

## Back to Basics' Bridge Program: A light at the end of the tunnel

Maybe you've already tried once to find an alternative learning environment for a child who was just not "getting it" in the conventional educational setting. Whether it was a private school or a home school alternative, you soon discovered that alternative was still not producing the results and success you know your child is capable of. Now you're frustrated and confused – and worried there maybe something more seriously wrong than motivation, confidence or esteem.

This would be the time to call Back to Basics Learning Dynamics, and receive a thorough student evaluation by professional educators with a proven track record of success.

"We offer a wide range of educational services tailored to meet the specific needs of your child," says Beverly Stewart, M.Ed., and the founder of Back to Basics Learning Dynamics. "Whether it be academic preparation requiring close, hands-on interaction, developing improved social interaction skills among your child's peers or building the kind of positive reinforcement that will allow your child to move on to the next challenge, we have the experience and training to make an immediate impact on your child's educational success."

Stewart began Back to Basics as the sole employee of a one-on-one tutoring program in 1985. Twenty years later, Back to Basics employs 85 professional, degreed tutors offering instruction in over 50 different subjects. Back to Basics has served the needs of over 9000 students in the tri-state area.

"One of our primary goals is to partner with you as parents for your child's success," says Back to Basics

Education Director Donna Duffy. "We want to bridge the gap between school and home, so that we provide you with a cohesive plan that works for you and your family."

That plan is the Back to Basics "Bridge Program," an alternative schooling option that provides a full-time school day, offering four core courses of math, English/language arts, social studies and science. Electives include foreign language, art, critical thinking, study skills, business courses, computer literacy, and more. The Bridge Program was inaugurated in 2003, and currently can maintain a full-time enrollment of up to 18 students.

"Admission is based primarily on our assessment of our own suitability to provide your child with the tools for success," says Duffy. "We also work to determine your child's strengths and non-strengths. We foster a nurturing environment where children can grow and walk in their strengths, and understand the benefit of interdependence as they work with others in areas of non-strength."

Students in the Bridge Program have the opportunity to learn in both one-on-one and small group, multi-age settings. The Program teaches thematic, integrated units that help students make connections across the curriculum.

Character traits and current events are emphasized in the daily home-room, so that students are tuned into the needs of the world around them, and the vital part they can play in finding meaningful solutions to issues and problems in our society. In addition, field trips are taken each year.

The Bridge Program is structured to provide your child both one-on-one instruction, as well as group interaction involving small class sizes of between two and five students, four days per week, age and grade appropriate. A staff of 10 instructors conducts the Bridge Program curriculum.

"We are continuing to develop programs to continue to meet the needs of parents and children, as their children experience these transitional times in their lives," says Stewart.

In fact, Back to Basics is already expanding the Bridge Program to develop an Individual Student Plan (ISP) designed to assist parents when it is time to move their child from the Program and integrate back to a conventional educational environment.

"The ISP is a more formalized assessment and academic plan, providing a more comprehensive, cohesive and cooperative metric for measuring your child's progress in the Bridge Program, as well as providing a realistic set of expectations for when your child returns to a more conventional school environment," Duffy explains.

Stewart has more than 27 years of educational experience, and Duffy founded and operated a school for Arab-American children, grades 1-12, in Israel. In addition to the Bridge Program, Back to Basics offers tutoring in over 50 subjects, academic and intelligence testing,



Donna Duffy works with a Bridge Program student.

contract services to districts and individual schools, operates a state-approved summer school, as well as home schooling and translating/interpreting services. Educational consulting services for parents are also available.

Of the Back to Basics Bridge Program mission, Duffy says, "We try to see the next level for your child and then tap that potential through nurturing and a team approach that helps your child eventually see that next level on his or her own."

"We can help you navigate this road," says Duffy, "and help you get up and over the bridge and get your feet securely placed on the other side."

Back to Basics Learning Dynamics is located at 6 Stone Hill Road, Wilmington, DE 19803. PH: (302) 594-0754; FX: (302) 421-9479. Visit [www.backtobasicslearning.com](http://www.backtobasicslearning.com)