



The Academy In Manayunk

169 Conarroe Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
215-483-2461 ~ www.aimpa.org

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Please read carefully

The Academy In Manayunk, in conjunction with The Lab School of Washington®, services children with average to above average intelligence who, through evaluation by a qualified specialist, have been determined to have or be at risk for a specific learning disability/difference.

The Academy's admission process is described below:

1. Parents unfamiliar with The Lab School of Washington, founded by Sally L. Smith, should access The Lab School of Washington's® website at www.labschool.org. It is further recommended that parents register as early as possible to attend an **OPEN HOUSE**. We ask that **BOTH PARENTS** plan to attend these sessions **TOGETHER**, as time and scheduling does not allow for separate visits for each parent.
2. To be considered for admission, a **complete application** packet must be received. Please do not fax documents due to the sensitive nature of the material and because fax copies are often unreadable. Please keep originals for your files; any materials submitted to the Academy In Manayunk remain part of our confidential files.
3. **We strongly suggest that you gather your documents, make necessary assessment appointments AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION as soon as possible.**
4. **A complete packet consists of the application and the following documents:**
 - a. A complete report of the most recent Psychoeducational Evaluation (current within the past two years)
 - b. Most recent report card
 - c. Student's Strengths and Needs Profile (included) completed by teacher
 - d. Individualized Education Plan (IEP), if available
 - e. Speech/Language and Occupational Therapy testing ,if applicable
 - f. Non-refundable \$100 fee (made payable to the Academy in Manayunk) to cover processing of the application and review of the records
 - g. Recent photo of the student

5. Only when a completed application has been received can the Admissions Committee review the records. If the student is an appropriate candidate for the Academy In Manayunk program, he/she is invited for a visit.

6. The Admissions Committee again reviews the student's file. Decision letters and enrollment contracts are usually mailed during the month of February for students applying for the 2010-11 school year. In addition, a student may be offered a contract after completion of the summer program if a space becomes available. A limited number of spaces are available in select grades for the 09-10 school year. Please contact the school to check availability for placement for the current school year.

The Academy In Manayunk encourages applications from and admits students of any racial, ethnic or religious background. Its programs and policies are applied with equal consideration to all its applicants and students.



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Admissions Policy

Mission Statement

To provide extraordinary educational opportunities to children with learning disabilities, utilizing research-based intervention strategies and a highly tailored, arts-based learning environment that is college preparatory in scope and sequence.

To develop a center for educational excellence and professional development to disseminate best practices to educators throughout the region by providing access to the latest research-based curriculum, technology, and training.

- ☒ A school (grades 1-12) for children with learning disabilities
- ☒ A center for professional development for educators
- ☒ In conjunction with The Lab School of Washington®

The Academy In Manayunk's program is designed for those whose school problems are rooted in moderate to severe learning disabilities. The Academy's students must meet the criteria for determining the existence of a specific learning disability/difference as defined by IDEA (Individuals with Learning Disabilities Act). Specifically, a child is determined to have a learning disability/difference if:

1. The child does not achieve commensurate with his or her age and learning ability levels; and
2. Evaluation indicates that the child has severe discrepancies between achievement and intellectual ability in one or more of the following areas:

- Ω Oral expression Ω Basic reading skills Ω Math reasoning
- Ω Written expression Ω Math calculations

Furthermore, this discrepancy may not be the result of a visual, hearing, or motor handicap; mental retardation; emotional disturbance; autism-Asperger's spectrum; pervasive developmental disorder; or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

A child with learning disabilities often has Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This child has a short attention span, is easily distracted, unable to control impulses, and is very unpredictable. The child's work is erratic—on Monday, Wednesday and Friday he/she might perform well—but on the other days cannot remember. Responses are sometimes inappropriate—the child may seem to overreact or under react to particular situations.

Frequently, immature in behavior the same child may be extraordinarily perceptive and grownup. Some of these children may have been described as lazy, slow learners, willful, rebellious children and surely puzzling. Others have been described as unfocused, "all over the place", or poorly disciplined when, in fact, they are having trouble with self regulation and self-monitoring skills because of neurological delays or dysfunction.

Outwardly, the Academy In Manayunk child looks like a typical youngster, but most often has perceptual handicaps thwarting the child from interpreting and acting appropriately upon the stimuli received. For example, the child confuses letters such as b and d, p and q, or can read and recognize a word but might not be able to write it.

The child may not respond appropriately to sounds, showing difficulty in rhyming and relating sounds to letters or letters to the whole word. Organizing thoughts logically and oral expression may be areas of difficulty. Since the child is often very bright, reasoning and synthesizing thoughts may be extraordinary while rote memory may be weak. We expect our population of children to be similar to that of The Lab School of Washington®, where 85% of the children experience language-based learning disabilities; thus the curriculum works in every possible way to develop vocabulary and language fluency.

The Academy In Manayunk's curriculum is based on the program that Sally L. Smith founded at The Lab School of Washington®. This innovative program is designed to meet the needs of the learning disabled child via innovative and rigorous teaching methods which emphasizes the arts and hands-on experiential learning techniques that incorporates both one-to-one instruction and small group experiences. Candidates must be able to function within small group classes.

The aim of the school is to enable children with uneven levels of functioning to return to a less restrictive environment in the shortest time feasible for each student.

The Academy in Manayunk encourages applications and admits students of all racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds. Its programs are applied with equal consideration to all of its applicants and students. Prospective students may be referred to the Academy by:

- ☒ Philadelphia area public and independent schools
- ☒ Neurologists, psychiatrists, and psychologists
- ☒ Private diagnosticians and educational consultants
- ☒ Parent application

For a child to be admitted to AIM, current psychoeducational testing (within the past two years) and any other relevant evaluations must be submitted along with the application. Upon review of the application by the admissions committee, the applicant and his/her parents will be invited for a visit, if it is deemed that the Academy In Manayunk can meet the needs of the child while encouraging them to soar to their areas of strengths.



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Admissions information and forms, including an application, are available on our website:

<http://www.aimpa.org>

- ☒ **Click on "Admissions"**
- ☒ **Please read the Admissions Policy and Admissions Procedures before proceeding with the application.**
- ☒ **The Teacher Evaluation Form must be filled out by your child's teacher and sent in along with the application itself and supporting documents.**
- ☒ **Please refer to the website for current tuition and financial aid information.**