



Harrison Street Academy
2880 Harrison St., Denver, CO 80205
Grades: k-5
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 during its first two years and after careful consideration, Ms. Armstrong realized she could serve students by opening a new Learning Center. Thus, Hope Online Learning Center at Harrison Street Academy was founded.

Established in September 2007, Hope Online at 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 Individual Education Plans (IEPs), developmental disorders like ADD and ADHD, as well as other physical, mental, and emotional disorders that tend to stifle student academic performance in the traditional classroom setting.

Harrison Street Academy always has skilled and dedicated volunteers who care deeply about the education and the future of the children in their community, not to mention its talented and skilled mentors who, with the guidance of a highly qualified Hope Online teacher, support the academic success of students. Ms. Dominique Edmonds, 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.”

Hope Online at 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. Hope Online 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—Director

Shana Armstrong currently directs the Harrison Street Academy Learning Center. Ms. Armstrong received her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Human Services from Metropolitan State College of Denver, and then, after 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.