



RAPHAEL ACADEMY

**Educating the Minds, Bodies, and Spirits
of Students with Developmental Differences**





Raphael Village provides holistic learning programs and social opportunities for differently-abled people to be lovingly supported in mind, body, and spirit throughout their lives. As the only Affiliate Member of the Camphill Association of North America located in the Southeastern United States, Raphael Village brings New Orleans and its surrounding areas into a long tradition of providing community to differently-abled individuals of all ages and backgrounds.



WHAT IS RAPHAEL ACADEMY?

RAPHAEL ACADEMY OFFERS THE ONLY CURATIVE, WALDORF-INSPIRED K-12 SCHOOL IN NEW ORLEANS.

Our mission is to meet our students and their families with reverence and compassion; and to educate our students wholly, awakening their full potential as unique individuals, so that they may be actively involved in life and engaged in community.

Raphael Academy began in spring of 2012 as an after school program for middle school students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome, and other intellectual differences.

We are now a state-licensed private school offering grades K-12. Our exclusive focus on children with developmental disabilities allows our faculty to meet the specific needs of our students by providing individualized instruction and accommodations.

A WALDORF-INSPIRED, CURATIVE EDUCATION

Designed by educational philosopher Rudolf Steiner, Waldorf education offers students of all ages a practice-based education that is comprehensive and appropriate for each student's individual skills and abilities. Curative education is an extension of the Waldorf approach that incorporates techniques such as movement, drawing, and painting exercises to help children with difficulties in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Both Waldorf and Curative education are guided by the two core teaching principles of observation and love.

At Raphael Academy, we pair a Waldorf-inspired curriculum with Curative educational interventions to bring a practice-based academic approach to our differently-abled students, ensuring that each student's education is compatible with their own intellectual, spiritual, and physical development. Our average 7:2 student-to-teacher ratio allows our faculty to carefully observe and attend to each of our students' needs and strengths, and allows our teachers to know each student on an individual basis.

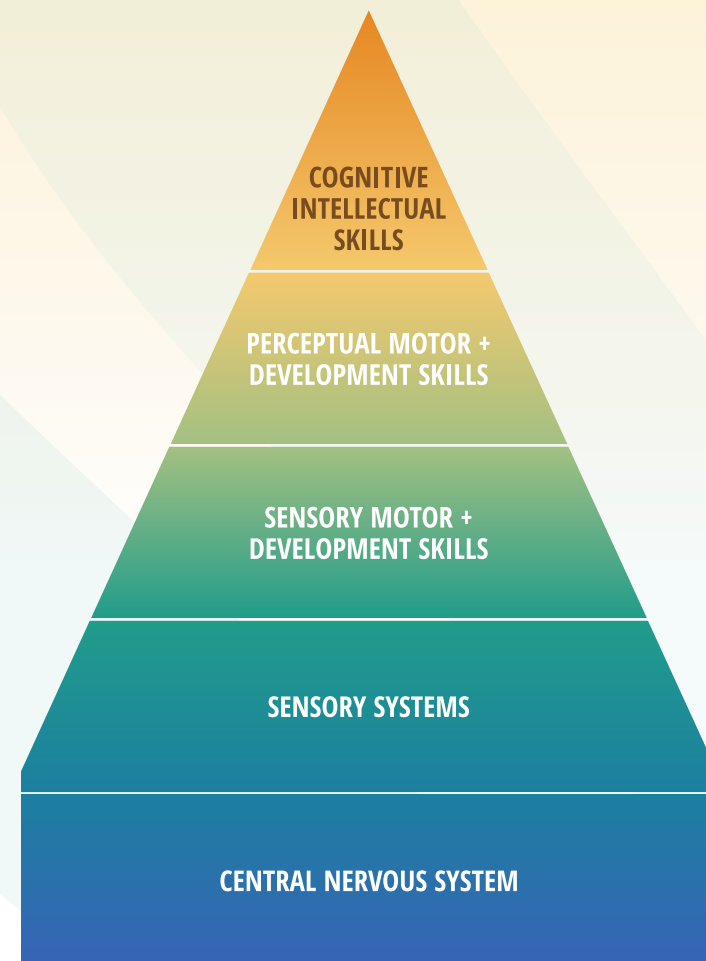
"A healthy social life is found only when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the whole community, the virtue of each one is living."

