



Hillcrest Academy

3200 Dahlia Street, Room 9, Denver, CO 80207

Grades: k-12

Director: Terri Roston

Established in 2006, the Hope Online Learning Center at Hillcrest Academy was founded by Terri Roston, a Hope Online parent. She was so impressed with the progress her child made using Hope Online's curriculum that she convinced her employer to sponsor the development of a new Learning Center.

According to Ms. Roston, the surrounding neighborhoods have experienced increases in crime, economically disadvantaged families, and high school dropout rates. As a result of these unfortunate trends, the Hope Online students at Hillcrest Academy are considered an at-risk student population.

With over 100 Hope Online students, Hillcrest Academy offers an alternative to traditional instruction for grades k-12. "Many students have come to us behind their grade level because they were unsuccessful in their previous schools," says Ms. Roston. "Younger students lack fundamental skills, while older students lack motivation that manifests in truancy. Their poor attendance and lack of progress in their local schools went unnoticed for far too long."

Hope Online at Hillcrest Academy provides small class sizes and individual attention which prevents students from slipping through the cracks. Hillcrest Academy also offers a college and career preparation program that guides middle and high school students to adequately prepare them to achieve their goals. "While getting that high school diploma is important, students must not ignore or lose sight of their aspirations after graduation," explains Ms. Roston.

While she notes learning improvement in most of the Hope Online students at Hillcrest Academy, one student stands out because of his dramatic progress. "An 11th grader, who enrolled in Hope Online last year, was severely behind and was close to dropping out. Hope Online allowed him the flexibility to work at his own pace. He has since recovered all of his school credits and performs above grade-level proficiency. Other students at Hillcrest Academy now look to him for leadership and inspiration," asserts Ms. Roston.

Hillcrest Academy's highly qualified Hope Online teacher and Learning Center mentors work hard to provide an optimal learning environment for students. "All of the Learning Center staff have a background in education or counseling. All have worked with young people previously," says Ms. Roston. "They care about students. They show a vested interest in kids both inside and outside of the Learning Center. They inspire learning through leadership."

Learning Center Administration

Terri Roston - Director

Terri Roston is a passionate and skilled educator. For over 15 years, she worked in the field of early childhood education as the Director of an early childhood development center. Ms. Roston earned an Associate of Arts degree in Applied Sciences from the Community College of Aurora.

Lisa Walden - Mentor

Lisa Walden serves as a mentor for the Hope Online Learning Center at Hillcrest Academy. She developed a passion for educating youth while working as a basketball coach for Gateway High School, an Aurora Public School. Ms. Walden earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Tuskegee University in AL.

Hope Online Teacher

Melinda Hindley – Hope Online Teacher

Melinda Hindley is a gifted and highly skilled Colorado licensed teacher with over ten years of experience in the classroom. She takes an interest in each of her students, actively helps those who are struggling, and collaborates with students in community service projects and organizations. Ms. Hindley brings a variety of experiences and a vast knowledge of the dynamics needed to help students build a solid foundation of academics. Ms. Hindley graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Boston University in Boston, MA and a Certificate for Secondary Education with endorsements in English and History from Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI.