



GRIFFIN SCHOOL
INTEGRATING ACADEMIC RIGOR & CREATIVITY

Request for Student Support 2024-25

Director of Student Support Dr. Deborah Overdorff is the lead administrator at Griffin School on issues related to special learning needs. Deborah and the Student Support Team - Janelle Powell, Darrell Limuel, Frances Ramberg, Nati Patino - work to build trust and support with students. The Student Support Team also coordinates with parents, students' teachers, outside tutors, and counselors to promote student success.

ABOUT DEBORAH OVERDORFF

Deborah has a BA in Psychology; a PhD in Biology, Anthropology, and Anatomy; and 30+ years of teaching and administrative experience in education and behavioral intervention in a wide variety of educational environments (from elementary to college-aged/graduate level students). Prior to Griffin, Deborah was on staff at St. Francis School for 16 years working with students with a wide range of learning needs and styles. She also holds certifications as an ADHD educator (PESI), a DEI facilitator (National SEED Project), a Restorative Practices facilitator (Region 13, IIRP), and as a Teacher Coach (Bright Morning Coaching).

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES OVERVIEW

All Griffin School students are eligible to receive learning accommodations as needed and as identified by a formal academic assessment. Griffin School does not provide learning assessment services, but we can provide referrals to independent assessors who have expertise and credibility. Families should submit their student's learning assessment report to Deborah directly so she can use it as a basis for any special accommodation plans that may be needed at Griffin School. Accommodation plans are designed in consultation with the student, the family, and key Griffin School faculty members.

A variety of learning accommodations are available for Griffin School students to help them access learning opportunities in an equitable way. Griffin School does not provide curricular modifications as part of its academic program, and it expects all students to be able to engage in a rigorous, college-preparatory school environment. Accommodations are designed to support learning opportunities and do not guarantee academic results. Our broad goal is to help students develop the skills they will need to be self-aware, self-reliant, proactive, and confident students.



Students who would benefit from ongoing supplementary support may sign up to receive services through our Student Support Program. Services vary for each student based on their individual needs and the support level selected. Support centers around building executive functioning skills and effective work habits. *Note that student support services are not designed to provide ongoing subject-specific tutoring for students although there are occasions when the Student Support team will help students with content (i.e. refining essays, creating study guides, preparing for tests).*

*All students who need accommodations will have an initial intake meeting with the Director of Student Support prior to the start of their first year at Griffin at no additional cost. Parents and students will meet with the Director of Student Support to set up a formal accommodation plan for the year. Formal accommodation plans can be updated or modified at any time during a student's time at Griffin.

STUDENT SUPPORT LEVELS AND FEES

Our goal is to support all students in their learning in addition to the support teachers provide within the classroom setting and during office hours. The Director of Student Support (Deborah) is available to all students and families to assist in creating a formal accommodation plan, to provide guidance on how special accommodations should be met, and to assist students who need to request testing accommodations from the College Board or ACT.

We provide three levels of one-on-one support services for students that incur an additional fee. Fees are added to each family's FACTS Payment Account and billed monthly over nine months, September-May. Services may be canceled at any time. Please reach out to Deborah if you need some financial assistance.

Testing Coordination Support - Testing Support As Needed (\$100/month or \$900/year)

- This service is for students who have the accommodation for the following forms of special testing arrangements: small group testing space, private room testing space, readers, or any accommodation that requires a separate testing room or test proctor.
- The student will be assigned a Student Support staff member to facilitate testing accommodations throughout the school year. The Student Support staff member will be the go-to person for the student and parents when questions about testing accommodations arise.
- Support services are provided on unit tests, semester exams, and other major assessments.
- This service level does not include weekly one-on-one support for students throughout the school year.

Standard Student Support - One-on-One Student Support, Once per Week (\$250/month or \$2250/year)

- One session with the Student Support Specialist each week during a study hall period. The amount of meeting time will vary depending on the week, the student's



workload, and their needs. Sessions may be brief check-ins or last up to 40-minutes depending on the schedule and the student's needs.

- Coordination with faculty to ensure consistent student services, ensuring the established accommodation plan is functioning effectively, and facilitating student learning opportunities.
- The Student Support team will facilitate and proctor special testing accommodations as needed.
- Regular communication with a student's family about their progress.

Extended Student Support - One-on-One Student Support, Twice per Week (\$425/month or \$3825/year)

- Two sessions with the Student Support Specialist each week during study hall periods. The amount of meeting time will vary depending on the week, the student's workload, and their needs. Sessions may be brief check-ins or last up to 40-minutes depending on the schedule and the student's needs.
- Coordination with faculty to ensure consistent student services, ensuring the established accommodation plan is functioning effectively, and facilitating student learning opportunities.
- The Student Support team will facilitate and proctor special testing accommodations as needed.
- Regular communication with a student's family about their progress.

HOW TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION

Contact Deborah at deborah@griffinschool.org or 512-454-5797 with any questions about the Student Support Program, specific information about your student's needs, or special request(s). Billing questions should be directed to accounting@griffinschool.org.

