

What is the Arrowsmith Program?



The Arrowsmith Program is based on the application of neuroscience research and the premise that it is possible to address a range of specific learning difficulties by identifying and strengthening cognitive capacities.

The goal of the Arrowsmith Program is to strengthen learning capacities rather than teach ways to compensate for specific learning difficulties. This program helps students address their challenges and achieve academic success. St. Stephen Catholic School has been an Arrowsmith certified school since 2010.

The goal of the program is to help students become effective, confident, and self-directed learners. After completing a two to four year program, most students return to a full-time, regular school curriculum. Upon completion of the program some students may require one to two years to gain experience using their newly strengthened cognitive capacities and some students may need tutoring initially to bring academic skills to grade level.

A questionnaire is available on the Arrowsmith website to help you determine whether your child's learning difficulties align with those addressed by the Arrowsmith Program. Visit arrowsmithschool.org and click on "Assessments" to access the questionnaire.

Part-time and full-time program options available.

Profile of a Typical Arrowsmith Student

- Is of average or above average intelligence.
- Has a combination of the learning difficulties that are described in this brochure.
- Does not have severe intellectual, cognitive, emotional or behavioral disorders that would significantly affect his or her ability to participate in the Arrowsmith Program.
- Does not have an autism spectrum disorder.
- Is of elementary, secondary, or post-secondary school age.

How the Program Benefits the Student

- Strengthens cognitive processes necessary for efficient learning.
- Improves reasoning and comprehension.
- Builds academic skills such as word identification, reading fluency, math calculation, math fluency, and writing.
- Improves phonemic awareness.
- Improves processing speed, working memory, memory for words.

The Arrowsmith Framework for Results

- Detailed assessment of fifteen cognitive functions.
- Innovative methods which include specialized cognitive exercises.
- Clearly defined and individualized goals.
- A positive, supportive, and structured learning environment.
- Low student to teacher ratio.
- Build self-esteem by developing competence.



St. Stephen Catholic School
740 Gladstone Dr. SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-243-8998 ext. 206

schooloffice@ststephenparish.com

www.ststephenschoolgr.com/programs/arrowsmith



Arrowsmith PROGRAM

at St. Stephen Catholic School



A cognitive Program for students with learning difficulties including:

Reading

Visual Memory

Writing

Auditory Memory

Mathematics

Dyslexia

Comprehension

Non-Verbal Learning

Logical Reasoning

Auditory Processing

Executive Function

Attention

Do These Problems Sound Familiar?

The Arrowsmith Program may benefit your child if his or her areas of difficulty match the symptoms described below.



Motor Symbol Sequencing

Messy handwriting; miscopying; misreading; irregular spelling; speech rambling; careless written errors in math.

Symbol Recognition

Poor word recognition; slow reading; difficulty with spelling; trouble remembering symbol patterns such as mathematical or chemical equations.

Memory for Information or Instructions

Trouble remembering oral instructions; difficulty following lectures or extended conversations; problems acquiring general information through listening.

Object Recognition

Trouble finding objects; problem remembering visual cues such as landmarks; difficulty remembering faces and recalling the visual details of pictures.

“He’s made incredible improvement in all areas, especially reading, and that has made all the difference. He believes in himself again. This program saved our son . . . it saved all of us.”

*Parent of an
Arrowsmith Graduate*



Auditory Speech Discrimination

Mishearing words and thus misinterpreting information; extra effort required to listen to speech.

Symbol Relations

Difficulty with reading comprehension; trouble with mathematical reasoning; trouble with logical reasoning; difficulty reading an analog clock, problem understanding cause and effect; letter reversals.

“What is so great about the program is that it is very specific to the child’s needs.” Parent of an
Arrowsmith Graduate



“My math is better because I completely understand almost everything and before I was so confused.”
Arrowsmith Graduate



Symbolic Thinking

Problem being self-directed and self-organized in learning; limited mental initiative; difficulty focusing on tasks to completion; difficulty thinking, planning, and problem solving; trouble seeing the main point.

Broca’s Speech Pronunciation

Mispronouncing words; avoiding using words because of uncertainty of pronunciation; limited ability to learn and use phonics; difficulty thinking and talking at the same time; flat and monotone speech with lack of rhythm and intonation.

Predicative Speech

Problem putting information into one’s own words; speaks in incomplete sentences; difficulty using internal speech to work out consequences; trouble following long sentences; breakdown of steps in mathematical procedures.

Quantification Sense

Finger counting; trouble retaining numbers in one’s head; difficulty making change; problem learning math facts; poor sense of time management; difficulty with time signature in music.

“I have gotten better at a lot of things because of Arrowsmith. Some of the changes are my handwriting and my memory. I can understand new ideas and I can follow directions. Arrowsmith has helped me a lot.”

Arrowsmith Graduate

Primary Motor

Poor muscle tone which results in some degree of awkwardness and slowness of body movement.

Artifactual Thinking

Problem interpreting non-verbal information such as body language, facial expression, and voice tone; weak social skills; difficulty perceiving and interpreting one’s own emotions; difficulty with non-verbal thinking, planning, and problem solving.

Lexical Memory

Problem with associative memory; trouble following auditory information; trouble learning names of things such as animals, places, people, colors, and days of the week.

