



**BISHOP WATTERSON  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# **Dominican Program**

**“An education in the fullness of  
humanity should be the defining  
feature of Catholic schools.”**

**Pope Francis**

# The Dominican Program

**“Without confidence and love,  
there can be no true education.”**

**St. John Bosco**

Bishop Watterson High School strives to offer an inclusive educational environment to meet the needs of all learners while maintaining a focus on preparing students for life after high school.

We realize that this goal requires our families and school staff to work together in the best interest of each child. Our Dominican Program team, in collaboration with the teachers, utilizes a tiered approach to intervention, which allows all Bishop Watterson students to receive supports meeting their level of demonstrated need.

The mission of the Dominican Program is focused on helping those students who need academic, developmental or emotional wellness support. The program's overarching goal is to help students become successful in an environment rooted in Catholic faith formation and academic excellence.

Through a combination of funds including scholarship awards, tuition, federal and state money, and generous donors, we are able to provide an array of academic and personal support services.

## Dominican Program Timeline

**1980**

Licensed  
Clinical  
Counselor  
on staff

**Early 1990s**

Extended  
Time Testing

**Early 2000s**

- Testing by public school psychologist
- Counselors attend disability meetings at public school
- Counselors send student requests for extended time for PSAT/SAT/ACT
- Additional mental health counselor added to staff

# Learning Plans

## Success Plan

- Available to all students experiencing academic struggles.
- Formulated in collaboration with the student's guidance counselor
- Outlines tangible action steps to address area of academic difficulty
- Results of implementation can be used as data when determining a potential need for further testing

## Academic Support Plan (ASP)

- Available to students who provide documentation supporting a clinical diagnosis which is adversely impacting academic performance
- Data provided does not meet Ohio Department of Education (ODE) criteria requiring specially designed instruction
- Diagnosis provides eligibility for classroom and assessment-based accommodations only
- Not a legal document as access to some recommended accommodations may not be possible in a private school

- Plan is created in collaboration with the guidance counselor and shared with the student's parents and teachers
- Plan is frequently reviewed to determine continued eligibility
- Student is not eligible for the Jon Peterson Scholarship or specially designed instruction

## Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

- Available to students who have been identified as having a disability that requires specially-designed instruction as determined by requirements set for by ODE
- Student is eligible for and has been awarded the Jon Peterson scholarship which funds intervention services
- In lieu of a traditional study hall, students receive specially-designed instruction in an intervention lab, grouped by grade level
- Progress on IEP goals is documented and provided to parents quarterly

2005

Extended  
Time Room  
Established

2006

School  
psychologist  
added to  
BWHS staff

2009

First  
full-time  
Intervention  
Specialist

2014

Intervention  
staff increased  
from one  
to four

2014

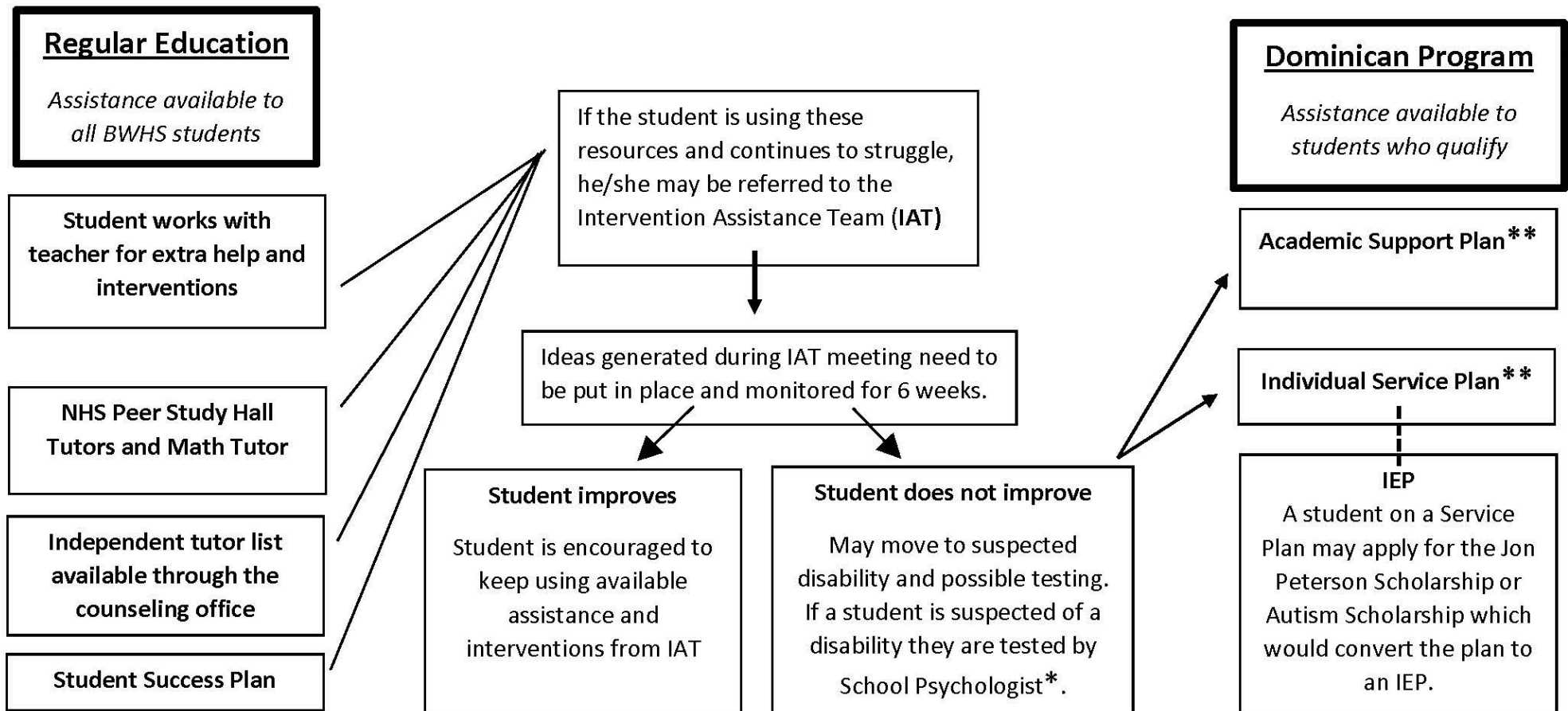
Educational  
Aides assist  
students  
with autism

