



# TRINITY

CLASSICAL ACADEMY



**HOPE AND A FUTURE**



# IMAGO DEI SCHOOL

## TRINITY CLASSICAL ACADEMY

*For students with developmental and  
learning disabilities*

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*Principal of Special Education*

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*Faculty of Special Education*



# History of the Imago Dei School

- Opened in 2011 with 5 students, 1 teacher, 1 aide and 1 paraprofessional as a 6/7th grade split class
- Highest enrollment was 23 students
- Currently have 9 students, grades 3-13



IMAGO DEI SCHOOL -  
2011



The **Imago Dei School** allows families who have students with different learning needs to attend school together. Praise Jesus for this unique opportunity in Christian education!



## Imago Dei provides ...

Opportunity for a vibrant education , full of truth and beauty, where students are valued, their intellect is challenged, and they are given the opportunity to reach their potential.





## Who We Serve

The Imago Dei School serves students with mild to moderate developmental disabilities and a range of associated learning challenges such as ADHD, sensory processing disorder, speech and language disorders, and executive functioning disorders.

*Clearly define who you can serve.*





- Multi grade-level classrooms
- Teacher : Student ratio 1 : 2.5
- 1:1 educational therapy
- Social Thinking
- Progress monitoring of individualized goals
- Mainstreaming for art, music, PE, academics, extra curriculars
- Travel training
- Vocational Preparation
- Student businesses
- Community Based Instruction
- Certificate of completion
- 18-22 Transitional Program



# Educational Therapy

***Candidates:** Students who experience obvious frustration in areas of school performance such as poor spelling, illegible handwriting, or difficulty with reading or math*

## **What are the distinctives of Educational Therapy?**

- Program through the National Institute of Learning Development
- Addresses root learning issues, helping learners overcome these issues by developing new learning paths.
- One on one sessions twice per week for 80 minutes
- Addresses cognition, perception, academics, emotions



## Inclusion in all of the good stuff!

- Athletics
- The Arts
- Spiritual Life/Camps
- RS House System
- LS Team System
- Summer Programs
- Clubs
- School-wide events
- We make it work ~ with loving support

# Great Dei Businesses

- **Vocational training** for 11th and 12th graders. Internships for 18-22 year old Transitional students. Ongoing employment for Imago Dei graduates as adults.
- **Great Dei Apparel:** Printing spirit wear for the Trinity community and (occasionally) beyond.
- **Great Dei Coffee Shop:** Serving hugs in mugs to the Trinity community daily. Also caters Trinity events.
- **Provides Christian, adult community,** supported employment, and ongoing job training for graduates with disabilities.







## Imago Dei Diploma

The Imago Dei diploma is equivalent to a **certificate of completion**. Transcripts reflect a modified curriculum that does not meet the CA State high school graduation requirements.





The success of your program will largely depend on your special education team.

Hire quality people. Train them to understand learning, behaviors and disabilities.



# Prepare Your School Community

Set everyone up for success by **clearly communicating expectations:**

→ **Mainstream Faculty:**

Train faculty on expectations. How to guide their own students and how to interact with yours.

→ **Students:**

What to expect. How to be a good friend. It's OK to ask questions. How to respond to the unexpected.



# Application to Acceptance Process

Evaluate all IEPs,  
assessments, report  
cards, and  
standardized tests.

Parent meeting,  
academic screening,  
with administration  
observation

Classroom visit over  
at least 2 different  
days, both academic  
and unstructured  
times.



