



Front Range Academy
Arvada, Boulder, Broomfield, Lafayette
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 six locations —two in Broomfield, two in Arvada, one in Boulder and one in Lafayette—FRA caters to the academic needs of over 900 students in the northern Denver metro area.

The computer-based and individualized nature of the curriculum caters to 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 sophomore student wrote a book and recently had it published. Another student, addicted to drugs since the age of 8, has been well-supported by teachers and mentors, is now clean and promptly catching up with her studies.”

Mrs. Dare attributes the success of Front Range Academy 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.”

Front Range Academy has adopted a mission 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 at Broomfield

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 – Mentor – Front Range Academy at Broomfield

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.

James Durnin – Mentor – Front Range Academy at Broomfield

James Durnin is a dedicated and talented mentor at Front Range Academy. He offers his skills to help youth pursue academic success. Mr. Durnin earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with expanded studies in French and Philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder in Boulder, CO.

Hope Online Teachers

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.

Garth Geisler – Hope Online Teacher

Garth Geisler is an energetic leader and Colorado licensed teacher who makes an impact on the students he serves. He gained teaching experience from Loveland, Eaton, and Union Colony high schools. Mr. Geisler received a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO.