

Empowering Unique Learners

miriamstl.org









> *I think the hardest part of having a child with a delay of any kind is the fight: The fight for services. The fight for people to understand who your child is and what they need. The fight for knowledge, because knowledge is power. And the quiet fight you have within yourself wondering if you've left no stone unturned.*





At Miriam, you don't have to fight.



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Dear Community Members,



Welcome to Miriam School and Learning Center! We are thrilled that you are exploring our amazing community.

At Miriam, we believe that all children can be independent, happy and successful in their own ways when they are given the specialized instruction, tools and strategies they need by highly qualified educators.

Students who attend Miriam's K-12 School experience a personalized environment focused on helping them overcome the obstacles of their learning challenges. We embrace the need for academic growth while helping our students build the skills they need for life.

Miriam celebrates and fosters students' strengths and passions. When you spend time on Miriam's campuses, you will witness firsthand Miriam's beautiful, child-centered schools and the joyful sense of community and belonging.

Whether a child spends three years with us or their entire school career, we ensure they have what they need to be successful as they transition to their next chapter of life, whether it is to college or the workforce, or back to a traditional classroom.

Please come see us, and experience the Miriam Magic in person!

With every good wish,

Meg Bamford, Head of School

miriam
SCHOOL and LEARNING CENTER

Webster Groves Campus

Grades K-8

501 Bacon Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119

Olivette Campus

Grades 7-12

1138 N. Warson Road
St. Louis, MO 63132





Join a community where learning differences are embraced and celebrated.

Welcome to Miriam,
a community that celebrates individuality.

Miriam School and Learning Center is the premier educational hub for children with learning differences in the St. Louis area.

We empower each unique learner by building confidence and laying a foundation for success at our K-12 school, as well as through our outreach programs. Miriam provides a truly personalized education - including academics, therapies, social skills and executive functioning - while still maintaining a structured classroom setting.



Our students' challenges often include:

- **Specific Learning Disabilities | ADHD**
- **Level 1 Autism | Speech/Language Disorders**
- **Sensory Processing Differences | School Anxiety**

Miriam serves students who are able to safely participate in the school environment without 1:1 support, and who can indepenently manage toileting and personal hygiene. Students should be verbal at the sentence level and able to access the school day without ongoing medical care beyond oral medications.

> *It's ok to be different at Miriam, because they embrace everyone. Miriam was not just a game-changer, as they say, but a life-changer for my daughter.*
>
> **Debbie Schwer, Miriam Alum Parent**





Why Choose Miriam?

Because not all great minds think alike.

We embrace a strengths-based, whole-child approach to an individualized education. From experiential learning to therapy services and skills for life, Miriam prepares students for a productive future. We believe all students can find success; they just need the right support.



Personalized Education

At Miriam School, learning is intentional. We use various methods and instructional tools to accommodate the individual learning styles of our students. Teachers meet each student where they are in their learning journey.



Integrated Therapies

We understand the importance of pairing therapies with academics to equip each student with the appropriate aids and skills. Speech/language and occupational therapies are built right into each school day. We also have a full-time counselor at each school. Specialists don't simply pull kids out of class to work on skills – they also push in to classes and help students apply what they're learning.



Welcoming Environment

There's something special about walking through the doors of either Miriam campus – a feeling of warmth, understanding, and comfort. Students learn to advocate for themselves and one another, understanding that Miriam is a safe place to learn and grow.

Accommodations are woven into the fabric of Miriam.

Occupational Therapy	**Social Skills Instruction**	**Speech/Language Therapy**
Instructional Scaffolding	**Sensory Reduction**	**Executive Function Coaching**
Predictable Schedule	**Assistive Technology**	**Curriculum Adaptation**



> *In all these years, no other organization, school or mental health institution has provided a detailed map to support how my grandson could and would become an adult who will make a difference in his own life and in the lives of others. That is why he was at Miriam.*
>
> **Jan Ford McBride, Miriam Alumni Grandma**

Webster Groves Campus
(Grades K-8)



At Miriam, we understand the value of early intervention.

We know that when a student feels confident and their body is calm, that's when the magic happens. Their brains are open for learning, they learn how to navigate social situations, and they feel successful – sometimes for the first time ever.



Our lower school uses a multi-grade classroom model. This approach allows students to be grouped with peers who are chronologically, academically and socially compatible, rather than using grades as the only criteria.

