

KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY

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A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

For over 30 years, the Groden Center has been a pioneer in the field of educating youth and adults. Founded by Drs. June and Gerald Groden in 1976, the Groden Center has consulted with numerous school districts across the state of Rhode Island. Many of the research based clinical educational methods that have been developed at the Groden Center are implemented at KHA.

THE GRODEN NETWORK



THE GRODEN CENTER
THE COVE CENTER
THE HALCYON CENTER
KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY

The Groden Network is the leading non profit organization in Rhode Island providing direct services, treatment and educational programs for children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. The Network of programs provides quality service to over 800 clients. The Groden Network family of programs includes:

- **The Groden Center** – provides day and residential programs for children and adolescents
- **The Cove Center** – provides vocational and residential programs for adults
- **The Halcyon Center** – provides day and residential support programs for adults in southern Massachusetts
- **Kingston Hill Academy** – a public charter school dedicated to the Groden Network's mission of individualized learning.

Support the Network: To find out more on how you can support a Groden Network program, please contact our Development Department at 401-274-6310 x2007 or go to www.grodencenter.org/about/support

A DAY AT KHA

When walking through the classrooms of KHA, you soon realize that this is not the school next door. Throughout the day, students are learning responsibility and independence as they transition to and from classes and work with a wide variety of teachers.

Ability groups for the basics . . .

Grouping students at their developmental ability levels is the key to mastery in reading, spelling, and basic mathematics skills. Each morning, Monday through Thursday, students work together in homogenous ability groups for language arts and mathematics. Students move around in these groups throughout the school year as they develop at their own pace. Groups may range from 1:1, 5:1, to 20:1 depending on the makeup of the students at any given point in time.



Interest groups for specials . . .

At other times, students are grouped by interest levels. For example, each Wednesday students get together for ILP groups (Individual Learning Plan groups). Students get to rank their top choices for a six week class taught by a teacher or consultant. Classes have included specialized sciences, creative writing, music, gardening, mural painting, digital technology, furniture refurbishment, puppetry, spelling Bee, tumbling, and many others. These groups are often multi-age groups so that students can learn from each other at different developmental levels. Students also work in multi-age interest groups in the arts throughout the year for specialized projects and extended curriculum.

The Home Room Connection . . .

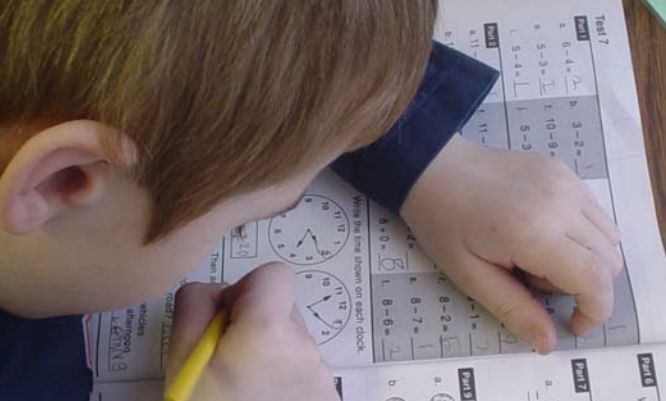
There's no place like homeroom to tie it all together. Every day students begin the day in their homerooms. Same age (grade level) homerooms typically begin with a morning meeting that focuses on culture, social skills, and current events, as well as arithmetic and problem solving skills. Homeroom is also where most of the integrative science, writing, social studies, as well as specialized instruction in PE, Health, and the Arts takes place. As mentioned previously, approximately 1/2 of the homerooms are taught by Spanish proficient teachers who give daily lessons in Spanish language and cultures. For non-Spanish homerooms, a Spanish language consultant and support staff are able to offer weekly lessons.

KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY

Optimizing the Potential in All Children



A GRODEN NETWORK PROGRAM



OUR SCHOOL

Kingston Hill Academy is a public (no tuition) charter school located in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. The school opened in September of 2001 with just 40 Kindergarten students. Over the next 5 years, KHA grew to 180 students Kindergarten to Sixth grade. KHA is licensed for up to 260 students, Kindergarten to Eighth grade, and hopes to open a middle school program in the future.



OUR MISSION

“Kingston Hill Academy is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity for an inclusive, individualized, and challenging curriculum that supports them to reach their full potential.”

Sponsored by the Groden Center, KHA was created to offer research based and creative educational programs for all students. A natural extension of the Groden Center’s mission, KHA focuses on optimizing the potential in all children through individualized learning.

Inclusive Education – KHA educates students with disabilities within the general education curriculum through individualized learning plans, strong collaboration and partnership between general and special education staff, and small group instruction that targets each student’s individual developmental level for language arts and mathematics.

Individualized Education – For each student at KHA, an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) is developed that outlines the child’s strengths and needs, areas of interest, as well as teacher, student, and family goals. These goals are established to challenge the student and promote self-esteem. ILP goals are tracked throughout the year through parent-teacher-child conferences twice a year, staff meetings, and student portfolios.

Challenging Education – Small group instruction in language arts and math allow students of all developmental levels to be appropriately challenged. Homeroom activities are designed to encourage students to reach their full potential through engaging science, integrated writing, social studies and project oriented activities. In addition, KHA integrates Spanish language instruction into the daily curriculum for approximately ½ of the students.

Social Skills and Relaxation –KHA also provides social skills instruction as a school-wide approach. Teaching students stress management techniques, such as relaxation strategies and pro-social skills, help students build strong bonds with adults and peers.

OTHER FACTS ABOUT KHA

KHA is operated under a charter granted by the Board of Regents of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), and follows RIDE regulations, assessment and teaching standards, and all other requirements mandated for traditional public schools in Rhode Island. Teachers and teacher assistants are certified by the State of Rhode Island and meet highly qualified status under No Child Left Behind.

The school day is a 6-hour 20 minute day from approximately 8:50 to 3:10 with a full day Kindergarten. KHA has a 185-day school year. Hot lunches are catered to the school, and KHA participates in the National School Lunch program. Transportation is provided by the sending school district at no charge to the family if the family lives within the bussing region of KHA.



ENROLLMENT AT KHA

Enrollment into KHA is done randomly using the lottery system as mandated by RI state law. Lottery Application forms are available at our web site or from the school office. A lottery is conducted each spring to fill all available positions. Families selected in the lottery will be contacted and asked to fill out enrollment forms. Once enrolled, parents of students with 504 or IEP (special education needs) should contact the office so that the family can take part in a KHA multi-disciplinary team meeting to ensure that KHA is an appropriate placement for the child and to ensure a successful transition into a new school setting.

Siblings of students already enrolled at KHA are exempt from the lottery and are automatically enrolled when classroom space is available.