



Front Range Academy
Arvada, Broomfield, Lakewood and Westminster
Grades: 6-12
Director: Lynne Dare

Front Range Academy (FRA) began its alliance with Hope Online in 2005 to provide an alternate form of quality education for students. With four locations —one in Broomfield, one in Arvada, one in Westminster and one in Lakewood—FRA caters to the academic needs of over 400 students in the northern Denver metro area.

The computer-based and individualized nature of the curriculum supports the needs of Hope Online students at FRA, many of whom are considered at-risk.

“Our students struggled in traditional schools,” says FRA Director Lynne Dare. “While our students represent a diverse constituency with unique challenges, the common thread that brought them to Hope Online was a feeling of invisibility in their previous schools. The lack of individual attention allowed these students to fall through the cracks, both academically and socially.”

Hope Online students have a variety of educational needs. Some have learning disabilities, while others need advanced lessons to maintain their interest. Some students possess high IQ’s and are incredibly motivated to learn, while others fight the temptation to drop out of school. Hope Online’s individual learning plans are the answer. They promote academic progress and confidence by allowing students to work at their own pace.

According to Mrs. Dare, students have made impressive strides with Hope Online. “A junior student wrote a book and had it published as a sophomore. Another student, addicted to drugs since the age of 8, has been well-supported by teachers and mentors and is now clean and promptly catching up with her studies.”

Mrs. Dare attributes the success of FRA Learning Centers to not only Hope Online’s curriculum, but to dedicated Hope Online teachers and FRA mentors. “Learning here does not stop at 4 o’clock; teachers and mentors are available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

FRA’s mission is to motivate and guide the academic, intellectual, social, and emotional growth of at-risk youth, promoting lifelong education and social responsibility. In this pursuit, Mrs. Dare encourages students to recall Don Quixote’s *Impossible Dream*. “In order to reach the unreachable star, we must foster confidence and persistence in our students. As educators, we must never give up on our students, no matter what the odds. One day, the impossible dream will not be impossible anymore.”

Learning Center Administration

Lynne Dare – Director - Front Range Academy Learning Centers

Lynne Dare received a degree in Education from Kent State University, after which she taught high school in Ohio and college courses at University of Pacific in California. Prior to her work with Front Range Academy and Hope Online, Mrs. Dare spent 15 years working for American Family Insurance. When asked why she returned to education, Mrs. Dare says, “It’s all about the kids. Their futures mean everything.”

Kelly Wagner – Mentor – Front Range Academy

Kelly Wagner graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder and spent two years working at an architectural firm, during which time she discovered her true passion was education. Ms. Wagner completed a Masters degree in k-8 Childhood Education and became a Colorado licensed teacher. Her first position was teaching literacy to grades k-3 at Wyatt Edison Charter School in Denver. After two years there, Ms. Wagner learned about Front Range Academy and Hope Online. Having attended an alternative high school herself, Ms. Wagner felt she had the unique ability to connect with students who struggle with their studies and were unsuccessful in traditional schools.

Carina Garcia Kirk – Mentor – Front Range Academy

With a desire to make a positive impact on youth, Carina Garcia is a dedicated mentor at Front Range Academy. She has volunteered her time and talents to the many organizations, including, the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Garcia earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology-Family Studies Emphasis from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO.

Adam Schafer – Mentor – Front Range Academy

Adam Schafer has nearly 10 years of experience mentoring and tutoring youth, including serving as a substitute teacher in New York. Mr. Schafer earned an Associate of Science in Mathematics from Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, NY and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, CO.

Hope Online Teachers

Brian Culhane – Hope Online Teacher

Brian Culhane is dedicated Colorado licensed teacher who is eager to educate students using a unique combination of education experience coupled with a solid business background in computers and internet technology. He has helped student build a solid academic foundation for over ten years in his positions as a Sunday school teacher, swim instructor and your football coach. Mr. Culhane earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in History and African-American Sciences for Metropolitan State College of Denver, a Secondary Education Licensure in Social Studies, and a Master’s in Education Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix; both in Denver, CO.

Natasha Fortis – Hope Online Teacher

Natasha Fortis is a talented and passionate Colorado licensed teacher who enjoys contributing to the academic success of children. Before joining the Hope Online team, she taught at Jefferson County Open School. Ms. Fortis received a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Colorado at Denver in Denver, CO and completed the Teaching Licensure program in Language Arts at Metropolitan State College of Denver in Denver, CO.

Ben Sattler – Hope Online Teacher

Ben Sattler, a Colorado licensed teacher, has a passion for working with teenagers and young adults. He has spent years developing curriculum, counseling, mentoring, tutoring and facilitating behavioral management. Mr. Sattler particularly enjoys helping students learn chemistry and biology and conducting experiments. Mr. Sattler earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry at Metropolitan State College of Denver in Denver, CO and a Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, CO.