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Winter/Spring 2023

Education... *GPA* today



Garfield Park Academy
News and Information from Garfield Park Academy

GPA Reading Outcomes Outpace State and National Results

The news about pandemic learning loss is sobering. Recent data show unprecedented declines in math and reading achievement; the losses were most pronounced for Black and Hispanic students.

At Garfield Park Academy, however, students continued to make measurable gains, even as the rest of the nation's students lost ground. Last year, students at GPA showed gains, on average, of one to three reading levels in one year, even when COVID interrupted in-person learning.

Most students come to GPA well below grade level in reading, and many have undiagnosed reading disabilities. Using individualized, multi-sensory science-based reading instruction, and working with students in small groups and 1:1, educators and the reading specialist can help even the most challenged readers make gains.



Curriculum Aligned with Public Schools

When students arrive at Garfield Park Academy, some are surprised to find many of the same textbooks, magazines, and online modules they used in the public school. Parents and Child Study Teams are often surprised, too. Familiar programs offered by Scholastic, McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pearson, Prentice Hall, and Ramsey are in every classroom.

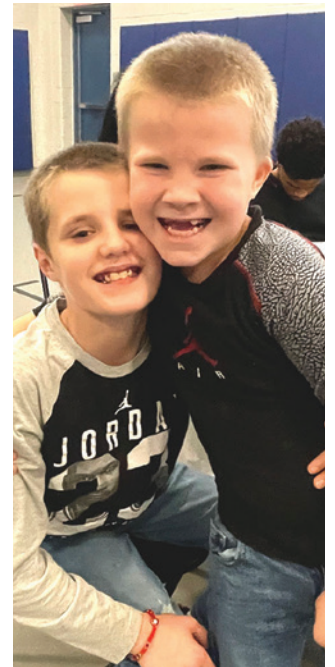
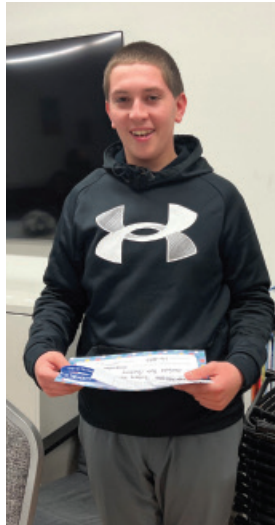
"We have high expectations for our students and want them ready for life beyond high school. While we offer highly individualized accommodations and modifications in our lesson plans, the curriculum is rooted in rigorous programs so students can grow academically," said Kerrie Kaufman

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Celebrating Our Students

Sometimes, positive change can be slow and hard to see, but our teachers, social workers, and facilitators know how very important it is to look for incremental change and point it out. Every month, we recognize our Students of the Month. Their nominating staff members join them in our new auxiliary gym to mark their achievements with a special luncheon. We also celebrate academic success and achievement with a special "Breakfast with the Principal" for our Honor Roll students.

Acknowledgments like this teach our students that when they have success, it's important to know what they've done, get into the habit of celebrating their effort, and to continue building on those successes for the future.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Garfield Park Academy is proud to have been selected by the Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia Insurance to be part of the 2022 Community RedZone program. The opportunity allowed us to spread awareness to Eagles fans about the work we're doing in the Greater Philadelphia area.



Parent Education Program Provides Wraparound Family Support

Adult caregivers raising children and teenagers are often hard-pressed on all sides, as they strive to raise healthy, productive, and responsible young people. To help caregivers deal with the problems of raising their children and adolescents, Garfield Park Academy offers a year-long Parent Education Program (PEP).

This year, in response to the growing needs of our families, the program expanded to meet twice a month, offering support group sessions and topic presentations. The programs are offered virtually to allow more parents a chance to participate.

"We encourage mutual respect between the caregiver and child, and teach strategies to foster cooperation, responsibility, and self-reliance," said Audra Snyder, LCSW, Director of Social Work. "There are always opportunities for caregivers to share their feelings, find support, and get encouragement from other group members."



COMMUNITY LEARNING

Students are in the community again, with field trips and community-based learning. Our partnerships with local businesses, churches, civic organizations and other non-profits benefit our students by providing opportunities for connection, mentorship, and random acts of kindness!



HUNDREDS REGISTER FOR PROGRAM ON TRAUMA-INFORMED IEPs

With mental health challenges on the rise, trauma-sensitive approaches in special education have never been more important. It begins with the development of service plans.

This winter, the Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy hosted a free program for Child Study Team members on the topic of Trauma-Informed Practices in the IEP. National experts Eric Rossen, Ph.D., and David Bateman, Ph.D., provided a step-by-step approach to addressing trauma as part of IEP development – from referral to family engagement, report writing, and IEP design and implementation.

"This was one of the best programs you have offered," wrote one guest in the chat. "I can use what I learned right away."



Established in 2013, The Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy disseminates information on best practices in special education. Twice a year, the Institute offers free trainings to educators with a focus on innovative, evidence-based approaches to serving students with social, emotional, learning, and behavioral challenges.



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CURRICULUM ALIGNED WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Morse, Director. "And when they are ready to return to their home district, they are familiar with the grade-level materials they are likely to encounter."

In addition to the more familiar programs, educators at GPA also use highly specialized programs like Wilson Reading, Lexia Strategies, and others to help students who do not show gains with traditional curriculum. The curriculum guides for Elementary, Middle and High School can be found on our website.

The Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy

Learn more, call 609-877-4111

Or visit The Training Institute online:

GarfieldParkAcademy.org/the-training-institute-gpa/



Garfield Park Academy is a New Jersey state-approved, not-for-profit school that provides effective, evidence-based special education services for students in grades K-12 who have a history of learning, social, emotional and behavioral challenges. Garfield Park Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association and accredited by the Teaching-Family Association. For more information, please contact Garfield Park Academy or visit our website.

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