



2027-2028

Parent Information

The Shining Star Academy of Learning

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Parent Information Packet

Welcome to The Shining Star Academy

Welcome to The Shining Star Academy, a private, nonprofit special needs school dedicated to serving students in kindergarten through 5th Grade. Our mission is to provide individualized, evidence-based education and therapeutic support that empowers every child to reach their fullest potential academically, socially, functionally, and emotionally.

We recognize that every child learns differently. Through a collaborative partnership between families, educators, and therapists, we create meaningful learning experiences that support each student's unique strengths, needs, and goals.

Our Mission

Provide Equitable Access to Specialized Education and Therapy

We strive to ensure every student has access to individualized instruction and therapeutic services designed to meet their unique developmental and educational needs.

Deliver Comprehensive, Multidisciplinary Support

Our team works collaboratively to address the academic, communication, behavioral, sensory, social, and functional needs of each student.

Foster Inclusive Community Engagement

Students are provided opportunities to participate in meaningful community experiences and develop skills that promote active engagement in the world around them.

Build Foundations for Lifelong Success

We focus on developing academic, communication, social, behavioral, and independent living skills that support long-term success.

Empower Families as Partners in Care and Education

Families play a critical role in student success. We value ongoing communication and collaboration to ensure consistency across home, school, and therapeutic environments.

Educational Philosophy

At The Shining Star Academy, we believe that learning should be individualized, meaningful, and functional. Our instructional model combines evidence-based educational practices with therapeutic support to create a comprehensive learning environment.

Students receive instruction tailored to their unique abilities, learning styles, and developmental needs while building the skills necessary for increased independence and participation in daily life.

Our Academic Program

The Shining Star Academy utilizes a curriculum developed by The Autism Helper to provide structured, engaging, and differentiated instruction across subject areas.

Academic Areas

- Language Arts
- Reading Comprehension
- Phonics (when appropriate)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Social Skills
- Functional Life Skills

Instruction is individualized and adapted to meet each student's academic level and learning goals.

Individualized Plans of Instruction (IPI)

Every student receives an Individualized Plan of Instruction (IPI).

The IPI is developed collaboratively by a multidisciplinary team consisting of:

- Parents and guardians
- Teachers
- Speech-language pathologists

- Occupational therapists
- Behavior analysts and ABA providers
- Other professionals as needed

The IPI outlines:

- Academic goals
- Communication goals
- Behavioral supports
- Social development objectives
- Functional life skills targets
- Therapy recommendations

Progress is monitored regularly, and plans are updated based on student growth and changing needs.

Therapeutic Services

Eligible students may receive therapeutic services as part of their educational program.

Available Services

Speech-Language Therapy

Speech-language services focus on improving communication skills, language development, social communication, and functional communication abilities.

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Occupational therapy supports students in developing fine motor, sensory regulation, self-help, and daily living skills necessary for participation in school and community activities.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

ABA services utilize evidence-based behavioral interventions to promote learning, communication, social engagement, independence, and positive behavior development.

Counseling Services

Counseling provides a safe, confidential space to explore emotions, manage life transitions, and develop coping strategies

Therapy services are integrated into the school day whenever appropriate to promote skill generalization across settings.

Classroom Environment

Our classrooms are designed to support individualized instruction while promoting engagement, independence, and social interaction.

Each classroom includes:

One-to-One Instruction Areas

Dedicated spaces for individualized teaching and skill acquisition.

Independent Workstations

Structured environments where students develop independence and task completion skills.

Natural Environment Teaching Areas

Opportunities to learn and practice skills in functional and naturally occurring situations.

Group Learning Areas

Spaces for collaborative instruction, social interaction, and peer engagement.

Reinforcement and Break Areas

Calm, supportive environments where students can access breaks and reinforcement as needed to maintain successful participation.

Functional Life Skills Program

Functional life skills instruction is embedded throughout the school day and individualized based on each student's needs.

Areas may include:

- Communication skills
- Self-care and hygiene
- Daily living skills
- Social interaction
- Community safety
- Leisure skills
- Self-advocacy
- Following routines and schedules
- Independence and responsibility

Our goal is to help students develop skills that increase confidence, independence, and quality of life.

Student-to-Staff Ratios

The Shining Star Academy is committed to maintaining highly supportive learning environments.

Target Ratio

No more than 4 students to 1 teacher

Additional support may be provided through:

- Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs)
- Paraprofessionals
- Therapy staff

Staffing decisions are based on student needs to ensure appropriate levels of support and supervision.

School Calendar and Schedule

School Year

- 180 instructional days (July through June school year)
- Four-day instructional week
- Monday through Thursday

Community-Based Learning Fridays

One Friday each quarter will be designated for:

- Field trips
- Community outings
- Experiential learning opportunities

These experiences help students practice skills in real-world environments while fostering community engagement and independence.

School Hours

8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Students should arrive on time and be prepared for a full day of learning and participation.

Meals and Snacks

Families are responsible for providing:

- Daily lunch
- Snacks
- Any required beverages

Please notify the school of any allergies, dietary restrictions, or feeding concerns so appropriate accommodations can be considered.

Tuition & Sliding Scale Information

At The Shining Star Academy, we believe every child deserves access to a supportive, individualized educational environment. To help make our program accessible to families, we offer a confidential Sliding Tuition Scale based on household income and financial need.

Our standard annual tuition is **\$12,500 per student**, with payment plans divided into **12 monthly installments**.

Sliding Tuition Scale

Household Income	Annual Tuition	Monthly Payment
Under \$30,000	\$2,500	\$208.33/month
\$30,001 – \$45,000	\$4,375	\$364.58/month
\$45,001 – \$60,000	\$6,250	\$520.83/month
\$60,001 – \$75,000	\$8,125	\$677.08/month
\$75,001 – \$90,000	\$10,000	\$833.33/month
\$90,001 – \$110,000	\$11,250	\$937.50/month
Above \$110,000	\$12,500	\$1,041.67/month

**Household Income is based on a family of 4, subtract \$5,000 from Household Income for each additional child.

To verify income, you may be asked to provide your most recent federal tax return (Form 1040), recent pay stubs, documentation of other income or benefits, and/or a brief explanation of any major changes in finances since filing taxes.

Payment Information

- Tuition is divided into **12 equal monthly payments**
 - Payments are due on the **1st of each month**
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Scholarship Opportunities

The Shining Star Academy is recognized by the following scholarship organization(s) :

- Georgia School Scholarship Organization (Georgia SSO)
- Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (GSNS)

For more information on how to apply or scholarships that may be available for you please let our administrative staff know.

Family Partnership

At The Shining Star Academy, we believe that families are essential members of each child's educational team.

We are committed to:

- Open communication
- Collaborative goal setting
- Parent education and support
- Regular progress updates
- Shared decision-making

Together, we can create meaningful opportunities for growth and success for every student.

Contact Information

For enrollment information, admissions inquiries, or program questions, please contact:

The Shining Star Academy

613 Cook Street, Royston, GA 30662

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www.theshiningstarproject.org

Together We Shine Brighter

At The Shining Star Academy, we celebrate every achievement, support every challenge, and believe every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and shine.