Therapists, reading specialists, teaching assistants and our counselor work alongside our teachers, forming a cohesive team.

EVERY classroom teacher is special-education certified.

Our youngest two classrooms are capped at just eight students, while the other lower school classes have a maximum of 10 students and middle school classes have 12.

Our school values – SAFE, PEACEFUL, CALM and KIND – are constantly at the forefront of everyone's mind. Scan here to read more.

SAFE

PEACEFUL

CALM

KIND

Every student at our Webster Groves Campus has a twice-daily

Sensory Diet



Much like your body needs nutrients from food to stay healthy, it needs sensory input to stay regulated. Research has found that just 15 minutes of a sensory diet like ours - including swinging, climbing, balancing, and deep pressure - can result in up to two hours of regulation.

Webster Groves Campus
(Grades K-8)

Integrated Services

Speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling services are built into each school day.

These services are truly integrated, as the therapists, counselor and teachers collaborate constantly to help each student reach their potential.

Both occupational therapists and speech/language pathologists pull students out AND push in to classes to provide services. They also work with classroom teachers to help students apply what they've learned throughout the day.

OTs work on gross motor and fine motor skills, including handwriting and cursive. SLPs work on articulation and language, and help teachers facilitate the use of effective communication skills. Our school counselor teaches an explicit social skills curriculum.

Every moment is a teaching opportunity, as students learn to move their bodies safely, communicate with peers, and manage their emotions.









I thought I understood the concept of individualized lesson plans and educating the whole child, but I actually had no idea until I saw it in action at Miriam. They educate Leo's mind, body and heart.

Angie, Leo's Mom

SCAN THIS CODE TO READ LEO'S STORY.







Webster Groves Campus
(Grades K-8)

Miriam School Community

Miriam fosters a tight-knit community among teachers, staff, students and families.

Parents and other family members bond over a shared understanding of their children's needs. Staff members form relationships with family members to ensure the best possible support for students.

Throughout the year, Miriam School hosts numerous community events that bring families together for fun and to celebrate our students' achievements. From Trunk-or-Treat to the annual Arts Festival and talent show, there is always a way to get involved!

Special events include:

- Pizza Fridays
- Spring Picnic
- Field Day
- Celebrating Ourselves and Others Day
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Trunk-or-Treat
- WinterFest
- Arts Festival
- Middle School Dance
- 8th Grade Graduation

Executive Function Coaching

Executive functioning – the ability to prioritize, initiate tasks, control emotions, sustain attention and other vital skills – is something that most neurodiverse students struggle with.

At Miriam, we explicitly teach these skills to foster student independence.

We move beyond managing behaviors to actively build the neurological tools students need for lifelong autonomy. Throughout the year, we integrate mini-lessons into every school day, and then track students' progress.

Specialized Core Curriculum

The S.P.I.R.E. Reading Program integrates phonological awareness, phonics, handwriting, fluency, vocabulary, spelling and comprehension in a curriculum designed specifically for struggling readers.

Number Worlds is a research-proven math intervention designed for students in pre-K through eighth grade.

Big Ideas Math is a comprehensive, research-backed K-12 math curriculum and text book program that helps students see math as an interconnected story, rather than isolated rules.

Olivette Campus
(Grades 7-12)



Miriam's tradition of focusing on the whole student through small group instruction, integrated services, and specialized curriculum is continued at the high school level.

Each student has an Individualized Learning Plan that includes all wrap-around services such as academics, social skills, occupational and speech therapies, counseling, and executive function coaching.

With a low student-to-teacher ratio and a collaborative learning approach, students find an environment full of possibilities. Graduates leave with not only a transcript, but also a portfolio of skills for college, vocational training, or the workforce.

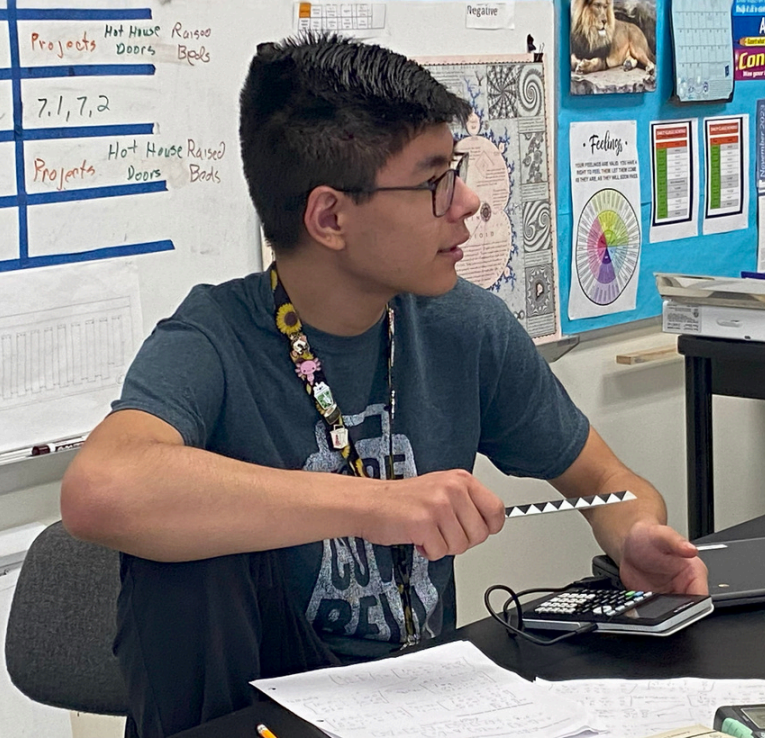


In fall 2026, Miriam opened a middle school classroom at the Olivette Campus. This new pathway provides the opportunity for more academic rigor – for instance, the option to take Algebra 1 or Spanish 1 as an eighth-grader – while retaining the scaffolding and services they need.

This class has a dedicated middle school teacher but is able to take advantage of the facilities and expertise at the high school.







Olivette Campus
(Grades 7-12)

More than Academics

The Miriam Essentials Curriculum addresses topics that build skills inside and outside the classroom, ensuring that when students leave Miriam, they are ready to take on the next step of their journey.

Miriam actively teaches skills in five categories to give students a well-rounded experience and a solid foundation for their adult life.

- Academics
- Life Skills
- Health and Wellness
- Community and Social
- College/Career Readiness

For instance, the Life Skills portion covers topics such as problem solving, goal setting and risk-taking, as well as maintaining a growth mindset.

Many of these types of skills have a tendency to fall through the cracks in a more traditional environment.

This curriculum ensures that competencies such as social skills, self-management, nutrition, group work, citizenship and planning for the future remain front and center for all students.

High School Curriculum Paths

Miriam High School provides three curriculum paths:

CHALLENGE
Designed for students who are learning at or above grade level

CORE
Designed for students who are learning at or near grade level

CONCEPTS
Designed for students who are learning below grade level

For each subject area, students are placed in a pathway that meets their needs. They can move between paths and may be working in more than one pathway at once.

> *Miriam is about educating the whole person. He's learning algebra and history, but also learning how to manage his money, learning about good nutrition, and learning daily life skills. He's growing as a person.*
>
> **Cheryl Rackers, Miriam Parent**

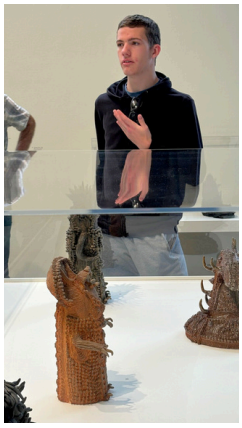


As a single mom, I value her safety, inclusion and growing independence. I no longer receive crisis calls. Miriam has changed both our lives.

Denise, Claudia's Mom

SCAN THIS CODE TO READ CLAUDIA'S STORY.









Olivette Campus
(Grades 7-12)

Learning Beyond the Classroom

At Miriam High School, we give our students hands-on, out-of-classroom experiences regularly through our Experiential Learning Program, setting them up for success when they graduate.

Budgets and Shopping
Students in math and personal finance take charge of the school's Friendsgiving Feast, creating a menu, determining a budget, and making a shopping list. They then visit a local grocery store to shop, learning to navigate the store and using a credit card to check out.

Child Development
High schoolers in the Child Development elective pay a visit each year to Mirian's youngest students at the Webster Groves campus, leading games and other activities.

Ropes Course
Students practice safe risk-taking and team-building at The Principia ropes course.

Community Service
All students participate in community service projects throughout the school year, working with animals at the APA, putting together food and care packages, and more.

Exploration
Students visit parks, community centers, museums, and libraries, and they practice ordering and paying at local restaurants.

