

# Oak Hill School

Oak Hill School is a private state approved special education school creatively meeting the needs of each individual student. We offer a 12-month community-based education program for day and residential students. The program serves students with moderate to severe disabilities from ages 3 to 21.

## Oak Hill School Mission

Oak Hill School sets the standard in empowering students to learn through meaningful, functional, and innovative educational experiences which build self-advocacy, independence, and reinforce the dignity of students using comprehensive trans-disciplinary supports.

## Classrooms

Our classrooms are located in the community. Many are located within the public schools. This offers a significant time with peers and integration into the community as appropriate. This enables us to teach skills within real, meaningful situations and activities.

## Classroom Locations

1. Avon
2. Bristol 1
3. Bristol 2
4. Bristol 3
5. Haddam Killingworth
6. Hartford Primary
7. Hartford Secondary
8. Hebron
9. New Hartford
10. Plainville
11. Portland

## Our Vision

To teach every student through creative, innovative, functional instruction and meaningful activities, so that each student will become more independent in his or her life.

## Classroom Programs

Each classroom offers its own set of individual services. For more information, visit our website or contact:

Ana Wittig, Chief Administrator  
Oak Hill Education Department  
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*“Oak Hill School is unique because we meet the needs of each individual student in the most creative and innovative way, through meaningful activities and programs. We teach skills within authentic, community environments, making it possible for students to easily generalize their knowledge.”*

~Ana Wittig, Chief Administrator  
of Oak Hill School

**For all classrooms, behavioral, clinical, and therapeutic supports are provided by our multi-disciplinary team to maximize each student's development. We include intensive individualized instruction for vocational training, independent living, and community participation. Activities in authentic environments facilitate the generalization of learned skills. Students practice improved social and communication skills, for self-advocacy and future success.**

### **1. Avon Classroom**

This classroom is located within Farmington Valley Montessori School. This program currently serves students with multiple disabilities. Avon has both an elementary classroom setting for students ages 7-14 and a secondary classroom setting for ages 14-21. Both settings offer a variety of daily learning experiences and the unique opportunity to potentially participate in activities with their non-disabled peers.

Students in the Avon Oak Hill elementary classroom are working towards communication skills and transitions throughout the school day while students in the secondary classroom use assistive technology to enhance a variety of vocational and learning activities. The majority of secondary students participate in Mobility Opportunities Via Education/ Experience (MOVE) — a program that helps students gain greater physical independence in functional settings throughout the school day. Both classrooms use the Unique Learning Curriculum, which gives students access to the general education curriculum.

### **2. Bristol 1 Classroom**

The Bristol 1 Program includes students ages 14-21 who have multiple, intellectual, and/or behavioral disabilities. The students receive highly individualized and small group instruction in academic and independent living skills. Vocational opportunities and community outings are a part of daily routines. Monthly thematic field trips provide hands-on learning experiences in a wide variety of authentic settings.

### **3. Bristol 2 Classroom**

The Bristol 2 classroom is composed of students, ranging from 5-21 years of age, with severe medical and multiple disabilities. We best service our students by providing individualized education, vocational programming and a variety of assistive and adaptive technology.

Community experiences have included visiting museums, libraries, farms, fairs, going bowling, community resources, etc. The remainder of the school day is spent on functional academics in language arts, math, science, and social studies. Our students navigate through interactive lessons, games and learning activities, by using technology and adaptive equipment.

### **4. Bristol 3 Classroom**

Our students in this program are ages 10-21 with intellectual, behavioral, or multiple disabilities. The program focuses on functional academics in language arts, math, science, and social studies.

### **5. Haddam-Killingworth Classroom**

This Program is located at Haddam Killingworth High School. Our students, have intellectual, behavioral, or multiple disabilities. The program also focuses on functional academics in language arts, math, science, and social studies, as outlined in the IEPs of the pupils. Many of our students complete requirements for a high school diploma.

### **6. Hartford Primary Classroom**

The Hartford Primary Program is located on the Oak Hill campus. Our students range from ages 5-14 years old and have intellectual, behavioral, or multiple disabilities.

## **7. Hartford Secondary Classroom**

Program is located on the Oak Hill campus. Our students, ages 14–21. Activities in authentic environments facilitate the generalization of learned skills, and pupils gain experience by maintaining the school's greenhouse, garden, and fish tank. Students practice improved social and communication skills for self-advocacy and future success. The program also focuses on functional academics in language arts, math, science, and social studies. Many of the students complete requirements for a high school diploma.

The students work towards developing the ability to identify their emotions and improve their communications skills across all daily activities with the help of technology and innovative strategies.

