students may be referred to The Learning Center in a variety of ways:

- A student may have enrolled at SDJA after receiving support services in the public school under an IEP
- A student may have been tested by a private individual qualified to assess the student's need for academic accommodations
- Parents may request the services when there are concerns about their child's educational progress
- A teacher may recommend a student, based on classroom performance
- One of the members of the administrative staff of San Diego Jewish Academy may make the referral as the result of team meetings with parents and teachers

Students who have been tested in the Public School and have qualified for services and accommodations under an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) will continue with these services under an ISP, a plan for students who are voluntarily placed in a private school setting. Although the ISP releases the public school from their federal and state requirement to fund supportive services such as Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy, ISP annual reviews, and evaluations are continued from the school districts in which SDJA resides. The ISP transition and annual review is managed through the North County Consortium for Special Education (NCCSE). Triennial reviews for students in the 6th grade are coordinated through the Del Mar Union School District. Grades 7th -12th grade student triennial reviews are coordinated through the San Dieguito Union High School District.

In addition, a Learning Center staff member may conduct an informal assessment of the student. This assessment provides a diagnostic tool to identify strengths, weaknesses and styles of learning. Through the assessment, goals and accommodations may be created by the team of teachers, administrators, and other professionals who are working with the child.

Case Management

The staff at the Learning Center and the Educational Therapist serves as a facilitator of communication and an advocate among parents, teachers, and the other professionals who are involved with the child.

Once a student has been referred to The Learning Center, the Educational Therapist and administrators will evaluate the individual case and make a recommendation as to what services, if any, would be beneficial in improving the student's learning. Admittance to the program is at the sole discretion of the administration and The Learning Center staff. A signed contract serves to acknowledge parental consent for a student's official admittance to the program. This team of professionals work together with outside educational resources to implement accommodations as suggested in formal assessments or recommendations.

Periodic reviews of progress to assess goals will be conducted with the student's parents and teachers through the arrangement of a Student Study Team meeting or SST.

Program Information and Fees:

The Learning Center is a fee-based program, and is in addition to the regular tuition at SDJA. Fees for the 2011-2012 school year are listed below. The following Options are guidelines to the programs offered. Parents are encouraged to discuss the Options with the Learning Center Director and the administrative team to determine the most effective support plan based on individual student needs. Currently enrolled students are given scheduling priority.

Program cost is determined by the amount of time and services provided and will be assessed at the completion of the student's evaluation. Fees are calculated over a period of 10 academic months.

Teachers may work with up to 2 students per session.

Homework Support and Study Sessions:

This program is designed for students who need guided study, homework assistance, test preparation, and organization skills in a small group setting during their scheduled study hall.

Fees:

\$2125 annually for one hour class per week. Additional hours are billed at the same rate. Students are guaranteed a minimum of 30 sessions per academic year, unless prorated fee applies.

Study Skills/Academic Instruction Elective:

This program option is designed as a credit earning elective in Study Skills. Students with specific academic needs who may need remediation, direct instruction to meet the goals of individualized educational plans, or who are active in a sports program which requires early dismissal during 5th period study hall should choose this option. Students may attend every other day as 1 elective, or every day by taking 2 electives. Sessions content can be in Writing/Study Skills, Math, or Hebrew or a combination to fit student's needs. Because this option has limited enrollment, early enrollment is encouraged.

Fees:

\$2125 annually for one hour every other day (one elective is counts as 2.5 hours per week)

For More Information

For more information Brenda Moss at 858-704-3823 or bmoss@sdja.com.

DIRECTOR CONTACT:

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Brenda Moss, M.Ed. is a Resource Specialist and Educational Therapist. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, and a Masters of Education in Educational Therapy/Special Education from National-Lewis University in Evanston, Illinois. She holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and a Specialist Instruction Credential in Special Education (Learning Handicapped) in the State of California. She also holds permanent credentials in Elementary Education (K-6) and Special Education in the State of New York. Brenda has been trained in the Orton Dyslexia Society's Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching Reading and Spelling.

Brenda has been working as a private Educational Therapist since 1984. She has experience in both public and private schools as a classroom teacher, Special Day teacher, and Resource Specialist. She has also worked to provide inclusion for students with Special Needs through the Agency for Jewish Education as well as in the summer camp setting. She joined SDJA's Learning Center in 2005.