

LANDMARK EAST SCHOOL

Changing Lives since 1979

School Prospectus & Information for Donors

Building on Success Capital Campaign



EVERY CHILD DESERVES AN EDUCATION

Our Mission:

Landmark East is a day and boarding school that empowers students with learning differences to unlock their full potential. We achieve this through small class sizes, individualized programs and our relentless spirit of care and commitment.



WELCOME TO LANDMARK EAST

Landmark East School is a small, independent, not-for-profit, day and boarding school for students with learning differences.

The goal of Landmark East School is to create successful individuals who are fully aware of how to leverage their learning difference, have tools for overcoming their challenges, and thereby achieve their true potential. Graduates of Landmark East School have gone on to become pilots, managers, lawyers, successful business owners, and people who found themselves achieving things they never thought possible before they attended Landmark East.



OUR STUDENTS

- Have been diagnosed with a learning difference (including dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, auditory processing disorder, and other learning challenges)
- May have difficulty acquiring literacy (reading and spelling) skills
- Have average to above average cognitive capacity
- Are between the ages of 7-19 years in grades 3-12

OUR LOCATION

Landmark East is located in the beautiful town of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. Wolfville is home to Acadia University and is a one-hour drive from the city of Halifax. Our campus is on five acres of land overlooking the historic Acadian dykelands, backing onto the 110-kilometer Harvest Moon Trailway. We are a community-based school and our students benefit from the facilities available in Wolfville.



BUILDING A STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

Students with learning differences often require alternative strategies to access their education and the promising future they deserve. It is more difficult for students with dyslexia, ADHD, auditory processing disorder, and other learning challenges to find success in a traditional learning environment with large classes. Landmark East School is specifically designed to help students with learning differences achieve their full potential.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

(Grades 3 to 6) is a day program that addresses the needs of students who are having learning difficulties especially acquiring literacy skills. The program uses a multi-sensory approach to develop skills in reading, oral and written expression, comprehension, study skills and mathematics.

A key feature of this program is the one-hour daily one-on-one intensive support class.

The typical class size for Grades 3 to 6 is six or fewer students.



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

(Grades 7 to 9) employs a multi-sensory approach to developing literacy, mathematics and study skills. The program offers an optional daily one-on-one intensive support class that optimizes the fundamental skills taught across the curriculum.

The typical class is eight or fewer students. In addition to regular academic classes, students participate in a 45-minute physical education program and a supervised 60-minute study hall each day.

THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

(Grades 10 to 12) fully meets the requirements of the Nova Scotia Department of Education Public School Program. Our school provides an exceptional education that offers students opportunities to develop their abilities, skills and self-confidence to become enthusiastic, independent learners who are capable of transitioning successfully to post-secondary education.

Graduates are awarded the Nova Scotia Department of Education High School Graduation Diploma. More than 85% of our graduates continue their post-secondary studies at college or university.

The typical class size for Grades 10 to 12 is ten or fewer students.

THE TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAM

Post Grade 12 is offered to students who have completed Grade 12 but do not yet feel comfortable facing the demands of post-secondary education.

Academically, the Transition Year Program focuses on developing stronger literacy, research and organizational skills, as well as self-advocacy and personal growth.

LITERACY IS KEY

Our trained teachers understand specialized methods of reading and spelling instruction. By breaking learning into small chunks and using a multi-sensory approach, students learn how to 'break the code' in order to read and write effectively. Our teachers use proven approaches to reading instruction, such as Orton-Gillingham, to support students with dyslexia and other learning differences, resulting in first-time reading success for many of them!



Our Unique Learning Environment

Landmark East School achieves its results through small class sizes, individualized programming, and trained educators in the areas of learning differences. This includes proven approaches in helping those who find it difficult to learn skills in a traditional academic setting.

We pride ourselves on “teaching the whole child” with programs like Successful Me, Intensive Support, and Advisory. With a commitment to academics and a dedication to social-emotional learning, we work with students globally to address their own strengths and challenges.

SPECIALIZED APPROACHES

Students with dyslexia need more help than most learners in sorting, recognizing and organizing the raw materials of language for thinking and application. Language skills that non-dyslexic learners acquire easily must be taught directly and systematically. We use proven approaches to literacy education that are tailored to meet each learner's needs.



Students with ADHD need quiet classrooms with a high degree of structure. They often require direct instruction accompanied by rephrasing or rewording and tasks broken down into smaller chunks. They may need extra time to process information, frequent breaks, and lots of repetition. We tailor our lessons and activities to help focus their thinking process and engage them in learning.

CLASSROOM SETTING

Our non-traditional classroom setting makes students feel comfortable and safe. The low student-teacher ratio allows for an individualized learning experience.



SPARK Fitness

The SPARK Program is a comprehensive daily plan of cardio exercise and movement intended to help students prepare to learn and improve their mood and attention, while lowering stress and anxiety. This exercise intervention was developed in direct association with Dr. John J. Ratey, clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and the author of *Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*.



SPARK, like all of our programming, is individualized for each student, allowing them to boost their heart rate and live a healthier lifestyle in a way that works for the way they move and learn.



Currently the SPARK program's use of our outdoor facilities, including a basketball court and open field, depend on weather conditions. Our new indoor recreational centre will allow for diverse year-round programming to benefit our students and their physical health every day.

