



Fox Chapel Middle School

Special Needs Policy

Philosophy:

At Fox Chapel Middle School our mission is to provide a rigorous learning environment. In doing so we recognize that students with special education needs require support services and/or accommodations in order to be successful within the IB Middle Years Programme. Teachers, along with Special Education teachers, provide students with resources, accommodations, and differentiation to ensure the success of special education students within the IB Middle Years Programme and beyond. Examples of these special needs include, but are not limited to:

- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Giftedness
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Emotional and Behavioral Difficulties
- Language and Communication Disorders
- Sensory Impairments
- Medical Conditions
- Mental Health Conditions
- Physical Disabilities affecting mobility
- Autism Spectrum Disorder

Local & National Requirements:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes a free appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities. In December 2015, the IDEA was amended through Public Law 114-95, the Every Students Succeeds Act. In the law it is stated that “disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate in or contribute to society. Improving educational results for children with disabilities is an essential element in our national policy.” (<https://sites.ed.gov>)



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At Fox Chapel, the Middle Years Programme has no effect on the exceptional student education (ESE) services that our students receive. All students who receive ESE services are provided with a case manager who specializes in accommodating the curriculum to better serve the students and is a contact for parents.

Guiding Principles:

Special education services are individualized to meet the needs of students with disabilities. These services are provided in compliance with the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that is unique to every student with disabilities. The IEP is reviewed annually. An amendment meeting can be scheduled if changes need to be made to the current IEP based on data or parent request.

IEP progress reports are completed by case managers every grading period (9 weeks) and distributed to parents/guardians. Progress of goals are discussed and reported as “mastered and not mastered” at each annual meeting. New IEP goals are created at the annual IEP meeting.

Some students may have a 504 plan. This is a plan that provides students with only accommodations (no goals). A doctor’s diagnosis may accompany the letter of request for a 504 plan or data that supports such a plan. 504 plans are reviewed annually, but may be reviewed at any time to better meet the needs of the student.

Exemptions from MYP and/or FTE Requirements:

Students may be excused from the MYP subject area requirements when the MYP is in conflict with a district, state or national mandate. This list will be reviewed as needed by FCMS staff when needed. Students may not participate in all MYP requirements if:

- Math and/or Reading Florida Standards Assessment scores require placement in an Intensive Reading and/or Intensive Math class.
- A student has not earned a credit for a course and has to re-take the course.



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- The student's case manager and/or IEP team or similar team of professionals concludes that because of a student's academic or social/behavioral needs he or she requires classes that better fit his or her needs.

Students who are enrolled in an Intensive Math and Intensive Reading class will have the option of choosing one elective class- Art/Music OR PE/Design. Therefore, students with an Intensive Math and Intensive Reading class will not always have a Physical Education class and a Design class.

This document was created using the following sources:

Carver Middle School: https://carverms.ocps.net/school_information/policies/assessment_policy

Pine View Middle School: <https://pvms.pasco.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/pvms/2018/12/PVMS-Assessment-Policy.pdf>

<https://sites.ed.gov>

*The Special Needs Policy is posted on the FCMS school website (<https://www.hernandoschools.org/fcms>)