## Benefits of working with your local public school district:

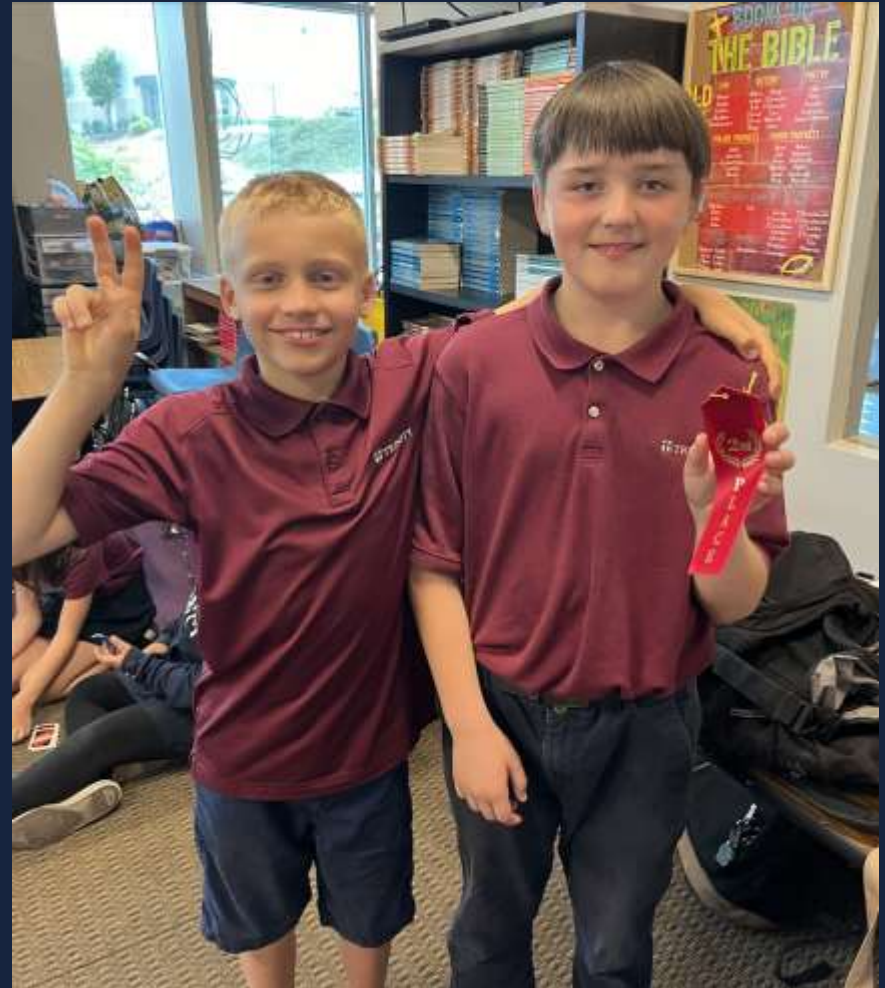
- Access to full assessment
- Speech and OT services
- Provision of curriculum and materials designated in IEP
- Participation in professional development





## Zachary's Story

- Zachary and his family had given up hope
- Experiencing academic failure. 2-3 grade levels behind in 3rd grade
- Provided the appropriate level of support, beginning in Imago Dei
- Gained 5 grade levels in 3 years - now above GL in reading and math