—Rudolf Steiner



THE PYRAMID OF LEARNING

This Pyramid illustrates how Raphael Academy's curriculum is designed to meet the physical and intellectual development of our students. As they advance and refine their sensory motor, executive functioning, and cognitive intellectual skills, they are presented with lessons that are more physically and intellectually challenging.



The Pyramid of Learning
By Williams and Shellenberger



5. COGNITIVE INTELLECTUAL SKILLS

In order for a child to progress towards academic learning, greater independence, and self regulation, we work to help them develop the skills outlined below. Academic learning includes reading comprehension, mathematics, history, and science, and greater independence requires the development of social, daily living, and behavior regulation skills, which our students practice throughout each school day.

4. PERCEPTUAL MOTOR + DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

These are necessary skills that create a foundation for literacy and numeracy. They include the physical awareness of yourself in relation to others, and executive functioning skills (planning, memory, and multi-tasking). These skills are practiced during activities such as form drawing, Main Lesson work, watercolor painting, handwork, and movement class.

3. SENSORY MOTOR + DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

These skills are practiced by walking a balance beam, body geography/midline exercises, standing on one leg, hopping, skipping, and jumping. Brain Gym and Take Time activities are examples of how to develop these skills in young children.

2. SENSORY SYSTEMS

Students stimulate their sensory systems while engaged in cooking and baking, playing with natural toys with varied textures, consuming healthy meals and snacks, singing, and being surrounded by nature.

1. CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Development of the brain and spinal cord (begins in utero).

OUR TOOLS AND METHODS

MAIN LESSON

The Main Lesson is an integral part of the Waldorf approach; it is the key theme or subject that a class explores over the course of 3 to 4 weeks, such as History (e.g., The Renaissance), Science (e.g., electromagnetism), and Mathematics (e.g., fractions and percentages). Instead of working with a textbook, teachers provide a variety of resources and materials for students to create their own textbook throughout the school year.

This hands-on approach to learning encourages both intention and creativity, and also allows students, teachers, and parents to see how the student has been engaging with the learning material over the course of the school year.

ABILITY GROUPS

Every day includes Ability Group Instruction where students receive individualized instruction in math, reading, and writing. Students are met at their own level and are supported in progressing at their own pace.

Curricula We Use to Support This Work

Fountas and Pinnell, STAR, and the Unique Learning System, a one-of-a-kind program designed specifically to give students with complex learning needs meaningful access to the general education curriculum.



ARTS INTEGRATION & SPECIALTIES

The arts are a vital component of any Waldorf or Curative curriculum — Raphael Academy students engage with artistic and creative learning modalities throughout each school day. Self expression is encouraged, through music and art instruction, where students experience fun and interactive lessons that aid in the healthy development of their bodies and neural pathways.

Some of our artistic programs and activities include:

- **Handwork**, a traditional component of Waldorf and Curative education that involves tactile work with natural materials, such as knitting, cross stitching, and weaving
- **Studio arts instruction** in the form of watercolor painting, form drawing, and ceramics
- **Music**, supported by a partnership with Loyola's School of Music Therapy
- **Gardening and Cooking** parallel the changing seasons and stimulate the senses
- **Movement**, through which students develop gross motor skills that are crucial to brain development
- **Our annual school play**, where students are engaged in both set and costume design

ASSESSMENTS

In addition to assessments embedded in our supporting curricula, Raphael Academy uses BRIGANCE® assessments to track our students' academic progress.

OUR CLASSROOMS



EARLY GRADES

The foundations of reading, writing, and math are taught through rich storytelling, form drawing, movement, and with the aid of a multitude of manipulatives.

Students are regularly engaged in sensory activities to stimulate and integrate neural pathways and encourage whole-body regulation.



TRANSITION

In addition to continuing their studies in history, science, literature, math, and more, students utilize the Unique Curriculum to focus on topics such as independent living skills and pre-vocational skills (social skills, job readiness, time and money management).