Planning for the Future
Students participate in career days and college visits, and they take part in programs through Miriam's partnerships with St. Louis Arc and Pre-Employment Transition Services through Vocational Rehab and University of Missouri.

Olivette Campus
(Grades 7-12)



Transition Services

Every student deserves a thoughtful, personalized plan for life after graduation.

Our transition services are designed to help students set and achieve both short-term and long-term goals, while preparing them to pursue paths that align with their unique strengths and interests.

At Miriam High School, preparation for life after high school begins as early as freshman year. Our Transition Coordinator works with each student individually, along with their parents, to determine their interests, needs and dreams.

Some students plan for four-year universities or community college, and others want to explore job training, internships and life-skills preparation. Miriam High School's unique programming is designed to support both types of learners.

Students and their families connect with work programs, skill-based opportunities, colleges and universities, and agencies like Vocational Rehab.



100% of high school graduates have a plan for the next step in their journey.

In November, Miriam hosts a **Next Steps Fair**, welcoming representatives from a wide variety of colleges, employment agencies and organizations to talk with students and families. Scan here to see participating organizations.

Senior Internship Program

Every senior completes a two-week internship, focusing on an area of interest or potential career path. They then complete and present a capstone project on their experience. Scan here for a news story.





Olivette Campus
(Grades 7-12)

Student Life

Miriam High School is dedicated to providing students with enriching social opportunities. These include clubs, athletics, spirit days and special events and are shaped by students' interests and preferences.

After-school clubs offer students an excellent opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. Clubs not only promote social interaction but also give students the chance to gain leadership skills.

Like the Webster Groves Campus, Miriam's Olivette community is close-knit, fostering student friendships, parent bonding, and the welcoming environment Miriam is known for.

> *Our favorite thing about Miriam is how the faculty and staff really give space for students to express their unique interests and try to help them find ways to really shine in those areas."*
>
> **Megan Bross, Miriam Parent**

Extracurricular Activities

(Not all are offered every semester)

Cross Country | Book Tok

Rhythm Band | Student Council

Dungeons & Dragons | Bowling

Team Sports Club | Drama Club

Art Club | Journalism Club



Special events include:

Pizza Fridays	Prom
Fall Festival	Game Nights
Winter Social	Variety Show
Celebrating Ourselves and Others Day	Socials with Other Schools
Movie Nights	Graduation



While you were students here at Miriam, you were also OUR teachers. You taught us that there isn't just one 'right' way to see the world. You showed us how to be patient, how to find humor in the small things, and what it looks like to be truly authentic.

Vicki Thurman, Principal











In 2026, Miriam ushered 12 seniors and 20 eighth graders off to new adventures. Each of the graduating seniors left with a plan for their next steps – and yet all of these students will forever share the bond that is Miriam.

SCAN TO READ THE GRADUATION STORY.

Miriam by the NUMBERS

97%

of high school graduates move directly into college or the workforce (since the inception of the Miriam Essentials Curriculum).

164

K–12 Students

38%

of students at Miriam School represent minority groups.

2 Campuses

K-8 in Webster Groves

7-12 in Olivette

99%

of high school families say their child feels a sense of belonging at school.

1:1 Technology

Every student receives an iPad, Chromebook or laptop for use on schoolwork.

4:1

Staff-to-student ratio

Our teachers get to know the strengths, interests and challenges of every student, so they are able to develop a personalized learning plan.

$2 million

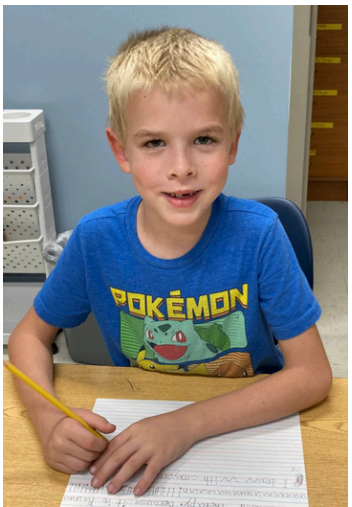
in financial assistance awarded to Miriam families annually.