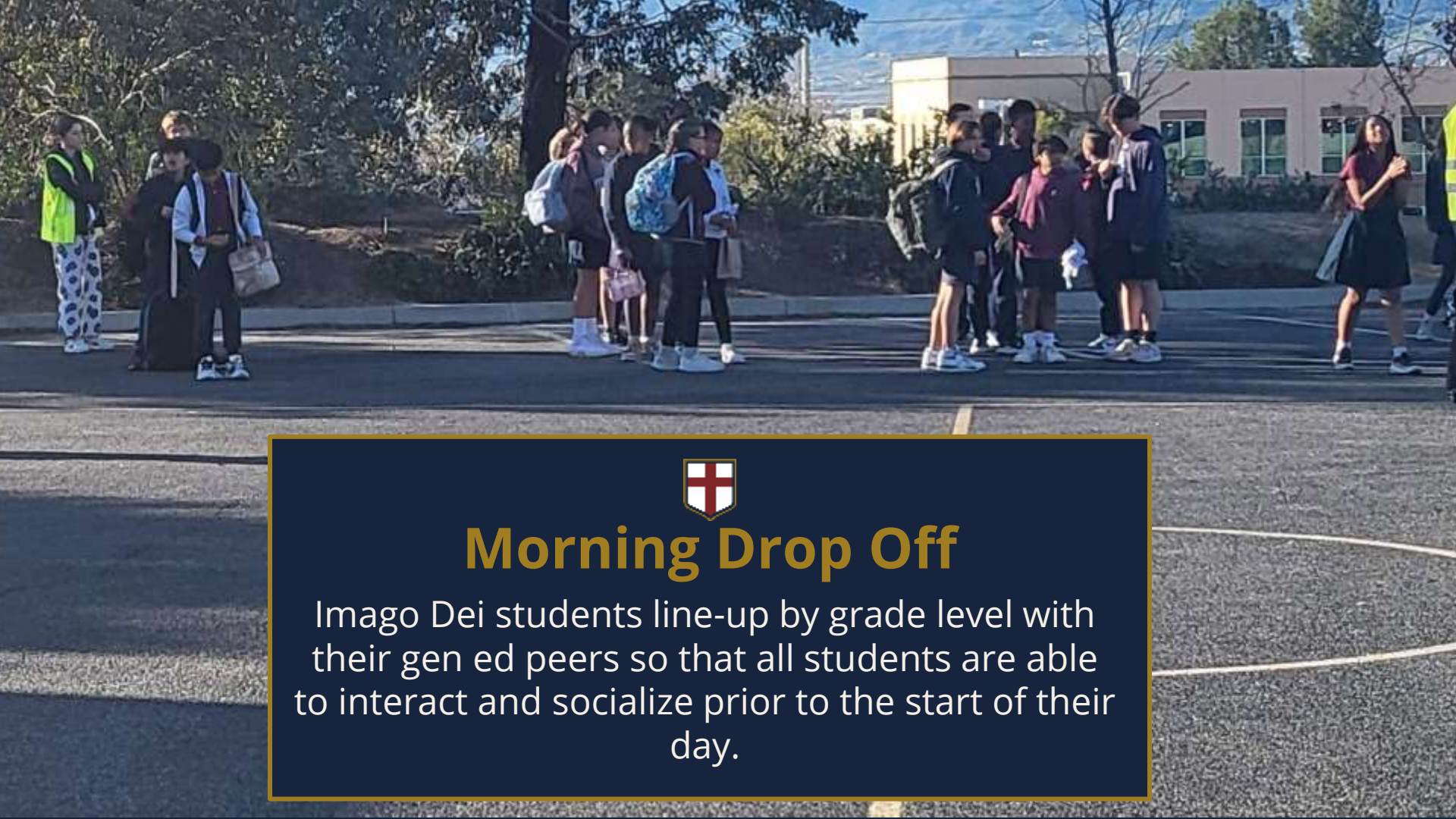






# Imago Dei School

A Day in the Life of a  
Grammar School Special  
Education Classroom



## Morning Drop Off

Imago Dei students line-up by grade level with their gen ed peers so that all students are able to interact and socialize prior to the start of their day.



# Morning Exercise

Before our students move into class, we begin with physical activity such as hill or stair repeats and stretches

→ **Purpose**

To prepare students for their day ahead and workout some energy.

→ **Benefit: by CDC Healthy Schools**

Exercise can improve student concentration and ability to stay on-task in the classroom.



# Morning Business

Students follow a structured schedule both in the Imago Dei classroom and in the gen ed classroom for students that mainstream.

Prayer & Morning Liturgy

Pledge of Allegiance

Catechism & Worship

School & weekly Bible Verse

Calendar





# Language Arts

## The Logic of English Curriculum

- Same curriculum as gen ed, modified in pacing according to the student's needs
- Phonics
- Phonemic awareness
- Vocabulary building
- Reading Fluency
- Reading comprehension







# Additional LA Curriculum

Shurley Grammar

Heggerty ~ Phonemic Awareness

Primary Phonics

LOE Penmanship

LOE Writing

Assorted literature books in a  
customized, leveled sequence





# Language Art Rotations

Multi-modality

Small group or individual lessons

Students rotate through different stations of no more than 3 student : 1 teacher





# Math

## Math In Focus Curriculum

- Same curriculum as gen ed, modified in pacing according to the student's needs
- Lesson with teacher, individual or small group
- Manipulatives
- Repetition and practice
- Followed by support rotations





# Math Support Rotations

Hands on support  
Math facts fluency  
Menu math  
Lesson support  
Telling time  
Number sense





# Classroom Aides



- Trained in the basic principles of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Essential academic support during lessons
- Support students during the challenging, less structured times such as lunch, recess and PE
- Teach academic support rotations such as math facts fluency, penmanship
- Monitor student progress toward individual goals. Collect data.
- Help students meet academic and behavior expectations during mainstreaming
- Accompany students to mainstreaming





## Student Breaks

Students take a 2 minute break after each rotation. Ex: Reading, sensory, or full body movement break. Additional sensory or self regulation breaks are allowed following a student's individual plan.





## Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming is an important part of the Imago Dei education. Students mainstream for co-curricular classes and academics where it is successful for a student's individual academic plan. Trinity faculty and students welcome their Imago Dei peers into their classrooms. It's just the "way we do school" at Trinity.





## Art and Music

With support from Imago Dei staff, students join their grade-level peers for music and art class, learning to use their God-given voices and artistic talents in a disciplined and God-honoring way.



**Imago Dei students have  
many opportunities to  
joyfully participate with  
their gen ed peers!**

Corporate Time  
Greek Festival  
Christmas Concert  
Medieval Faire  
Poetry Readings  
Physical Education  
Music Class  
Field Trips  
Chapel  
Founding Fathers  
And more...







# Noble Knights

A group of 6th grade peers who help Imago Dei students develop social and adaptive skills in a fun, collaborative and engaging way.







# Community Based Instruction

## Christmas Shopping at Walmart With Noble Knights

### *Skills addressed:*

Travel safety

Money math

Following signs in the store

Social communication

How to be a thoughtful gift giver





## Peer Mentors

Peer Mentors are Rhetoric School students that partner with Imago Dei students 3 times per week in the area of social thinking, understanding emotions and self regulation through role playing, sports, games and group discussions. Peer Mentors apply for the position and earn elective credits.



# QUESTIONS?



# Follow-up Contact Info:



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# Thank You!





