



Dooley School

Serving Elementary, Middle and High School students

Overview

St. Joseph's Villa's Dooley School, named after Major James H. Dooley, a financial patron of St. Joseph's Villa, is a fully-accredited nonprofit private school that delivers alternative, nontraditional and special education for elementary, middle and high school students who are experiencing emotional or behavioral difficulties or are challenged by learning or developmental disabilities. Student success is achieved through a psycho-educational model. The School is comprised of three specialized academic programs which serve students in the Richmond metro area and other counties across Central Virginia. The school is a past recipient of the U.S. Department of Education's Excellence in Education Award.

Goal

Delivering education appropriately tailored to the individual needs of each student.

Objective

Individual student success.

Features

Structured learning environment with small class sizes and low teacher-to-student ratios

Nontraditional educational model

Individualized attention which includes focus on family needs

Clinical services including therapeutic intervention, individual counseling, and group counseling

Diploma Options

Standard Diploma, Advanced Studies Diploma, Modified Standard Diploma, IEP Certificate, GED

Location

Three programs are located on the spacious St. Joseph's Villa campus, which is nestled into a beautifully landscaped 82-acre homelike campus that includes historic cottages, lush lawns, and shady trees.

School Hours

Regular hours are Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. After-school services are available.

Educational Strategies

Individual Assessment

Each student is assessed upon admission and periodically thereafter to determine academic strengths and needs and to guide instruction. In accordance with diploma requirements, students participate in Virginia's testing programs including SOL, VAAP, and VGLA.

Therapeutic and Behavioral Intervention

The School uses a behavior management system based on students accepting responsibility for their actions and behaviors through incentives and consequences. Therapeutic intervention and counseling services provide support to each student's progress.

Research-based Curriculum and Instruction

Students receive instruction to ensure their successful completion of an appropriate program of academic and/or vocational study. Instruction is based on the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), the Aligned Standards of Learning and functional life skills. Instructional strategies include use of independent study, service learning, and vocational placements. Research-based and best practice instructional strategies and materials are utilized.



Special Education

The three programs provide special education for students who have emotional, behavioral and learning difficulties. A behavioral management approach teaches students acceptable behaviors and effective coping skills. Small class sizes allow for individualized attention. Year round educational programs are available.

Alternative Education

The School provides alternative education for students who have been or are at risk of being suspended or expelled from school. The School provides students a second chance to learn how to manage their behavior while allowing them to stay academically on track. The K-12 curriculum covers all areas of academic study. The School stresses the importance of making positive choices and provides students with support and guidance within a structured environment. Many students successfully transition back to their public schools. Some go on to graduate from Dooley School.

In-School Counseling

The School provides outreach intervention within public schools for children who may be at risk of more restrictive placement. Services may also be utilized to help students transition back to public school following hospitalization or a more restrictive placement. A trained 1:1 counselor is assigned to a student and accompanies him/her throughout the school day to provide support through behavior management and tutoring. The 1:1 counselor is supervised and supported by Dooley staff. Close coordination between Dooley staff and the child's school staff is maintained.

Wrap-Around Services

Numerous services are available to Dooley School students and their families to facilitate success at school and in the community. All students receive therapeutic support from Dooley staff and student progress is reviewed in weekly treatment team meetings. Wrap-around services available through St. Joseph's Villa include the following:

- In-home Counseling (Medicaid funded)
- Day Treatment services (Medicaid funded)
- After School Support
- Weekend Respite
- Homeless Shelter for Women and Children
- Donation Center (clothes, home furnishings, school supplies)

Additionally, Dooley staff work closely with local school divisions and Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPT) to ensure that the needs of each child are addressed.

The Dooley School's Specialized Programs

Dooley School at St. Joseph's Villa delivers individualized education for middle school and high school students diagnosed with Emotional Disturbances and/or Learning Disabilities. Individual and group counseling are provided as essential components of a program designed to address the holistic needs of each child. Dooley School also contains one classroom dedicated exclusively to teaching students who have been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome.

Dooley Elementary School delivers elementary education for higher functioning students with autism, emotional disorders, learning disabilities and other disabilities who are working toward transitioning back to a lesser restrictive environment.

Dooley Center for Alternative Education at St. Joseph's Villa delivers alternative education for middle and high school students who have been suspended or expelled from public school, are returning from a state learning center, or who reside in the Villa's Youth Emergency Shelter. The Center has a 90 percent success rate in transitioning its students back to their regular school or other appropriate educational/ vocational setting.



Licensing & Accreditation

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Dooley School is fully licensed by the Virginia Department of Education and is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Educational Facilities and the national Council on Accreditation. Instructional staff meets licensing and endorsement standards of the Virginia Department of Education.

Admissions/For More Information

For admission and tuition information or to learn more about the Villa and the Dooley School, please call Hattie Porter, Admissions Coordinator, at 804 553-3241. We welcome visits and will provide a campus tour to all interested parties.

St. Joseph's Villa

Established in Richmond in 1834, St. Joseph's Villa is metro-Richmond, Virginia's oldest and largest continuously-operating children's nonprofit organization. The Villa is located on a spacious 82-acre campus in Richmond/Henrico County and builds stronger children, families and communities. The Villa serves more than 500 children and families daily, through the delivery of day, after-school and residential programs that include: special and nontraditional education programs for at-risk youth; education and housing services for homeless children and their families; education and respite, summer and after-school care for children with autism and developmental disabilities; behavioral treatment programs for children and families; housing for adults with disabilities; and a child development center. The Villa is accredited by the national Council on Accreditation and is an approved Medicaid provider for many of its services.

St. Joseph's Villa admits clients of any race, color, gender, age, religion, disability or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accepted or made available to clients at St. Joseph's Villa. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, St. Joseph's Villa is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and retaliation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other agency-administered programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S.D.A. related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.