Beginning at age 16, students gain real-world experience through volunteering at local businesses as part of the Job Exploration Program (JEP).



MIDDLE GRADES

Students explore history, geography, and science; Main Lesson blocks may include the Renaissance, the mineral kingdom, and physics.

Students practice social interaction throughout each school day through guided discussions, social stories, and peer-to-peer games.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Through a partnership with NOLA PS, Raphael Academy offers speech therapy services to qualifying students. As an add-on service, we collaborate with Board Certified Behavior Analysts to offer:

- Functional Behavior Assessments
- Individualized Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)
- Staff training for individualized student intervention



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

ACADEMICS

	Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
EARLY GRADES	Reading: Multicultural Folk & Fairy Tales; Reading: Animal Fables, Folklore, and Legends; Reading, Grammar, Spelling; Composition; Handwriting Skills; Form Drawing*	Addition & Subtraction; Multiplication & Division; Multiplication Tables; Long Division; Measurement; Fractions	Observation of Nature; Cooking & Gardening; Housebuilding; Farming; Animal Studies	Ancient Legends & Multicultural Legends of Heroes and Saints; Creation Stories; Norse Legends; Local and State Geography; Map Making; North American Indigenous Cultures
MIDDLE GRADES	Reading Comprehension and Research; Biographies, Creative Writing, and Poetry; School Play; Grammar and Spelling; Playwriting; Group Projects; Form Drawing*	Decimals and Fractions; Pre and Basic Algebra; Business Math; Geometric Drawing; Area and Circumference; Platonic Solids; Volume	Zoology, Botany, Insects; Mineralogy; Astronomy and Physics; Chemistry; Electromagnetism; Hydraulics; Human Physiology	Ancient Civilizations: India, Egypt, Greece; North American Indigenous Cultures; Rome; Medieval History; The Renaissance; Age of Exploration; US History; Geography: Asia, South America, and Africa
TRANSITION	Creative Writing; Summarization; Novels; Short Stories; Dramatic Poetry; School Play	Basic Algebra; Money Math**; Budgets**; Values; Practical Use of Money**	Anatomy; Electricity; Meteorology; Geology; Sound & Light; Botany; Cell Structure	Modern History; Late 1800s to Present: The Great Inventions; Alexander the Great; Communism, Facism, etc.

SPECIALTIES

	Music	Movement	Arts & Handwork
EARLY GRADES	C Flute; Singing; Music Therapy	Traditional Games; Movement Exercises: Take Time and Brain Gym; Eurhythmym	Watercolor Painting; Beeswax Modeling; Drawing; Seasonal Crafts
MIDDLE GRADES	Pentatonic Flute; Singing; Music Therapy	Traditional Games; Team Sports; Social Dancing; Curative Exercises; Eurhythmym	Watercolor Painting; Clay Modeling; Cross-Stitch & Embroidery; Papier mMache, Knitting; Hand-Sewn Dolls
TRANSITION	Pentatonic Flute; Singing; Music Therapy	Team Sports; Social Dancing; Curative Exercises; Eurhythmym	Watercolor Painting; Weaving; Ceramics; Papermaking; Candle Making; Woodworking

***Form drawing** is unique to the Waldorf curriculum and develops visual, dexterity, and handwriting skills, and strengthens eye-hand coordination and the connection between the hand and brain.

Taught through the **Unique Learning System, a one-of-a-kind program designed specifically to give students with complex learning needs meaningful access to the general education curriculum.

Speech Therapy: Through a partnership with NOLA Public Schools, all Raphael Academy students are eligible to receive speech therapy once or twice a week during the school day in individual or small-group settings.

READ MORE ABOUT RAPHAEL ACADEMY’S CURRICULUM AT [RAPHAELVILLAGE.ORG/CURRICULUM](https://raphaelvillage.org/curriculum).



RAPHAEL ACADEMY

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

500 Soraparu Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

MAILING ADDRESS

530 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130

enrollment@raphaelacademy.org | 504-524-5955
raphaelvillage.org/raphael-academy

Raphael Village does not discriminate against any race, age, color, creed, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.