



Harrison Street Academy Learning Center
3920 Harrison St., Denver, CO 80205
Grades K-4
Director: Shana Armstrong

Shana Armstrong first learned of Hope Online while researching alternative educational opportunities for children in the Denver area. She watched Hope Online grow and flourish in its first two years, whereupon she was approached with a teaching opportunity. After careful consideration, Ms. Armstrong realized she could better serve students by opening a new Learning Center and being the Director. Thus, Harrison Street Academy Learning Center was born.

Established in September 2007, Harrison Street Academy, located in East Denver, caters predominantly to students who need extra support. Common threads throughout the small student population are learning disabilities that require Independent Education Plans (IEPs), developmental disorders like ADD and ADHD, as well as other physical, mental, and emotional disorders that tend to stifle student performance in the traditional classroom setting.

Harrison Street Academy always has skilled, caring and dedicated volunteers who care deeply about the education and the future of the children in their community. Harrison Street Academy has talented and skilled mentors who, with the guidance of a highly qualified Hope Online teacher, support the academic success of the students. Ms. Dominique Edmonds, who previously served as a Hope Online mentor at another Hope Online Learning Center, is popular amongst the second, third and fourth graders. Ms. Rochelle Hardin, known by the students as "Auntie Fee," volunteers weekly to help students with science projects. "Our mentors and volunteers are extremely reliable and dependable," reports Ms. Armstrong. "They do this because they are passionate about helping kids get the education they deserve."

In their first year, Harrison Street Academy students have experienced remarkable successes. Student attitudes toward school have drastically improved; students who used to hate school now express their love of school and display increased levels of attendance and participation. Ms. Armstrong attributes these tremendous improvements to the right equation: a small classroom size and a lot of love and attention. Students at Harrison Street Academy enjoy a 10:1 student to adult ratio and an abundance of academic and personal support from caring staff.

Harrison Street Academy uses the motto "A little confidence goes a long way." According to Ms. Armstrong, working with students who are struggling to progress in their grade levels, is an uphill battle, but an incredibly important battle to fight. "I want to make sure kids believe they can do more than become a rapper, basketball player or football star. I want to show them there are so many more ways to achieve success, and it's rewarding to know you've planted a seed."

Learning Center Administration

Shana Armstrong—Learning Center Director

Shana Armstrong currently directs the Harrison Street Academy Learning Center. Previously, Ms. Armstrong thought her calling was law, but after receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Human Services from Metropolitan State College of Denver, then enrolling in law school, she realized her true calling—education. Since then, Ms. Armstrong has worked tirelessly to provide Denver children with the opportunities, tools and support they need to achieve.

Hope Online Teacher

Stephanie Shipp – Hope Online Teacher

Stephanie Shipp is a highly skilled and talented Colorado licensed teacher and is teaching for her second year at Hope Online. Prior to joining the Hope Online team, she taught in various pre-k through 12 classrooms in Texas and Colorado. With a background in human development, she enjoys her teaching, student counseling, and advocacy responsibilities. Ms. Shipp received her Bachelor of Science in Human Sciences, emphasizing Human Development and Family Studies, from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX.