

# Lexis Preparatory School Accommodates Diverse Learners

By Alison Stanton

When Kathy Furlong's son Harrison began having challenges in the third grade, she was understandably concerned. Although he earned high grades, Harrison was having trouble finishing his work.

When his fourth-grade teacher reported that Harrison was still finding it hard to complete his lessons and was doing things like tapping his pencil, Furlong had him tested by a child psychologist, who diagnosed him with executive-function deficit.

The psychologist suggested different schools that might be a better fit for Harrison, and Furlong began to visit each one. When she stepped into the halls of Lexis Preparatory School in Scottsdale, she knew she had found her son's new educational home.

"I like it because of the environment and the very small class sizes, and the way the administration is very involved with the teachers, and they know what is going on in the classroom," Furlong said.

Harrison transferred to Lexis Preparatory School in the beginning of last school year.

"For Harrison, it's like night and day. His anxiety has gone away, and he likes it that everyone there has some type of challenge."

As Bonnie Dougherty, head of school, said, Lexis Preparatory School, which is starting its sixth school year and recently moved to a new location, offers a learning environment for children who need to learn in a different way.

"We are for kids who have ADHD, anxiety, dyslexia, comprehension and writing problems, as well as issues with executive-functioning skills and social skills," she said.

The school is designed for children ages kindergarten through eighth grade who have "average or above-average cognitive ability."

The school follows a success model, Dougherty said, which looks at 10 essential elements. These all relate to its mission of "UHA! We Understand, Honor and Accommodate diverse



At Lexis Preparatory School, teachers and staff understand that kids often need a personalized curriculum based on the way they learn.

For example, Dougherty said the school offers a customized curriculum that takes into account each student's unique learning style.

"While some schools treat kids in only one way, we teach to the way the child learns. To do this, we use several different programs," Dougherty said.

In addition, Lexis Preparatory School offers a college-prep experience filled with age-appropriate classes. To help teach students how to effectively plan and organize themselves, Dougherty said executive function skills are integrated throughout every school day.

Dougherty said that moving to a new and larger location allows Lexis Preparatory School to offer more programs for its students as well opportunities for the local community.

"We will be opening a tutoring café that will feature a retro look and will be open until 8 p.m. and will be available to everyone in the community," she said.

There are also plans to launch a brain-fitness center as well as expand the club options for students.

For Dougherty, one of the best parts of her job is watching kids thrive and succeed in school.

"When they start coming here, their self-esteem is often really poor. It's so amazing to see them doing so well in the smaller classroom environment, looking just like typical kids."

*Lexis Preparatory School is located at 11130 E. Cholla St., Suite H-100, Scottsdale. For more information, call (480) 391-3901 or visit [www.lexisprep.com](http://www.lexisprep.com).*