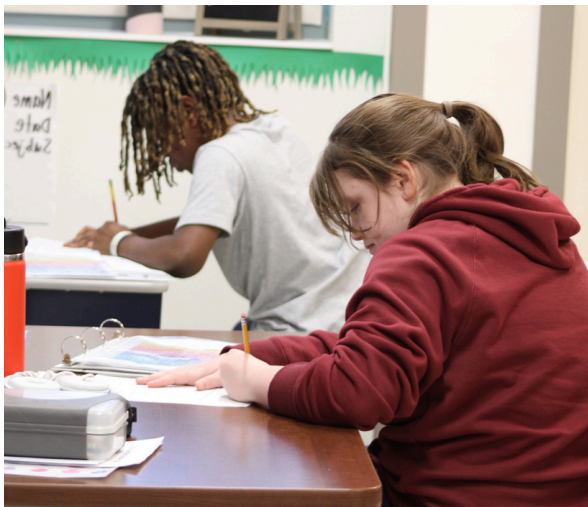
6,304

Hours of therapy services per year at the Webster Groves Campus

At all levels of Miriam School, speech/language and occupational therapies are built right into the school day.







Admissions Process

INQUIRE

Family inquires about Miriam via phone, email, or web form and schedule an intake conversation with our admissions team.

TOUR

Family registers for a Talk & Tour, Open House, or other tour opportunity.

(Not required before applying)

APPLY

Family completes the Miriam application and uploads pertinent documents such as IEP and evaluations.

SHADOW

The prospective student is invited to attend school for a two-day shadow visit.

ACCEPTANCE

Family completes the enrollment agreement, and the student becomes officially enrolled and a member of the Miriam community.

VARIABLE TUITION

Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Please see our website for more tuition and affordability information.

Meet our Administrators



MEG BAMFORD

Head of Miriam School and Learning Center

Meg Bamford has been Head of Miriam School and Learning Center since July 2022. Previously, Meg served as Head of Radcliffe Creek School, an independent school in Maryland with a mission very similar to Miriam's. Meg has also worked as Director of Student Services in a New Hampshire school district, a reading and writing specialist, and an elementary and middle school teacher for students with learning differences.



VICKI THURMAN

High School Principal

As Principal of Miriam High School, Vicki Thurman oversees the education of our students at our Olivette Campus. Vicki brings more than 22 years of educational experience to this position. Before joining the Miriam team in July 2023, she worked as director of student support services at MICDS. She has also previously worked as a school psychologist and counselor at private and public schools.



EMILY VALENCIA

Director of Enrollment Management

As Director of Enrollment Management, Emily Valencia oversees the admissions process from inquiry to enrollment. Emily brings nearly 20 years of experience to this position. Before joining Miriam in August 2026, she worked as Director of Enrollment at Ursuline Academy in Kirkwood, Director of Student Activities at St. Ignatius College Prep and Director of Admissions at St. Scholastica Academy, both in Chicago.

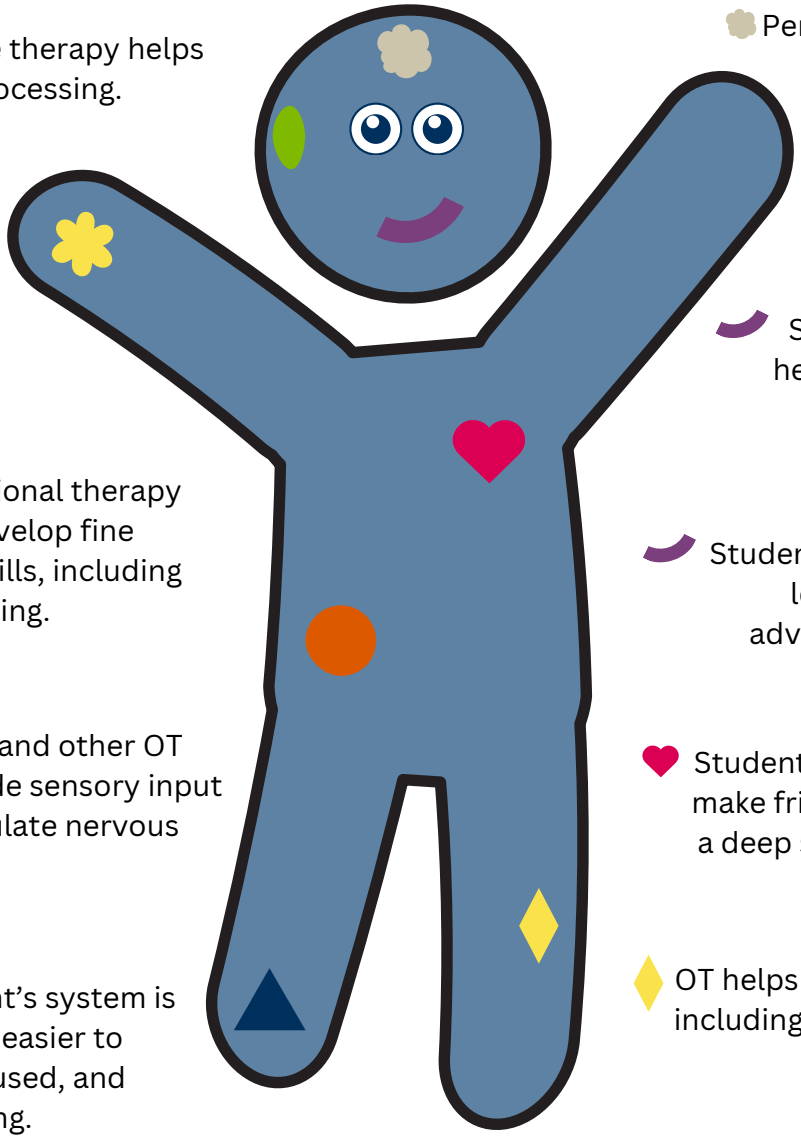
What is a WHOLE-BODY education?

