

# *Tiftarea Learning Center*

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Tiftarea Learning Center (TLC) is to support classroom instruction by developing and implementing academic support tailored to each student's unique learning needs while preparing them for future academic success.

## **Purpose**

The Tiftarea Learning Center was created to extend additional educational support services to students with mild diagnosed learning differences and attention problems. Our goal is to prepare our students with these needs with learning strategies necessary to reach their full potential within Tiftarea's rigorous college preparatory curriculum. This program does not guarantee academic success, and depending on the severity of the disability, the Learning Center may not have the resources to meet every student's needs. Our priority is to provide leadership, guidance, confidence, and support that will maximize learning for students.

The TLC program serves students by:

- Managing Testing Accommodations
- Structuring Study Time
- Assisting Students with Study Skills and Test-Taking Strategies
- Working with Classroom Teachers to Provide Accommodations
- Providing Updates to Parents
- Providing Small Group Academic Support

## **What is a Learning Disability?**

A learning disability is a neurological condition that interferes with one's ability to store, process, or produce information. The term learning disability, or learning disorder, is a broad term used to represent a variety of learning obstructions within academic settings. People with learning disabilities see, hear, and understand things differently. This variation can cause difficulties when learning new skills and putting them to use. If parents, teachers, and other professionals address a child's learning disability early by offering additional educational resources or methods, then this early intervention can give the student a better chance to develop the skills required to obtain success within future academic settings, including within the college environment.

Common Learning Disabilities: ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, & Dyspraxia

## **Process of Identification**

### *New Student Admissions*

Students who are enrolling at Tiftarea may enter the TLC at admissions if recently qualified testing indicates that they are lacking skills that may hinder them in the classroom. The student can also offer qualified psychological evaluation for admission. Evaluations must be no more than three years old at the time of enrollment.

### *Teacher Referral*

Upon noticing academic challenges, the teacher will attempt to implement feasible strategies for the student within the classroom setting. The teacher will also discuss with the principal and parents their concerns about the student's performance. Lastly, a referral will be made for the student to have an evaluation conducted through the TLC.

### *Parent Referral*

Parent(s) will meet with the principal, Learning Center Representative, and Teacher(s) regarding academic challenges. Parents may submit a request for an evaluation and return it to the Learning Center Director. Please contact Melanie Royal by email at [mroyal@tiftarea.org](mailto:mroyal@tiftarea.org).

### *Post Evaluation*

After the evaluation is complete, the TLC Team will contact the parents to discuss placement. Criteria to proceed with the TLC enrollment may include psychological testing by a certified, clinical psychologist. Parents can request recommendations for a psychologist from the TLC Director. Students in K4-5<sup>th</sup> grades may be evaluated by our Learning Center Team for admission into the program. Starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, all students must receive a psychological evaluation.. After this time, students must submit updated clinical documentation every 2 years.

Upon enrollment into the TLC, the Learning Center Team will work with classroom teachers to provide accommodations that best meet the needs of each individual student. A list of these accommodations will be given to both teachers and parents. The child's performance will be closely monitored and accommodations will be updated as needed throughout the year.

## **Fees**

Students who are eligible for the TLC services and are accepted into the program will be billed \$100 monthly (1<sup>st</sup> Semester: September- November, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester: January-April). This allows students access to the Learning Center and all recommended accommodations set forth by the Learning Center Team. Payment will be due at the first of each month in which services are to be rendered.