

Family support key to CALC success

Family support is an important element in the success of a student. This is especially true with CALC students. Teachers and families work together as a team to ensure that each student is working up to his or her potential. Teachers depend upon open and ongoing communication with the families.

High expectations

The South Colonie Central School District sets high standards for all students. Lisha Kill and Sand Creek Middle Schools' staff work collaboratively with the CALC students reaching their potential and preparing their transition to high school. The CALC staff challenges students to become responsible lifelong learners capable of working independently or with others to become critical thinkers.

School spirit

CALC students come together as a community with a real sense of school pride. Student activities include field trips, drama presentations, cross-age tutoring and overnight team building and Project Adventure training programs. Additionally, CALC students conduct fund-raising projects for charitable organizations and participate in intergenerational programs with senior citizens. Cooperation, teamwork and real world connections are a large part of the CALC experience.

What is CALC all about?

- **Fostering success in students**
- **Increasing self-esteem & self-confidence**
- **Creating a safe learning environment which encourages risk taking & addresses student academic & social needs while preparing them for an all-Regents high school**
- **Motivating students to become self-starters**
- **Identifying and developing occupational & life goals**
- **Assisting students to make connections between academics, college and the workplace**

For more information on CALC please contact ...

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CALC

Central Avenue Learning Center



SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PREPARING WORLD CLASS CITIZENS



What do
our
students
have to
say
about
CALC?

“When I first found out about CALC, I didn’t want to be here. But my grades are higher than ever because of all the attention I get from the teachers.”

Meeting a need

The Central Avenue Learning Center, better known as CALC, was established in the fall of 1997 to meet the needs of 7th and 8th graders from Lisha Kill and Sand Creek Middle Schools who were not academically successful. Before CALC, these students would have been required to repeat the same courses in the same environment. CALC offers students another chance to succeed.

Prospective students are identified by a team of teachers and their guidance counselor and are referred to CALC for the following year. Throughout the year, parents are involved in discussions regarding a possible referral to CALC. At a September orientation for students and their families, the CALC staff explains how they will work diligently to develop a comprehensive plan that focuses on individual academic success, self-esteem and social development.

Personal attention

CALC provides a personal educational environment which limits distractions and increases the potential for academic success. Since most students have already taken their exploratory courses (Home and Careers, Technology, Art and Health) CALC focuses on the core subjects such as math, English, social studies, science, foreign language and physical education while preparing students for the rigorous challenge of an all-Regents high school.



“The drama classes were very good. They taught me how to speak in front of people and helped my self-esteem, which wasn’t very good when I came to CALC.”

“We learned more than kids in other middle schools. We learned about communication, making good decisions and how to make friends. I had very good grades in most of my subjects. I learned a lot this year.”

Flexible classroom

Each year, approximately 30 students are enrolled in the CALC program. The course schedule is flexible, enabling the instructors to adjust to the learning styles of the individual. Students receive the same course of instruction and are required to pass the same examinations as all students enrolled in the middle schools. CALC students follow the same rules of conduct as established in their home schools — but with a degree of flexibility due to the innovative nature of the program.

Strategies for success

The South Colonie Central School District is committed to measurable improvements in students attendance and academic achievement, as well as to the development of positive social skills among the youth of our community. The CALC staff understands the need to employ multiple strategies to ensure that students have the knowledge and skills to manage potentially difficult life situations that often lead to failure in school and beyond. The CALC program includes peer relationships, drama and other components that provide students with the following knowledge, skills and personal growth:

- Communication & Study Skills
- Pride in One’s School & Community



“I wish I was coming back to CALC next year, even though I know I can be successful at Lisha Kill. The teachers really made me work hard here and showed me that I can get good grades and stay out of trouble if I want to.”

“I passed all my subjects this year for the first time. I also learned a lot about myself and how to work through some of my problems.”

- Time & Anger Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Increased Awareness of Self & Others
- Resistance Skills
- Team Building & Cooperation
- Organizational Skills
- Stress Management
- Reading/Writing Workshop
- Health and Wellness

Attendance: Another crucial component

Many students who do not succeed academically also do not attend classes as often as classmates who are succeeding. Their lack of attendance can either be the cause of their poor performance or be a factor that adds to it. At CALC, attendance is closely monitored and parents are kept informed of excessive absences, which may lead to poor academic performance.

Remediation and Enrichment

The CALC course schedule is designed to provide an opportunity for remedial help both during and after school. A late bus provides transportation home. The daily schedule also allows students to participate in sports and other afternoon activities offered at Lisha Kill and Sand Creek Middle Schools.