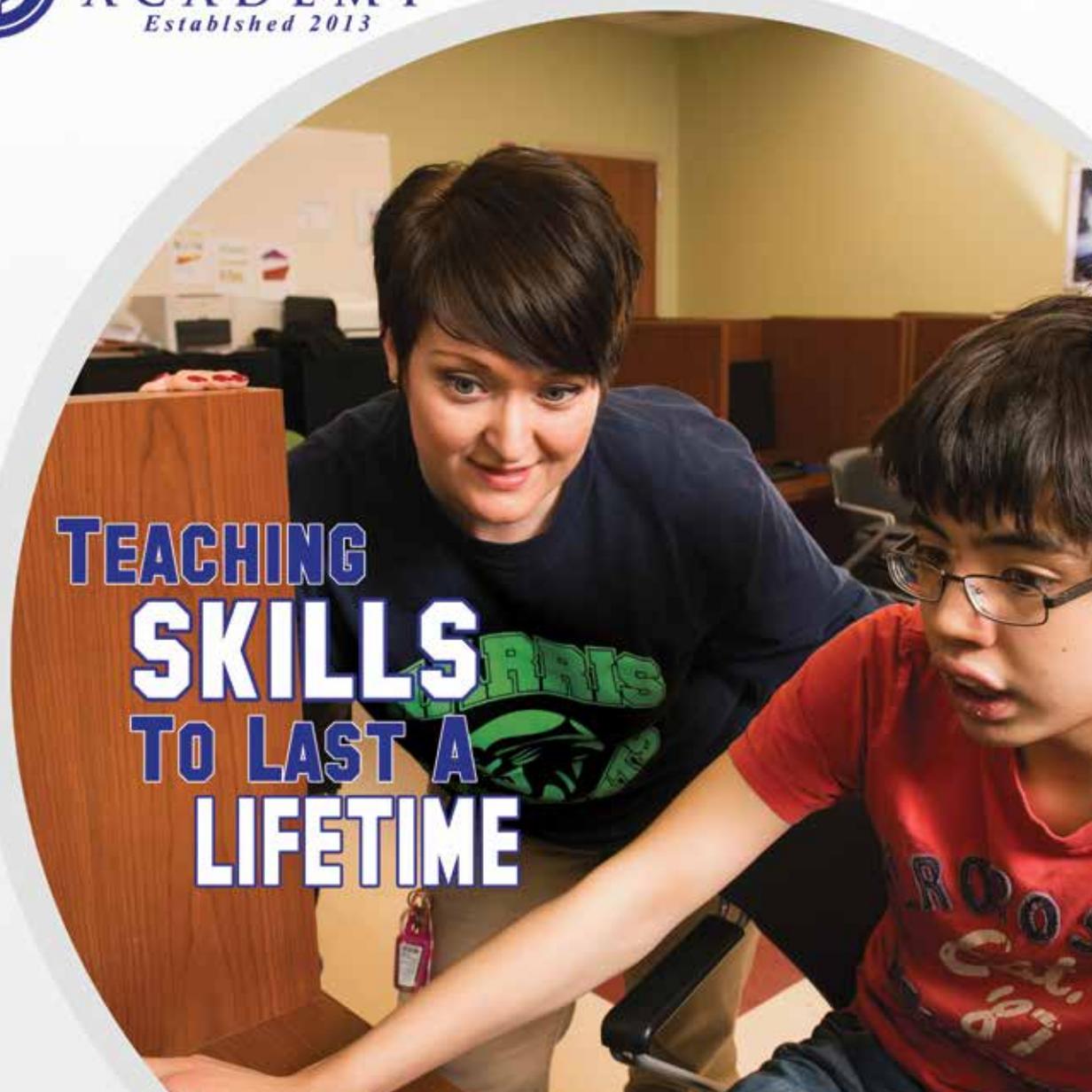




**T.C. HARRIS**  
**ACADEMY**  
*Established 2013*



**TEACHING  
SKILLS  
TO LAST A  
LIFETIME**

## MISSION

To Teach Skills That Last A Lifetime

## VISION

To Create A World That Instills Pride, Empowers, And Provides Opportunities For People With Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities

## TEACHING SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME

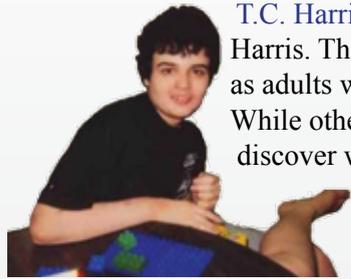
T.C. Harris Academy is a private school option, in the local community, that works not only to stabilize a student's behavior in a therapeutic setting, but also help them thrive academically. Our goal is simple: provide students with the skills they need to function effectively and achieve greater success.



T.C. Harris Academy is Freeway Accredited by the Indiana Department of Education as a private school for students with special needs. As such, we are able to graduate students with a certificate of completion or high school diploma.

