



The Admissions Process

The admissions process for the Dyslexia Therapy Program (DTP) at Starkville Academy is designed to assist the family and director to determine whether a student will benefit from our DTP. Acceptance into the program is based on admission into Starkville Academy, a dyslexia evaluation and interview or contact from the director, and availability in the DTP. Please contact the school for more information on the enrollment process for Starkville Academy.

At Starkville Academy we strive to ensure that each child is a good fit for the DTP and that the program can meet the student's therapy needs. The dyslexia therapy class is designed for high-potential students whose primary diagnosis is dyslexia. Students who struggle because of behavioral difficulties, severe attention problems, severe receptive and expressive language disorder, or below average intellectual abilities will not benefit from our program.

What is Dyslexia?
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Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

Adopted by the IDA Board of Directors, November 12, 2002. This definition is also used by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).



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DYSLEXIA THERAPY PROGRAM





Your child's learning experience will be maximized through...

- An Orton-Gillingham based dyslexia therapy program.
- Four days of therapy per week during the school day.
- Multisensory curriculum designed to combine visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning modalities.
- Small groups of no more than five students.



The Dyslexia Therapy Program is a special class that has been established to provide appropriate therapy for high-potential students with a primary diagnosis of dyslexia. The core of the program is an Orton-Gillingham based curriculum called Alphabet Phonics. Therapy will be administered for 45 minutes–one hour for four days a week by a certified dyslexia therapist in a small class setting of no more than five students. This program provides a structured, sequential, and multisensory curriculum designed for students in first through sixth grades. Most students will receive therapy for a two-year period.



Meet the Director

Holly Johnston is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education (K-6) with an endorsement of Remedial Reading (K-12). She received a Master's Degree in Dyslexia Therapy from Mississippi College in May of 2013. She has taught at the kindergarten and preschool levels. Mrs. Johnston has been a private dyslexia therapist since she started her Master's Degree in 2011, having taught over 3,500 dyslexia therapy sessions. Mrs. Johnston is certified with the Academic Language Therapy Association.