## **8. Hebron Classroom**

The Hebron Transition Classroom is located at beautiful Camp Hemlocks in Hebron, Connecticut. Our students range from ages 16–21, with intellectual, behavioral, or multiple disabilities.

The program also focuses on functional academics in language arts, math, science, and social studies. Many of the students complete requirements for a high school diploma, and all who participate in the program leave with a portfolio and resume as they enter the post-secondary world of adulthood.

## **9. New Hartford Classroom**

This program at Ann Antolini Elementary School in New Hartford, CT currently serves students with multiple disabilities, ages 3–15. Students here have the unique opportunity to attend a public elementary school with their non-disabled peers while also receiving the comprehensive services available through Oak Hill School. The children are an active part of the school

community; using the cafeteria, gym, playground, and library with their peers and attending school-wide concerts and assemblies, developing and maintaining friendships with peers.

Each student at Antolini/Oak Hill works toward developing the ability to use his or her communication skills across all daily activities. Students may use objects, pictures, sign language, or augmentative communication devices as appropriate to their needs. All staff encourage and assist students to actively interact with others, express basic needs and opinions and make choices.

## **10. Plainville Classroom**

The Plainville classroom has students with multiple disabilities, ages 13–21. It is located inside the Middle School of Plainville. The students are able to participate in community programming such as shopping, laundry, delivering renter's guides, recycling, and more. In the classroom, the students work on functional academics in language arts, math, science, and social studies. They also learn vocational tasks including laminating and shredding. Plainville places a strong emphasis on helping our students to increase their independence with real life skills, in order for them to be as independent as possible in their daily lives.

## **11. Portland Classroom**

This classroom is located within Brownstone Intermediate School, located at 314 Main St. Portland, CT. The classroom serves students 3–15 years of age and provides unique environment where students can interact and build relationships with their peers attending Brownstone Intermediate school. As in all Oak Hill Classrooms, Portland classroom focuses on innovative and creative instruction to provide students with the most appropriate education based on their individual needs.





## Oak Hill School Homebound Services

### Program Description

The Homebound Service program is a model where Oak Hill School provides homebound or hospital instruction when a child's planning and placement team (PPT) recommends it and the child is unable to attend school. The services encompass a 12-month educational program for students placed in homebound placement as identified in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) including behavioral, clinical, and therapeutic supports. This program focuses on unique strategies to enable each student to achieve the maximum possible independence in learning, living, and participating in the community. Oak Hill School Educational Model incorporates academic instruction, communication, life skills, vocational, and community skills based on IEPs with the goal for students to demonstrate growth and development of learned skills and to generalize these skills to other less restrictive settings in their lives and communities.

Each student receives a highly specialized program emphasizing skill development in the areas of: functional academics, daily living skills, fine and gross motor development, communication, social skills, self-advocacy, and community participation. Secondary school students also develop functional academic transition skills, including employment, post-secondary education & training, independent living, and self-help skills within community-based jobs and instruction. Instructional methodology is centered on best practice and instruction based on the Common Core State Standards through functional meaningful activities, ensuring generalization of skills and movement towards independent learning.

A trans-disciplinary approach is used to design a program that is individualized to each student's needs and geared to teach new skills. Therapies are provided in the following areas specific to a student's learning needs: Occupational, Physical, Speech and Language and Behavioral Specialists, including a BCBA, serve to ensure direct and integrated services based on a student's individual learning needs. Special Education Teachers, Therapists, Nurses, and Assistive Technology specialists work collaboratively to design instruction using state of the art assistive technology to improve the teaching and learning process. A trans-disciplinary team monitors progress using evidence based data to assess student learning and to target necessary instructional adjustments for learning.

The Oak Hill School Trans-disciplinary team will develop individualized support systems for each child and their transition into the less restrictive environment if appropriate.

### Objectives

1. Meet each child's educational needs based on their IEP
2. Provide specialized instruction paired with assistive technology to support young adult learning and generalization to community settings.
3. Teach each child to self-monitor their own learning and behavior to maximize progress, and apply and transfer learned skills to all life settings.
4. Work towards each child's transition into a less restrictive educational placement.

### **Program Eligibility and Referral Process**

- The program is intended for students ages 3-21 who are placed in homebound placement.
- Oak Hill School accepts referrals from school districts throughout Connecticut. The administrative team will review the packet and when applicable meet the student to determine the appropriateness of the placement.

*“We strive for all student to  
have the opportunity to  
maximize their full potential.”*

**~Special Education Teacher**





# Art & Music Therapy/Vocational Opportunities

## Promoting Creative Independence

Painting, photography, ceramics and much more are part of the new offerings here at Oak Hill School! Students at Oak Hill explore new avenues for self-expression, learn valuable social and emotional skills, and experience the joy of art. Students also participate in our annual art show, in conjunction with Hartford Open Studios; a fun, exciting opportunity to connect with fellow artists, display talents, and celebrate the creative spirit.