STUDENT LIFE

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Landmark East offers exceptional after-school and weekend programming. Beyond contributing to students' physical wellness, these activities help students develop skills in teamwork, building social relationships, risk-taking, resilience, sportsmanship and more. Here are some of the activities in which students can engage:

- Bike Club
- Gardening Club
- Fitness
- Adventure Activities
- Outdoor Education
- Music
- Creative Movement
- Electronic Music Production
- Recreational Art
- Photography
- Track and Field
- Wrestling
- Sports
- Therapeutic Activities
- Board and Card Games
- Hiking



THE BOARDING EXPERIENCE

Where learning and self-confidence flourish.

Our students ...

- are immersed in a warm, caring and nurturing environment
- experience unique and life-enriching opportunities (including arts, culture and outdoor recreation)
- develop a stronger sense of character and independence
- form bonds and make friends that last a lifetime

A Message from our Head of School

Hello and thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school! As you flip through the pages you will get a glimpse of the specialized programs we offer. Our kids are bright and capable learners – they happen to need a more diverse set of strategies in order to find their success.

Our highly trained teachers deliver the Nova Scotia curriculum to students in the way that matches their learning profile. This starts with small successes, which in turn builds self-confidence, which leads to bigger successes and culminates in empowering our students to reach their full potential.



I believe that there is a school for every child and that all children deserve the school that is right for them.

The right school:

- Finds ways to align teaching with the specific learning needs of the student
- Offers proven specialized programs designed to teach children of any age how to read and how to learn
- Turns challenges into achievable goals
- Works to instil confidence and self-esteem

For over 40 years, Landmark East has provided individualized instruction to more than 1000 children. It is an honour and a privilege to work in a school with such a dedicated staff – everyone is collaboratively engaged with all stakeholders to ensure the greatest success for every student.

Because you support quality education for all children, we invite you to join our Landmark East Community by contributing to the Landmark East *Building on Success* Capital Campaign. Your contribution will help improve the life experience of the students who attend our school!

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen Fougere
Head of School

From Members of the

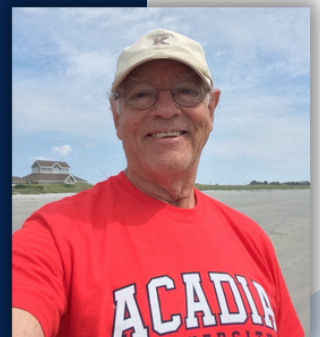
LANDMARK EAST COMMUNITY



"Our Foundation has invested in Landmark East because it teaches young people with learning disabilities how to learn and thereby succeed in school, in college and in life. Landmark East helps its students to understand their learning differences and their potential and this breeds self-confidence and personal power."

- Malcolm Macleod
Board Chair, Johnson Scholarship Foundation

"As a school principal in the 1970s, I began to hear of Landmark School in Boston for learning disabled children. A student in my school was a perfect candidate and we helped the family arrange for her to attend. A year later she returned to our school no longer frustrated and angry. She was excited to learn and had acquired the necessary tools to accomplish her goals. She graduated from high school and went on to post-secondary education. In 1979 Landmark East School was established, with the support and blessing of Boston's Landmark, offering hope for the many local students who were struggling with learning disabilities. For the last 12 years I have served as a Board Member and become an even greater fan. It troubles me to think of the many learning disability children, in this province and beyond, who are unable to attend such a school for lack of funds.



- Ray Baltzer
Retired Principal, Vice Chair, LME Association Board

From our Parents & Students



"I appreciate everything that the school has done for me. Landmark East laid the foundation blocks for my education. My study habits, self-esteem and school involvement are a direct result of the principles that Landmark East teaches."

– Rachael (Holt) Ieszenberg
(Alumnus)

"Having a learning disability is hard to deal with. When I was at my old school I hated it. I felt depressed and stupid. I would tell myself that I couldn't do anything. I would sit in class day after day doing nothing. I had no self-esteem at all. I would try to learn but I couldn't. I am glad I came to Landmark East and now I am ready to go back to a normal life."

– Stephen Purdy (Alumnus)

"The school taught (our son) strategies to cope with his learning disability and he has grown into a confident young man. He graduated and went on to become a pilot! That is something we could never have imagined. We are very proud parents."

– Martha and Nick Paul
(Parents)

"I could never possibly find the right words to express the way I truly feel towards Landmark East School for giving my son an opportunity, to have numerous chances to give it his best shot, to graduate from high school. I will forever be in your debt."

– Susannah Tibagwa (Parent)



"Our daughter has improved her physical conditioning, is better able to express herself, is more self-confident, seeks responsibility and has developed friendships with students from around the world. Although her learning disabilities will never be "cured", she is beginning to understand how she learns and to advocate for herself. Landmark East programs have given her opportunities for a positive and productive future. This is something we could never have dreamed just a few years ago."

– Paula and Pierre Lessard (Parents)

"The positive environment, small class sizes, and individual attention produced amazing results!"

– Christine Kroker (Parent)

"I truly believe that my continued success as an adult is a direct result of the programs at Landmark East."

– Thomas Paul (Alumnus)

"Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for the skill and devotion to teaching that we found at Landmark East. You people really do save lives!"

– Dianne Purdy (Parent)





Landmark East School

Landmark East School believes that inside each child is an individual waiting to unlock their full potential. We recognize that children with learning differences have many unique obstacles to overcome as they mature and learn to navigate the world around them. Their journey often requires skill-development, support, and perseverance.

These elements are incorporated into the school crest, reflected by the mature tree within the acorn. The oak tree grows through adversity at its own rate. It is a symbol of strength, resistance, and knowledge.

Landmark East School believes that from little acorns mighty oaks grow. This is symbolic of the potential we see in our students.