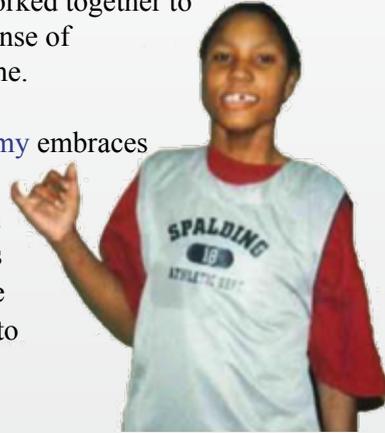
School hours during school days are 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday during regular session and Monday through Thursday during summer session.

## THOMAS & CRYSTAL (THE T.C. IN T.C. HARRIS)



T.C. Harris Academy is proudly named for two of our alumni, Thomas Harris and Crystal Harris. Thomas and Crystal joined our “family” as children with severe challenges and left as adults with skills that allowed them to live in the community after successfully graduating. While others would have given up on Thomas and Crystal, we worked together to discover what it would take to allow them to achieve a greater sense of independence. We taught them skills to last a lifetime.

In the spirit of Thomas and Crystal, T.C. Harris Academy embraces each student and their challenges as an opportunity to foster dynamic change. While compassionate about the disabilities our students may face, we approach each student as capable of growing and gaining independence. We have high expectations of our students so they will, in turn, have pride in their accomplishments. We believe that each student should be given opportunities to succeed and will work with them to develop the skills necessary to take advantage of those opportunities.



## PHILOSOPHY

At T.C. Harris Academy, we embrace each student and their challenges as an opportunity to foster dynamic change.

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We believe that each student should be given opportunities to succeed and will work with them to develop the skills necessary to take advantage of those opportunities.

At T.C. Harris Academy, we believe a better world starts by asking “What does it take?” We do not look through the lens of limitation; we look through the eyes of unexplored potential.

## OUR STUDENTS

Instead of fitting a student into our programs, we tailor our programs to the needs of the individual student. This helps students grow academically, become more independent, and gain behavioral control.

Our students are ages 6 to 22 years old and present with, but are not limited to:

- ⊗ Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (typically IQs 80 and below)
- ⊗ Coexisting Mental Health Diagnosis
- ⊗ Significant Behavioral Challenges

Many of our students are diagnosed within the autism spectrum and may also have neurological impairments.



## CLASSROOM OPTIONS

### TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC

Traditional academic classrooms provide an emphasis on social studies, science, language arts, reading, and math with the goal of obtaining a certificate of completion, diploma, or GED. T.C. Harris Academy can provide academics from kindergarten to 12th grade.

### FUNCTIONAL ACADEMIC

Functional academic classrooms focus on practical reading, language arts, math, and the acquisition of skills to live independently in the community. Typically students within the functional academic classrooms will receive a certificate of completion. Functional academic curriculum includes vocational training, career planning, OT/Speech groups, current events, social skills groups, and emotional development.

### LIFE SKILLS

Our life skills classrooms serve students who need more intensive instruction and training on basic activities of daily living. Many of the skills taught are pre-academic; requiring visual learning aides, hand-over-hand instruction, facilitated communication, and sensory integration. Classroom provides support for communication by utilizing Picture Exchange Communication (PECs) and other methods of communication as appropriate to the student’s needs. The classrooms integrate current technologies to assist students with learning.



## STUDENT & SCHOOL SERVICES

### ACADEMIC SERVICES

Our dedicated education team consists of licensed teachers, speech/language services, and occupational therapy. A student's course of education is determined by their Individualized Education Program (IEP) focusing on the unique needs of each student.

### THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Utilizing evidence-based practices in an active treatment model ensures that students are always benefiting from the most current therapeutic approaches. Students and their families can be assured that they are receiving individualized programming and services to help with behavioral needs as guided by our Clinical Services team.



### TEACHER'S AIDES & DIRECT CARE

Teacher's Aides and Youth Care staff members are responsible for assisting in the classroom and implementing each Individual Treatment Plan. All direct services help our students with skills acquisition and learning to be more independent.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

The health and wellness of our students is provided for by a team of nurses and a Registered Dietician who plans our meals. T.C. Harris Academy staff are trained in First Aid, CPR, and the administration of medications as ordered by the student's primary care physician and/or psychiatrist.



## SCHOOL SESSIONS & EVENTS

T.C. Harris Academy is in session for 212 school days a year. Teachers and Special Therapies staff will report on academic progress every 9-week period during regular session. The current school calendar will reflect all breaks and events.

### REGULAR SESSION (FALL/SPRING)

- Months:** August - May
- In Session:** Monday - Friday
- Duration:** 9 am to 2:30 pm
- Events:** Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Fall Dance  
Fall Fest  
Holiday Show  
Science Fair  
Prom  
Field Trips

### SUMMER SESSION

- Months:** June - August
- Duration:** 9 am to 2:30 pm
- Days:** Monday - Thursday (Fridays off)
- Events:** Themed Weeks  
Field Trips



### SCHOOL SPIRIT INFORMATION

**Mascot:** Tinsley the Timberwolf

**School Colors:** Navy & Silver

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Does the school have a dress code?