2017

Named  
Dominican  
Program



## ACADEMIC SERVICES FLOWCHART



\*Every child is evaluated according to Ohio Department of Education guidelines.

\*\*Academic Support Plan and Individual Service Plan are **possible** outcomes for students with a diagnosed disability.

# Intervention Lab

Students identified as being eligible for specially designed instruction follow the same schedule as all BWHs students and maintain the same graduation requirements.

In place of Study Hall, students attend Intervention Lab which is staffed with at least two Intervention Specialists per period.



## **Examples of Activities in Intervention Lab**

### **(Depends on individual student needs)**

- Students attend lab with others in their same grade, which allows for effective small-group instruction on shared content.
- Students work with an Intervention Specialist on specific IEP/ISP goals.
- Students receive targeted re-teaching and review of core class content, both in small groups and one-on-one.
- Students update and review planners, assuring that all assignments and long-term projects are accounted for.
- Students learn study and notetaking skills.
- Students receive guidance in breaking down large assignments and projects into workable chunks.
- Students receive instruction in organization skills so that they may effectively organize study materials as well as online organization of documents and folders.
- Students have Dominican Program guidance counselor to ensure increased individual attention is provided to students with significant academic needs.

The Intervention Lab is also staffed before and after school for additional support and help with homework.

# Program Team

All staff are made aware of the learning needs of students and are expected to collaboratively provide the best educational experience possible for our students.

## **Academic Counselors**

As part of the Dominican Program, our counselors, along with teachers, help to identify students experiencing academic difficulties. The counselors then meet with students to teach study skills and form a student success plan if necessary.

## **School Psychologist**

Our school psychologist from Columbus City Schools works with Bishop Watterson staff to identify students with educational needs for specially designed instruction.

## **Intervention Specialists**

Multiple intervention specialists are on staff to work specifically with students that have been

identified for special education. Support may occur in the regular education classroom and/or in the Intervention Lab. Each intervention specialist focuses on a particular grade level in an effort to streamline communication and collaboration with the classroom teachers and support staff.

## **Classroom Teachers**

The classroom teachers work in conjunction with the intervention specialists and support staff to ensure accommodations are being addressed within daily instruction.

## **Mental Health Counselors**

Our licensed counselors provide support, within a private setting, for both individual students or small groups of students. This support is available to all students and helps ensure we care for the whole child. Any staff member can refer a student to our mental health counselors.

## **Tutoring**

We offer a program of peer tutoring which is open to all students needing some additional support. Study Halls are staffed by a math tutor to support any student. A list of private tutors is also available from the academic counselors.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What accommodations can my child receive?**

Bishop Watterson has the staff and components in place to provide many accommodations defined in an IEP/ASP.

However, we suggest parents contact the Dominican Program Director at (614) 268-8671 to determine the degree to which we can meet your child's unique needs.

## **If my child has an IEP is Intervention Lab a required class?**

Yes. We have determined that the structured time with our staff in the Intervention Lab strengthens not only academic performance but also the life- and decision-making skills that our students will need to be successful beyond graduation. Individual IEP goals are a priority during lab time.

## **Does Bishop Watterson accept students with Jon Peterson Scholarships?**

Yes. Bishop Watterson is a Jon Peterson Scholarship provider.

## **Does Bishop Watterson accept students with the Autism Scholarship?**

Yes. While Bishop Watterson is not an Autism Scholarship provider, we have families who work with a third-party provider with whom we collaborate to facilitate the students' learning needs.

## **How does this program benefit students who do not have learning needs?**

Our mental health counselors are available to all Bishop Watterson students. They work with students who have ongoing emotional or mental health concerns as well as students who have a sudden need for assistance. Any staff member can refer a student to the mental health counselors. Parents can also speak to their child's academic counselor to request this support.

## **Is the Dominican Program the same as SPiCE?**

Both the Bishop Watterson Dominican Program and SPiCE, Special People in Catholic Education, are efforts to address the variety of unique learning needs of students.

The Dominican Program is Bishop Watterson's internal curriculum component of academic support and emotional wellness support for students. SPiCE has generally been a parish-based program to provide financial support and to foster awareness for students with unique learning needs.

## **How can I support the Dominican Program?**

Contact the BWHS Development Department at (614) 268-3041.