



Special Education Program

[The Forbush School at Hunt Valley](#) is a 12-month special education program, located in Baltimore County, Maryland, that provides educational services to students ages five to 21 with complex intellectual and behavioral disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and other related disorders.

Our facility offers students a sensory room, motor room, play room, and playground, as well as incorporates technology within each of our classrooms. This environment supports all of our students, including many who utilize assistive technology communication devices. Our staff works hard to create a learning environment that emphasizes the development of educational and communication skills, as well as positive social and family relationships. Through the use of evidence-based practices, proactive and positive interventions, consistent standards, and a well-trained and supportive staff, we are committed to empowering all students with the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our school uses a proactive teaching approach in a structured learning environment that provides individualized, engaging instruction to help minimize and prevent undesirable behaviors. We define success by the number of students who leave our program and are able to live as independently as possible post-graduation, while maintaining a functional job with some support in the community. To help prepare our students for graduation and life after school, our students work with a social worker and Individualized Education Program (IEP) coordinator to find appropriate agencies and adult vocational support programs.

We actively engage parents in their child's education, maintaining an open door policy for parents to observe their child in his or her learning environment, and maintaining regular, daily communication between parents and staff. Our school also has a very active parent/teacher organization that works to maintain the best school environment for our students.

Utilizing a student-centric, team-based approach, we implement the Common Core Standards and the Syracuse Community-Referenced Curriculum Guide for students with moderate to severe disabilities. Each student has an individualized schedule for programming that outlines his or her instructional day.

OUR PROGRAM

Our non-graded program helps students build functional, independent living, academic, and prevocational skills. Once enrolled, our experienced staff will review your child's IEP and modify our instructional areas to fit his or her educational needs. These instructional areas can include communication, self-care, individualized academics, and fine and gross motor, socialization, and recreational/leisure skills. With a student to staff ratio of two to one, and no more than six students in a classroom, your child will have the opportunity to engage in classroom and community-based instruction, individually and in small groups.

High school students have the opportunity to participate in our vocational skill-building program both on campus and within the community. Our vocational areas include:

- **Arts and media cluster:** The focus is to expose students to ways to communicate with the public.
- **Culinary cluster:** The focus is nutrition, food packaging, food shopping, food preparation, and recipe preparation.
- **Environmental science cluster:** This cluster has two main areas, horticulture and recycling. The students have the opportunity to prepare and maintain a garden, and manage a greenhouse on the school grounds. They are also exposed to ways to care for the environment through the composting and recycling programs.
- **Retail cluster:** The focus is to expose students to job skills related to stocking, inventory, money handling, and providing customer service. When participating in this cluster, the students are provided with an opportunity to operate both the vending machine and school store.

Our program also features community-based intervention field trips, where students have the opportunity to work on behavioral/social skills once a week in a public setting. Educational field trips may include trips to the grocery store to learn how to create grocery lists, wait in line, stay with the group, and make purchases, or trips that are more focused on vocational training as the students work to develop a specific job skill.



RELATED SERVICES

Because we are part of Sheppard Pratt Health System, our staff has access to the best training, treatment practices, and technology, which in turn allows us to provide your child with the best education to meet his or her needs and to help with the transition into the community. We actively collaborate with other health system schools and professionals to ensure we are sharing learnings and best practices across the various special education programs.

Our related services include:

- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Case management
- Psychological service
- Physical therapy
- School nursing services

Our school, categorized as Type I, is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

CONTACT THE FORBUSH SCHOOL AT HUNT VALLEY

For further information, contact us by phone at **410-527-9505**, or visit forbushathuntvalley.org.

Principal: Tim Yearick



Sheppard Pratt
HEALTH SYSTEM

[Sheppard Pratt Health System](http://www.sheppardpratt.org) is dedicated to improving quality of life through mental health, special education, and addiction services for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Our patient-centered treatment approach, combined with our legacy of clinical excellence, sets us apart from other health systems on both a local and national level. We have been ranked among the nation's top psychiatric hospitals for 24 consecutive years by [U.S. News & World Report](http://www.usnews.com).

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