

Spectrum of Success

Every student has a star power...



Read about ours today!

Autism
Model
School



Noah
16 years old

Reading All Star

Noah has been enrolled in the Autism Model School since October of 2015. Some of Noah's favorite things to do are baseball, basketball, art, and photography. He also enjoys traveling when the opportunity arises. Noah is extremely insightful and tends to pay close attention to how his classmates are feeling. He's hit the books hard since arriving to AMS and his hard work has absolutely paid off.

In just 10 months, Noah advanced his [reading abilities](#) from mid-5th grade to 8th grade. That's 2.5 years of academic growth in the area of reading in just 10 months! We couldn't be prouder of Noah for this amazing accomplishment. Keep up the good work Noah!

Academic Area	2015-2016 Grade Level Equivalent (GLE)	2016-2017 GLE	Change in GLE Over 1 Year of Instruction
Reading	5.6	8.2	+2.5 Years



Shania
11 years old

Communicator Extraordinaire

Shania has been enrolled in the Autism Model School since June of 2016. Some of Shania's favorite things include playing with dolls, hugs from her teachers, bounces on a trampoline, Oreo cookies and watching her favorite videos on her iPad.

When Shania came to AMS, her primary method of communicating with adults around her was to pull them by the hand or hit/kick them when there was something she wanted. It was clear her frustration stemmed from a limited ability to communicate.

In less than one year, Shania has learned to use a picture-exchange [communication system](#) to effectively communicate with adults when there is something that she wants. She's now able to locate a book that contains pictures of her favorite things in it, open the book, search through 20+ pictures to find the item/activity she wants, walk to a teacher and place the picture of the item/activity in the teacher's hand.

Shania is a much happier student now that she can communicate with those around her. We couldn't be more proud of Shania and how much progress she has made. Keep up the good work Shania!



Rebecca
20 years old

Ecommerce Expert

Rebecca has attended Autism Model School since 2012. Prior to AMS, Rebecca was residing at the Hughes Center in Virginia, a residential treatment program for individuals with autism who are experiencing significant social and behavioral difficulties within the home, school and community environments.

Some of Rebecca's favorite things include music, dancing, painting her nails, looking at her favorite coloring books and [hallway parties](#). If you're new to AMS, a hallway party is a special reward where *all* of the students and staff line the walls to celebrate and cheer for a student who has demonstrated a remarkable achievement. Rebecca has had her share of hallway parties this year, because she has had some remarkable achievements.

One of the most encouraging areas of growth for Rebecca over the course of the last year has been her progress as an employee in the school's new E-Commerce business/job training program, Aut-To-Be Partners. Rebecca has learned to independently complete several different jobs within the organization. One of her jobs is to independently gather, count, and sort products from the school's inventory warehouse to fulfill product orders from Amazon.

We are happy to report that Rebecca can complete this job completely independently...and she loves doing it! Autism Model School couldn't be prouder of you Rebecca...keep up the amazing work!



Xavier
12 years old

Captain Catch-up

We highlighted Xavier as one of our Student Success Stories in 2016, but then he just kept amazing us...so we had no choice but to highlight him again this year. Xavier has attended the Autism Model School since 2012. He enjoys reading, socializing with his friends, playing games on the iPad and computer, drawing, and helping out around the classroom. He is an energetic and hardworking student who enjoys learning and participating in his classes.

Since enrolling at AMS, Xavier has made outstanding gains in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The table below shows just how far Xavier has come in his ability to read since he enrolled in Autism Model School. Despite coming to our school unable to read and in the 2nd grade, Xavier is now **reading above grade level!**

These results are measured by a standardized educational assessment (Kauffman Test of Educational Achievement-Brief Form Second Edition). We are absolutely blown away by you and the progress you are making Xavier. Keep up the good work man! We'd love to highlight you again next year too!