Increased confidence fosters a growth mindset.

Speech/language therapy helps with language processing.

Personalized curriculum helps students understand material previously out of reach.

Social skills coaching teaches students to see other perspectives.



Speech/language therapy helps with articulation and appropriate language.

Occupational therapy helps develop fine motor skills, including handwriting.

Students discover how they learn best and start to advocate for their needs.

A sensory diet and other OT services provide sensory input needed to regulate nervous systems.

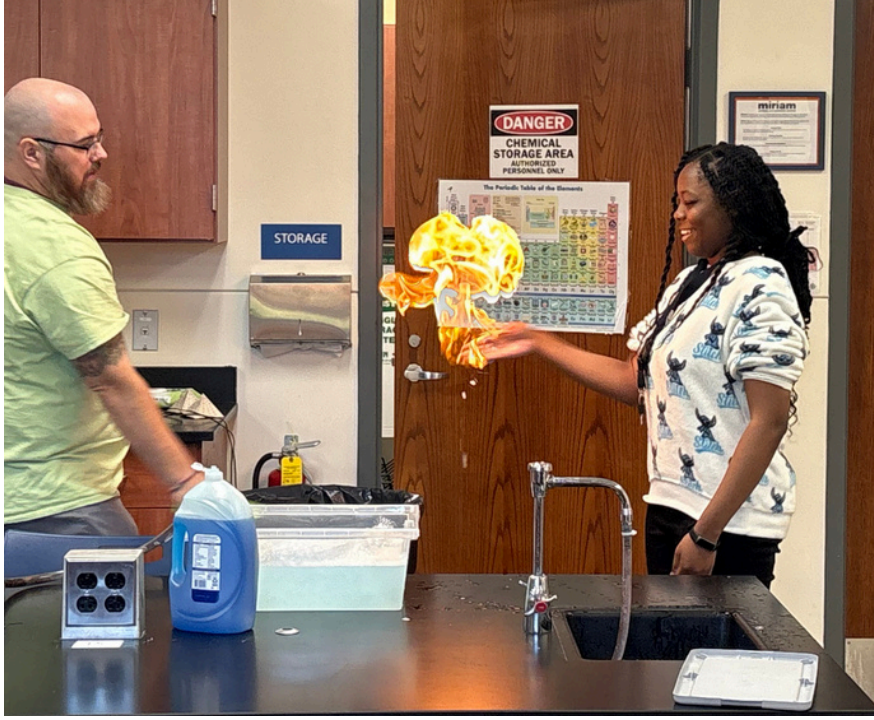
Students feel understood, make friends, and develop a deep sense of belonging.

When a student's system is regulated, it is easier to stay calm, focused, and open to learning.

OT helps with gross motor skills, including jumping, climbing, and crossing midline.

It's a MIRIAM education!









Miriam has an entire community of teachers and staff dedicated to the students. The staff recognizes and honors the goodness of human differences, and offers acceptance and affirmation of the child's true self.

Anneliese Flynn, Miriam Parent


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