

St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy ESY Program

Dates and Times

M-Th., July 7-24, 2025
9:00am - 1:30pm

Cost for the ESY Program

\$3,750 per student

How to Apply

Online Applications are available at:
<https://gladerun.org/education/st-stephens-academy/>

For Additional Information

ESY Program Contacts:

Doug Harr

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Principal
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www.gladerun.org

ESY 2025

Extended School Year

St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy



We make learning fun!

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Why St. Stephen's ESY?

The experiential education activities provided through St. Stephen's ESY are uniquely tailored to engage students in the learning process, not only prohibiting skill regression but enhancing social skill development. In addition to exemplary academic programming, five aspects of St. Stephen's ESY set the program apart from other ESY programs; equine and animal assisted interventions, therapeutic horticulture and ecology activities, a new state of the art Sensory Park facility, staff experience, and student individualization.

Staff

Certified Special Education teachers are assisted by trained behavioral support aides. Each teacher and aide will focus on supporting students' IEP goals while therapeutic animal and horticulture program activity facilitators lead the class in experiential learning. Activity facilitators may additionally be accompanied by interns and volunteers. In the case of students in need of one-on-one support, these students may be enrolled with the support granted by the school district or other provider.

Who can attend?

St. Stephen's ESY is specially designed for students K-12 with social and communication challenges such as Autism, including PDD and speech and language impairments, as well as for students with emotional/behavioral challenges, including ADHD, ODD, and severe anxiety and depression.

Location and Facilities

The program is held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy in Zelienople, PA. Students and staff collaborate using the framework of our Sanctuary* certification, School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) and the School as a Society model. In addition, St. Stephen's Academy promotes growth through educational and therapeutic activities utilizing an outdoor classroom and the animal and horticulture program at Glade Run Adventures. The facilities include a 17 stall horse barn, 2 covered riding arenas, 3.5 acres of pasture, 8 miles of hiking and riding trails, a 20' x 36' greenhouse, raised bed vegetable and herb gardens, therapeutic patio garden, a memorial garden, two garden gazebos, an indoor classroom, a stream, a one acre Sensory Park complete with adaptive playground equipment, a sand pit, shade areas, and an outdoor picnic pavilion.

Structure of the program and the daily schedule

All classes are individualized to the students' learning needs and capabilities and are structured according to PDE state academic standards, Sanctuary Institute and other social skill curricula.

Special activities are designed for:

- academic growth
- hands-on education
- experiential animal and ecological activities
- socialization & leadership
- improving self-esteem & decision making
- reducing anxiety
- emotional/behavioral management
- improving concentration
- sensory integration
- exploring and expressing feelings and emotions
- learning group work to accomplish tasks

Data Collection methods and how often data will be collected on IEP goals and objectives

Special Education teachers will collect data daily on students' progress related to their IEP goals/objectives. At the conclusion of programming, teaching staff will provide IEP reports. Utilization of the Positive Behavior Implementation Supports (PBIS) model provides parents with daily communication on students' academic and behavioral progress.

**The Sanctuary Model is a cultural practice of trauma-informed, evidence-supported methodology across an organization.*

