

NOTRE DAME PROGRAM

A Day in the Life of a Notre Dame Student

“On my first day of class, my teachers already knew about my challenges and were still welcoming and supportive.”

Each Notre Dame student’s schedule is reviewed by the Notre Dame team to ensure the workload and curriculum is suitable for each student’s needs before the first day of school. Teachers receive information for each of their students who need accommodations in their classroom. They are given student profiles to give insight about what each student needs to be successful.

“Every class I take looks and feels different, but each of my teachers support my needs in a unique way.”

If teachers have questions about how to accommodate students in their specific classroom, they communicate with the Director of the Notre Dame Program to come up with a solution that suits each student’s needs.

“Every day I go to a study hall and work with a tutor to get support for both homework and upcoming quizzes. I like that my study hall is small because I can get one-on-one support and I don’t feel anxious asking questions like I do in the regular classroom.”

Each Notre Dame study hall has a limit of 5 students to ensure all students are supported effectively. The small group setting allows the student to work closely with a tutor on organization skills, study strategies, and self-advocacy skills. The student is also able to receive instructional support on topics or information they did not understand inside the classroom.

“Every week my Notre Dame tutor checks my grades to make sure I am on track and doing all of my work. My tutor offers guidance for how to stay ahead of my work, break large projects into smaller pieces, and how to study for my tests.”

Weekly grade checks allow Notre Dame tutors to monitor student progress and create helpful study strategies or homework skills to support student’ needs inside and outside the classroom. Tutors also communicate closely with parents regarding grades and upcoming assignments. This allows parents to be informed of their student’s academic progress and communicate any concerns.

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“Anytime I have a test, I go right to the Notre Dame room. I like that my test is already there for me, and I don’t have to get up and leave the classroom.”

“When I am taking my tests in the Notre Dame room, I am able to ask more questions, have test questions read to me and explained, and use extra time. The testing rooms are small and quiet so I am less distracted, and I feel more comfortable.”

“After school, I go to S.E.E.K. with the Notre Dame tutor. We spend time going over my planner, organizing my things, and working on homework. I like to go to their room after school because it is very quiet, and I get help on all my homework.”

The Notre Dame team works closely with classroom teachers to ensure students receive accommodations during testing. The Notre Dame team collects upcoming tests from teachers prior to the class period, so other students in the class do not know they are receiving accommodations. This reduces the student’s stress of being different from their peers.

The small group setting for test taking allows students to maintain focus on their work and avoid being distracted. This also reduces the anxiety some students feel when peers complete and turn in tests well-before others. Students are always allowed to ask for clarification on test questions and to have questions or passages read to them. Any other testing accommodations documented on the student’s plan are also provided.

At the end of the school day, students have two options for S.E.E.K.(after school enrichment). They can attend tutoring with their general education teachers to ask questions or get clarifications on classroom materials. Students can also attend tutoring with their Notre Dame tutor to continue the support they receive in their study hall. S.E.E.K is available to all students Monday-Thursday from 2:45-3:15.