Academic Area	2013-2014 Grade Level Equivalent (GLE)	2015-2016 GLE	2016-2017 GLE	Change in GLE Over 1 Year of Instruction
Reading	K.4	3.5	6.6	+3.1 Years



Kalynn
10 years old

All Around Over-Achiever

Kalynn has attended Autism Model School since November of 2013. Anyone who meets Kalynn instantly falls in love with her exuberance and excitement for life. She is always eager to help in the classroom with both her teachers and her classmates. When new students arrive to our school, Kalynn is quick to make them feel like they have an instant friend. She loves to play with Legos, Play-Doh, Barbie, and Minecraft.

Kalynn's accomplishments over the course of the last year are almost hard to believe. Kalynn's educational program at AMS has included a heavy emphasis on the development of oral language skills. All of Kalynn's hard work has paid off.

In the span of just one year, Kalynn increased her Core Language Age Equivalent by over 2 full years. When tested in 2015, Kalynn presented with a severe language delay. By 2016, Kalynn tested with average language skills! Not only did Kalynn improve her oral language abilities, she also grew substantially in all academic areas. Kalynn demonstrated statistically significant gains in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

We couldn't be prouder of you Kalynn. Your spirit and **positive energy** are remarkable!

Areas Tested		Standard Score 2016	Standard Score 2017	Age Equivalent 2016	Age Equivalent 2017	Oral Lang. Classification 2016	Oral Lang. Classification 2017
Core	word classes, formulated sentences, recalling sentences, semantic relationships	67	86	<5.4	7.4	Severe	Average
Receptive	word classes, following directions, semantic relationships	70	86	<6.0	6.9	Severe	Average
Expressive	formulated sentences, recalling sentences, recalling sentences, sentence assembly	73	89	5.6	7.9	Moderate	Average



Leona
7 years old

Ace of the A.C.E.

Leona began attending the Autism Model School in May of 2015. She is an adorable young lady with endless energy. Leona is also an extremely confident young woman who is not afraid to let you know when something isn't quite right ☺.

She loves to play with Barbie Dolls, Blocks, make sand castles and play with toy cars. She also loves to receive tickles from her favorite teachers when she does a good job!

Many students at the AMS are assessed with the New England Center for Children's Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia's Core Skills Assessment. The Core Skills Assessment directly measures independence across a range of fundamental skills within the following areas: Discrimination, Communication, Social Skills, Self-Help, Recreation and Physical Education, Community Skills, Vocational Skills, Health and Safety, and Academics.

The assessment is completed annually for students at Autism Model School and helps to inform the development of uniquely tailored educational goals and objectives for each student. Results from Core Skills Assessments completed across consecutive years can be compared to each other to provide a measure of student growth.

Results from Leona's assessments completed across the last 2 years are displayed in the table below. Some of the things that Leona has learned to do over the course of the last year include: respond to her name by looking when it is called, maintain attention to her teacher during a lesson, respond to greetings from other people, request assistance/help, respond to instructions to stop while walking, follow 1-step directions, name common objects, use a token economy system, and wash her hands independently!

As you can see, she has worked extremely hard! We couldn't be more proud of you Leona!

Core Skills Area of Assessment	2015-2016	2016-2017
Discrimination Skills	74%	97%
Communication Skills	60%	97%
Social Skills	80%	93%
Self-Help	65%	88%
Health and Safety	80%	90%
Recreation and Physical Education	80%	100%
Community Skills	60%	100%

Autism Model School

Measuring success everywhere

This newsletter has been put together in the spirit of raising awareness of some of the challenges that individuals with autism face, but also of the opportunities that exist to overcome these challenges. These stories make up but a snapshot of the incredible successes that our students achieve each day.

If any of our All-Star students above remind you of someone you know who might also benefit from the development of similar skills, please feel free to **contact us!** While we cannot provide explicit recommendations without directly assessing a student, we are happy to direct you towards resources to assist you and your loved one!

Keep up the incredible work everyone!

--Joel Vidovic

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