



Monarch Boarding Academy

Monarch Boarding Academy (MBA) is a unique residential treatment program for individuals ages 8-21 with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. Working in tandem with academic staff and goals, residential programming fosters improvement in life skills, social skills and overall communication. Enhancing outcomes in these areas leads to reuniting with families, stepping down to a less-restrictive setting and living a more independent young adult life.

Just steps away from the school, residents live in secure, home-like buildings with single bedrooms that are designed and staffed to enhance social, behavioral, communicative, functional and academic growth. The current peer group of each cottage helps determine which residence is the best fit for the incoming client. Cottages include teaching kitchens to facilitate student participation in food preparation; multi-sensory rooms designed to promote relaxation; outdoor playgrounds to support physical fitness; and computer labs to incorporate the use of technology.

Each client's day, from wake-up to bedtime, is highly structured and consistent. Residents are fully integrated with the larger Monarch School day student population. When not in class, residents participate in group activities, including arts and crafts, choice time, chores, computer lab, reading, hygienic skills, cooking, exercise, and sports and leisure activities. They also spend time in the community and develop relationships with their peers.

ADMISSION PROCESS

We understand that a transition to out-of-home care represents an enormous decision for caregivers, families and guardians. To assist in this process and help determine if placement is the best option, we use a comprehensive intake process that includes:

- We conduct a thorough review of all referral information.
- Families are invited to tour our facility.
- Our clinical team will travel to interview the child and parents/guardian, as well as observe the child at home and in school.
- We create an individualized transition plan to support the child and family.
- Families are introduced to our Parent Network.

THE FIRST 30 DAYS

Comprehensive assessments of the student's behaviors, mental health, language, learning and functional living skills are conducted to gain insight into the client's needs and strengths.

Medication review and management by psychiatry team begins.

Information and data from both formal testing and observation is analyzed by the treatment team and used in the development of the child's individual treatment plan.

FAMILY IS PART OF THE TREATMENT TEAM

Family involvement in making treatment and education decisions is vital to each child's success. Programming includes family visits as part of structured social and recreational activities. In addition, families can communicate with their children through technology such as Skype, Facetime, telephone and other audiovisual tools.

Treatment teams educate and train families on successful communication and intervention styles.

INTEGRATED INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATIONAL AND SERVICE PLANS

Monarch Boarding Academy and Monarch School clinicians, educators and professionals coordinate behavioral and education plans to ensure consistency in both settings.

MBA's therapeutic team includes:

- Degreed supervisors and direct care staff
- Psychiatrists
- Board certified behavior analysts
- Licensed therapists
- Nursing staff
- High staff-to-client ratio

“Choosing Monarch was the toughest and best decision we have ever made. From the first day, we felt we were on our path to a future filled with opportunities.”

- Monarch Parent



PROGRESS AND PLANNING

Monarch Boarding Academy's unique environment allows autism residents to work on generalization of concepts and skills that can be applied to the broader community.

This is achieved via continuity of methods, techniques and expectations between Monarch School and Monarch Boarding Academy.

Student and program progress are continually assessed with a unique data collection system that measures performance through parameters of independence, accuracy, participation and behaviors. The results of these assessments are what drive planning for highly individualized treatment plans and crisis management plans.

For more information, please call 216.320.8502 or 800.879.2522, or email intake@bellefairejcb.org.
Visit MonarchCenterForAutism.org for free resources, tools, articles and webinars.