We ask that our students be dressed for comfort and not wear offensive clothing such as tobacco labels, alcohol advertisements, or shirts with profanity and/or suggestive language. To keep our students safe on the playground we recommend shoes with covered toes.

### If I have a day school student who rides a bus and there is a fog or snow delay, what happens?

You will always follow your school district's weather delays and cancellations when transported by a school bus. In the rare event that [T.C. Harris Academy](#) is closed or on a delay, information will be posted on WLFI. If your child will not be riding the bus, please notify your bus driver.

### What if my child becomes ill?

[T.C. Harris Academy](#) has nursing staff during school hours to support the health of our students. In the event that a student becomes ill, the student's guardian will be contacted to pick the student up.

### What will happen if my child misbehaves?

While we expect the best from your child, our staff is specially trained to deal with difficult behavioral problems. Each student has a Behavior Support Plan (BSP) outlining how to assist the student when they are displaying challenging behaviors. Ultimately, [T.C. Harris Academy](#) does not suspend a student for behaviors nor do we call a student's guardian to pick a student up because of behaviors. We make all attempts to work with the student on their maladaptive behaviors and get back on task. If a student at [T.C. Harris Academy](#) is failing to make appropriate behavioral gains, [T.C. Harris Academy](#) may recommend that the student transfer to our residential school for day school or to become a residential student to benefit from 24-hour programming and care. Ultimately the decision for a student to live with us is determined in a case conference and naturally must be agreed to by the student's guardian.



### [TIMBERWOLF PRIDE!](#)

For many of our students, pride in what they achieve and in their school shows us that they are developing a healthy and positive self-image.

[T.C. Harris Academy](#) is the Home of The Timberwolves!



## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

When it comes to having access to free, appropriate public education in the least-restrictive environment possible, special education students have the same rights as any student.

Ultimately if a student is unable to make academic progress in all other educational environments because disruptive behaviors are inhibiting their learning, a specialized academic setting is needed.

Some key terms to familiarize yourself with include:

### [FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION \(FAPE\)](#)

FAPE relates to special education and related services that are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, without charge to the student or family. These services include an appropriate preschool, elementary school, or secondary school education and are provided in conformity with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### [INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT \(IDEA\)](#)

IDEA is our nation's special education law and was first passed in 1975. IDEA guides how special education and related services are provided to children in the United States.

### [INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM \(IEP\)](#)

An IEP defines the individualized objectives of a student with special needs, as defined by federal regulations. The IEP is intended to help the student reach educational goals more easily and must be tailored to the individual student's needs as identified by the IEP evaluation process.



## GETTING TO KNOW US

### WHO WE ARE

With dedicated and caring staff, we have created a family. We are eclectic, energetic, and encouraging. We are proud of what we achieve with our students and their families. Above all, we love what we do and love our students.

Our staff work closely with the family and placing school district to create a student-centered curriculum, chosen from among our class offerings, with the goal of each student returning to his or her home district following a successful period of therapeutic intervention and academic services. To facilitate this process, and because mutual support and communication are essential to all successful school programs, we maintain regular contact with the family, and all members of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, to ensure a communication process that is continual, active, and open.

### THE DREAM

T.C. Harris Academy developed from the desire of T. C. Harris School to further promote a broad array of services for students with special needs. Building upon years of experience working for students with special needs, T.C. Harris Academy seemed to be the next logical step in our evolution, allowing us to focus on academic services in the community.

T.C. Harris Academy is one part of a larger dream to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have appropriate care and access to unlimited opportunities. We are a part of Oconomowoc Residential Program's family of companies that started the journey to achieve this dream over 30 years ago with our first program. Our programs have grown to provide services for over 1,600 individuals and their families annually. We are proud to have found nearly 2,000 people that feel fortunate to work for a family of companies with a social commitment to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

### EXPLORE OUR SISTER SCHOOLS

### EXPLORE ALL OUR POSSIBILITIES



TCHarris.com



GeneseeLakeSchool.com

GeneseeLakeSchool.com



The Richardson School

RichardsonSchool.com



ORP.com

## REFERRAL PROCESS

T.C. Harris Academy is Freeway Accredited by the Indiana Department of Education. Students diagnosed with intellectual/developmental disabilities, emotional disturbances, autism, sight or hearing impairments and neurological disorders are considered for placement.

Formal referrals are usually made through local school districts when a student is identified as needing a more restrictive environment than the public school setting. Families may also inquire about private placement.

Requirements for enrollment consideration include:

- 🌀 Individualized Education Program
- 🌀 3 Year Evaluation
- 🌀 Current psychological information
- 🌀 Social history
- 🌀 Pertinent Medical Information

A pre-enrollment screening may be scheduled and an on-site visit is desirable; however, we can also arrange a screening in the student's school setting.

Business Card die cut opposite corners....FPO

### ADMISSIONS

For more information about T.C. Harris programs or to discuss a referral, please contact the Admissions Department at (765) 448-9989, or email us at [admissions@tcharrisacademy.com](mailto:admissions@tcharrisacademy.com)



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