



North  
Cross  
School

The  
**CrossWalk** Program

**On the Campus of North Cross School**

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH LANGUAGE-BASED  
LEARNING DIFFERENCES TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

# The CrossWalk Program

On the Campus of North Cross School

The CrossWalk Program on the campus of North Cross School empowers students with language-based learning differences to reach their potential. The program provides a quality education to help them develop academically, socially, and emotionally. We rekindle student excitement for school, help them regain confidence in themselves, and challenge them to exercise their strengths.

## About The Crosswalk Program

The CrossWalk Program provides specialized instruction and support for bright students with language-based learning differences. Our mission is to provide remediation of language skills for students with dyslexia and similar language-based learning differences in grades ECP Level 3—Kindergarten through 5th grade with the goal of returning the student to mainstream education fully prepared to realize their highest potential by sixth grade. Students in the program spend part of their school day in the classroom with their grade level peers. The remainder of the day is spent in the CrossWalk program where they receive individualized instruction in language and math. CrossWalk teachers work closely with homeroom teachers to ensure a smooth transition between classrooms, and they provide oversight and manipulatives for lessons taught in the homeroom class to ensure material is taught in a multi-sensory approach whenever possible. All CrossWalk teachers have completed, at a minimum, associate level training and have earned membership in the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators or are working toward this designation.

### Language Tutoring

Orton-Gillingham instruction is a multisensory approach to teaching reading, writing, and spelling skills customized to the individual needs of each student. Instructors directly teach the phonics and linguistics of the English language

and writing in a systematic manner. Teaching is diagnostic and prescriptive—each teacher seeks to understand how an individual learns and devises an appropriate teaching strategy for that student. Instructors closely monitor the student's performance in order to identify and analyze individual needs. Material is presented in an sequential way that ties new concepts with past material. Our goal is to expand a student's knowledge of the English language by moving from the simple, well-learned material to the complex in a logical manner. Lesson time is structured so students are comfortable and know what to expect each day when they enter the classroom. Teaching is also directed towards providing the experience of success, increased self-confidence, and motivation.

### Mathematics

The concepts of math, the language of math, and calculation are important parts of our curriculum. Following the tenets of the Orton-Gillingham Approach, North Cross School uses manipulatives and technology to present new concepts in a visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile manner. This hands-on, multisensory instruction helps students understand and retain the underlying mathematical concepts. Topics are presented incrementally and reinforced with continual review.

To learn more about the Orton-Gillingham Approach, please visit [www.ortonacademy.org](http://www.ortonacademy.org).

## Admission Process

During the admission process our primary goal is to get to know each child in order to assess whether CrossWalk is an appropriate program for that child. Admission decisions are not made on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Our goal is to match the best available candidate to a particular class. Often children with learning differences have already gone through a tumultuous time at school. Through a campus visit and thorough assessment process, we want to ensure a smooth and positive transition to the program.

## Admission Criteria

- Complete the North Cross School application packet, available at [www.northcross.org/application](http://www.northcross.org/application).
- Along with the application, please submit any current psycho-educational evaluation scores and reports from specialists (including speech/language specialists and tutors). At a minimum, all applicants must have an outside psycho-educational or neuropsychological education evaluation. These evaluations are comprehensive and should diagnose the learning difficulties that the child is experiencing and suggest a treatment plan. These evaluations can be done by an independent evaluator and should be up to date. In general, it is recommended that evaluations be done every three years, but a more recent evaluation may be necessary during the admission process.
- Students must have cognitive abilities in the average or above average range as measured by a psycho-educational test.
- There must be significant evidence of academic underachievement in one or more academic areas such as reading, written language, math, or basic learning

processes, visual/motor perception, or language processing difficulties. The learning difficulties experienced by the student should not be the documented result of primary emotional or behavioral problems, environmental, cultural, economic, or other physical or mental handicapping conditions. The discrepancy between potential and actual achievement may not qualify a student to be certified Learning Disability according to public school standards, but the difficulties must be interfering with academic performance.

- As part of the student assessment process, all applicants are required to complete a full day campus and classroom visit. To schedule a visit, please contact the Admission Office at **(540) 989-6641**.
- In some cases, additional testing may be required in the area of a language difficulty to understand the exact nature of this difficulty. This will enable the Admission Office and the CrossWalk Director to be better able to make the final admission decision.

## Additional Information

For additional information about the program, please visit [www.northcross.org/crosswalk](http://www.northcross.org/crosswalk), or contact **Kit Prillaman**, CrossWalk Program Director, at **(540) 989-6641** or [kprillaman@northcross.org](mailto:kprillaman@northcross.org).

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## About North Cross School

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- Founded in Salem, VA in 1944
- Merged with the Eaton School and the Wellington School in 1961 to become North Cross School
- 485 students and one honor code: "I will not lie. I will not cheat. I will not steal."
- Students of all races, ethnicities, and religions are welcome.
- National test scores in the lower school consistently demonstrate high class averages at North Cross School. Our average student scores better than eighty-five percent of the students taking the test nationally.
- The school fields 29 teams in 13 sports to ensure that all students find a sport and an ability level.
- One-hundred percent of middle and upper school students take part in community service.
- We currently enroll 20 international students from three continents and seven countries. These students reside with local families and actively participate in all aspects of our school culture.
- One-hundred percent of all North Cross graduates are accepted to a college or university of their choice.

## Accreditation

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North Cross is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools.

## Memberships

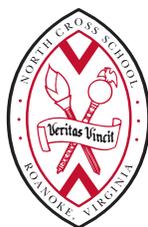
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North Cross is a member of National Association for College Admission Counseling, and Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling, the Cum Laude Society and the Counsel for Advancement and Support of Education.

## School Mission

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North Cross School is an independent, coeducational, college-preparatory day school that serves children from early childhood through twelfth grade. In all of its programs, North Cross School strives to promote in its students: scholarship and a love of learning; character and a sense of personal integrity and responsibility; and a commitment to the good of the community and all within it. Although we prepare our students to enter the finest colleges and universities in the country, we understand that such preparation is of greatest use when it provides for our students the personal and intellectual skills to lead full and meaningful lives. In all things, North Cross School endeavors to be true to its motto: *Veritas Vincit – The Truth Will Triumph.*



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