

Head of School Opportunity

TO START JULY 2025 OR JULY 2026



HEAD OF SCHOOL THE SEARCH BEGINS

The Board of Directors of Sophia Academy is prayerfully seeking the person God has been preparing to be our next Head of School.

SOPHIA ACADEMY'S VISION

Sophia Academy will celebrate the image of God in each student by preparing students to live comfortably, creatively, and successfully in either college or career, to enjoy learning, to love themselves, and to appreciate their unique abilities and ways of approaching the world.

SOPHIA ACADEMY'S MISSION

Sophia Academy awakens genius in students with language-based learning and/or developmental differences by providing targeted interventions along with an arts-based, multi-sensory, multi-modal, and evidence-informed education



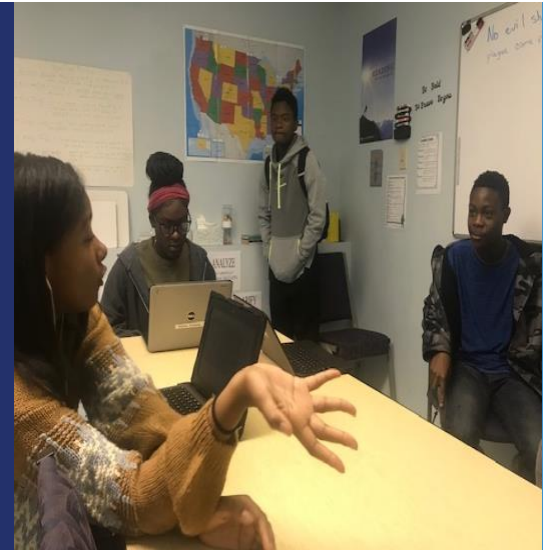
KEY FACTS

- Founded 2016 as pilot program; Became independent January 2019
- 2023-24 enrollment -17 in grades 9-12 from 11 Philadelphia zip codes
- 2023-24 annual budget - \$267,000
- Diverse faculty and student body
- CSI and Middle States Associated accreditation candidate

Academics at Sophia

We combine a rigorous college prep curriculum with hands-on learning that emphasizes creativity, discovery, exploration, and divergent thinking. As students study everything from Algebra to World History, from Chemistry to Sustainability and World Literature, they engage in authentic learning by designing, building and testing wind tunnels or scale models of airports, or by creating and producing podcasts about modern-day Macbeth or current political conundrums.

J-Term each January gives students the chance to study an elective of their choice in depth: Fiction writing, stock market investing, culinary arts, robotics—the choices vary each year.



MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

INTERVENTIONS

Students at Sophia come to us after years of failure in school because of dyslexia, dyscalculia, ADHD, or developmental differences such as Mosaic Down Syndrome or Autism. Some have severe social anxiety while others have suffered traumatic brain injury.

Our interventions include reteaching math and reading skills using the multi-sensory approach pioneered by Orton-Gillingham and Mathusee. We ensure that every student learns and practices executive function skills each week. Our Social-Emotional Learning classes helps students create a safe environment for all as they learn to regulate their emotions.

Our goal: to love each student as Christ loves us, bringing hope into darkness.

FIELD TRIPS AND OUTSIDE EXPERTS ADD VALUE

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM LEARNING IS ENCOURAGED

Sophia students impress experts with their interest and quickness: the engineer from Unisys said students were “quick to learn complex concepts and even grasp binary, octal, and hexadecimal math as we explored fiber optics, data transmission and light wavelength and latency.” The astronomy professor at Eastern University said, “I’ve been giving talks to high schoolers for 47 years and your students are among the best.”



Creativity at Sophia

We make sure that students operate on both sides of their brains each day through art, music, drama, and artisan crafts as separate classes and incorporated into other lessons.

Students put skills they learn to use by designing and building everything from wind tunnels to scale models of airports, by creating and producing podcasts, by writing short stories, by making pasta from scratch and decorating cakes. Music students learn to play guitar while understanding theory, and move on to the technological skills of music production. Art students use oil to paint landscapes and tile cutters to create a mosaic for a service project sprucing up the local park.



INTRODUCTION TO LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Christian schools have a stated purpose. Some schools serve as disciple-makers of children from Christian homes. Other schools seek to evangelize students from non-Christian homes. Sophia Academy seeks to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus by providing the best education we can for students with disabilities while loving them with the love of Christ. We accept students from any or no religious background. While at Sophia, they are introduced to God, the Bible, and what it means to be a Christian through both explicit teaching and implicit modeling of Christ's love. Students enroll in Bible classes for all four years. Each morning begins with a meditation from the Psalms and prayer, led by the Head of School. Teachers may pray in class and discuss Bible verses, but for sure, everything Sophia students learn is undergirded by the truths of scripture and assumes a Biblical world and life view. Chapel is held once a month. We trust the Holy Spirit to move as He wills.



Every year begins with an all-school retreat held at Camp Andrews, where students are introduced to the rhythms of the spiritual life and practice team-building skills while completing a challenge course.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

SENIORS TAKE COLLEGE COURSES WHILE SOPHIA IS STILL AROUND TO HELP

Sophia Academy has joined with Esperanza College of Eastern University to offer dual-enrollment classes for our seniors. We want to encourage students to give college a try, but also want to walk with them through the whole college experience to ensure that they meet with success, thus taking the "fear factor" out of the equation. Students who already know they wish to attend a trade school are allowed to substitute dual-enrollment with an internship.

As they plan for the future, Sophia Academy arranges college and trade school visits, helps with applications and FAFSA, and provides guidance about and assistance with scholarship applications.

