

## Proven Methods plus Cutting-Edge Strategies

## An Integrated, Collaborative Approach

# Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Program



Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Autism Spectrum Disorder Program employs the most current research and understanding on autism. We partner with highly-recognized expert consultants: Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist John F. Erhart, M.D. and Clinical Psychologist Danielle Morris, both of whom are specialists in autism and ASD. Both consultants, in conjunction with the program supervisor, visit classrooms on a regular basis to work with staff, students and families.

The ASD Program uses many successful methodologies including, but not limited to:

- Structured teaching strategies from Division TEACCH
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Discrete Trial Teaching (DTT)
- Greenspan's DIR® (Developmental, Individual difference, Relationship-based model)
- Gray's Social Stories™ and Comic Strip Conversations
- Visual strategies to increase learning, communication, adaptive behavior and level of independence
- Functional Behavioral Analysis (FBA) and positive behavioral supports
- SCERTS® (Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional Supports)

SCERTS is a research-based educational approach and multi-disciplinary framework that directly addresses the core challenges faced by children with ASD and related disabilities. Functional Communication is promoted on a regular basis within this program. Unique Learning Systems is a curriculum resource utilized within this program for students with moderate to severe disabilities. Lessons are provided at three levels in ELA and Math, along with supplemental science, social studies and life skills.

### Contact Information

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## About the ASD Program

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Program serves students in grades K-8 with autism spectrum disorders who have varying strengths and needs. The program is designed to maximize each child's developmental growth and achieve their fullest potential for independence. We utilize the TEACCH® (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children) approach and incorporate a variety of evidence-based strategies, determined by students' individual differences.



Our multi-disciplinary team of experts work collaboratively and coordinate closely with the student's family and associated community providers. Our goal is to enhance our students' quality of life by maximizing individual potential.

## Inside the Classroom



### Here's what to expect in an ASD Program classroom:

- Our classrooms are district-based, located within a public school building.
- Students receive the intensive, individualized attention necessary to implement curriculum. Classroom size is limited to six students with a teacher and a teacher aide.
- Specially-designed instruction that ensures access to the general curriculum through modifications, so that students can meet the same academic standards and make progress toward meeting their IEP goals and objectives.
- Core services include speech, occupational therapy, counseling, family support, assistive technology, music therapy, autism specialist and nursing services.
- The program is TEACCH-based.
- Technology in this program includes smart boards, iPads® and various devices devoted to the promotion of functional communication.



Our team of special education teachers, classroom aides, autism specialists and therapists demonstrate a thorough understanding of TEACCH. They use visual schedules, task strips, physically structured areas, sequence strips, clearly labeled and defined spaces, structured teaching, communication systems, pre-vocational set-up, consistent family interaction and support, and ongoing assessments.

Staff members have extensive knowledge of autism conditions and the culture of autism. They embrace the major centering philosophy of TEACCH and emphasize individualized assessment in their understanding and instruction of every student.