### Art Therapy Program Goals

- Use a wide range of materials to experience and express a range of emotional states.
- Select and use materials, techniques, and symbols to communicate meaning.
- Use materials and content to differentiate between opposites (past/present, self/other, like/dislike).
- Assert autonomy through active choices about materials and content.
- Create art in pairs and groups to build community and express connections to others.

### Art Therapy Benefits

- Build developmental and social skills
- Foster self-awareness
- Raise self-esteem
- Increase emotional independence
- Strengthen resilience
- Identify and express emotions
- Process and resolve conflict
- Reduce anxiety
- Foster creativity and imagination

### Vocational and Extra Curricular Groups

#### Vocational Opportunities

- Community Delivery tasks
- Collaboration with local businesses
- Automotive Field
- Volunteering
- Oak Roast Café
- Art Works!
- Oak Hill Print Shop
- Grounds-keeping and Farming
- Robotics Club
- Performing Arts

### Yoga

Students also participate in monthly sessions of Yoga. During yoga class students work on:

- Self-regulation and relaxation
- Breathing skills for self-soothing
- Social awareness
- Recognizing personal space and setting boundaries



*Art washes from the soul  
the dust of everyday life.*

-Pablo Picasso



# Oak Hill School Transition Program

## Program Description

The Transition program is a Two-Path model, School to Independent Living Path and School to Work Path, where young adults are supported to gain work and independent living skills within functional, meaningful, vocational activities and are provided with behavioral, clinical, and therapeutic supports. This program focuses on unique strategies to enable each young adult to achieve the maximum possible independence in working, living, and participating in the community as adults. Oak Hill School Educational Model incorporates academic instruction, communication, life skills, vocational, and community skills based on Individualized Education Program (IEPs). With the goal for young adults to demonstrate growth and development of learned skills and to generalize these skills to other less restrictive settings in their life and work communities. The program also includes training, guidance and support for families as they navigate the transition from IDEA to adult programming. The transition program is individualized and IEP driven, offering up to 249 days per year, 9 am - 3 pm, Monday - Friday.

## Outcomes

All students learn at different speeds, and learning does not stop after graduation. After graduation students on this Path will have attained the highest possible level of independence in finding and securing meaningful employment and work opportunities. Students will increase their ability to search for jobs, create and maintain resumes and cover letters, and be successful at their job.

## Program Objectives

1. Identify vocational, life skills, academic, social/emotional, and other related needs and match instruction accordingly to maximize progress towards future independence. The student, teacher, and family determine the path.
2. Independent living skills in the areas of food prep/kitchen skills, shopping, laundry, housekeeping, yardwork, public transportation, and adult life planning.
3. Provide specialized instruction paired with assistive technology to support young adult learning and generalization to community settings.
4. Teach young adults to self-monitor their own learning and work place behavior to maximize progress, and transfer to work/life.
5. Promote community and business partnerships and collaboration to support learning.

## Services Available

- Skilled educational team
- English Language Learner (EEL) services
- Behavioral, educational, vocational assessments
- Transition supports
- Curricula collaboration with school districts
- Instruction within authentic environments
- Transportation
- Clinical and therapeutic supports
- Recreation/Physical Fitness
- Family and inter-agency collaboration
- Field Trips (health club, bowling, movies, etc.)

## Eligibility and Referral Process

The program is intended for students ages 18-21 who may have enough credits to graduate but lack life and vocational training to succeed. We can accept referrals from other CT schools.





#### OAK HILL SCHOOL CLASSROOMS PROVIDE:

- Certified Specialized Teachers
- Highly Individualized Instruction
- Integrated LPN, Physical, Speech, Behavioral or Occupational Therapy
- Music & Art Therapy
- Performing Arts and/or Conservation Club
- Cooking Classes
- Assistive, Adaptive, or/and Robotic Technology
- Community-Based Learning or Participation
- Extended School-Year (249 days)
- Rolling Admissions
- Recreation Activities & Physical Fitness
- Total Communication Classroom
- Experienced Assistant Teachers
- Highly Structured Classroom
- Family & Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Functional Academics
- Vocational Experience Opportunity or Career Education
- Communication and Social Skills
- Nursing Services as Required
- Self-Help/Daily Living Skills & Independent Mobility
- Trans-Disciplinary Services
- Oak Hill School Nurses Receive Advanced Training in Caring for Medically Fragile Individuals



## contact us

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