

# Villa Maria School at a Glance

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Villa Maria is a private, co-educational day school serving students with learning disabilities in grades kindergarten through ninth. Students succeed here, because, often for the first time in their academic life, they are in a place where their learning differences are recognized, understood, and addressed in a caring and professional way.

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## **Individualized Instruction**

Student-teacher ratio: 4 to 1

## **Certified Teachers**

All teachers are state-certified in special education. Twenty-three full-time teachers and one part-time teacher; 74% hold, or are working toward, advanced degrees.

## **Structure**

Students learn in a highly structured, yet highly supportive, learning environment.

## **Program**

The program emphasizes the mastery of reading, writing and mathematics skills.

## **Reading Instruction**

Reading teachers are trained in the Lindamood-Bell reading program, including the Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing Program for decoding and the Visualizing and Verbalizing for Comprehension. Many teachers are also trained in the Preventing Academic Failure Program.

## **Writing Instruction**

Language Arts teachers are trained in Basic Writing Skills, Story Grammar Marker, and Theme Maker.

## **Language Instruction**

Teachers employ strategies of the Basic Writing Program, including sentence expansion and basic outlines. Handwriting instruction is based on Handwriting Without Tears and The Loops and Other Groups programs recommended by leading occupational therapists today.

## **Math Instruction**

Teachers employ multisensory strategies, using manipulatives, so students may move from the concrete to conceptual understanding. They use strategies of the Lindamood-Bell on Cloud Nine math program. Lower grade students gain automaticity of math facts using Math-a-Magician, flashcards and repetition.

## **Full Curriculum**

Science and social studies are taught throughout the year, and there is an emphasis on music, drama, art and physical education as well.

## **Founded**

1962 (after school and summer school program);  
1973 (full-time day school).

## **Headmaster**

Sister Carol Ann Nawracaj

## **Enrollment**

88

## **Admission**

Rolling admission accepted throughout the year.

## **2011-2012 Tuition**

\$39,800 for Grades K-5  
\$41,500 for Grades 6-9

## **Financial Aid**

\$360,000 awarded to 24% of student body

## **Campus**

7-1/2 acres with one building, playground, and athletic fields