



"I'm so happy to see the growth and progress in my child and want this to continue. How do I help prepare them for what comes next before they graduate?"

That was a question I heard much too often from parents of students who were diagnosed with either Autism Spectrum and/or mood disorder. We all knew they were bright. We all knew they were capable. So what was getting in the way of their long term success? I knew the answer after twenty-five years in the field. The same issues that made it difficult for them to experience success in the past, issues like anxiety, poor executive functioning, the inability to fully and effectively communicate, difficulty regulating their moods, and having learning differences, were getting in the way of achieving success in college. So what did we do? We implemented some of the same principles we use at the St. Anthony School and started the **touch-stone College Success Program**because life doesn't stop after high school.

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touch-stone
/'təCH,stōn/

College Success Program



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We speak the language.

"There needs to be a lot more emphasis on what a child can do instead of what he cannot do."

-Temple Grandin

While 94 percent of high school students with learning differences get some kind of help, just 17 percent of college students do.

The **touchstone** College Success Program has experience partnering with students, parents/guardians, and the professionals at **Collin College** to increase these odds. Students enrolled in the **touchstone** College Success Program typically exhibit one or more of the following:

Learning Differences:

- ⬇ Disorders of Attention
- ⬇ Reading Difficulties
- ⬇ Poor Motor Abilities
- ⬇ Written Language Difficulties
- ⬇ Oral Language Difficulties
- ⬇ Social Skills Deficits
- ⬇ Psychological Process Deficits
- ⬇ Information Processing Problems
- ⬇ Sensory Difficulties

Autism Spectrum Disorder Level 1 & 2:

Asperger Syndrome (from earlier diagnosis)
High Functioning Autism
Characteristics include:

- ⬇ Social Awkwardness and Impairment
- ⬇ Weakness in Comprehension and Abstract Thought
- ⬇ Problems with Motor Coordination
- ⬇ Easily Distracted
- ⬇ Increased Anxiety
- ⬇ Difficulties with Language
- ⬇ Insistence on Sameness
- ⬇ Sensory Sensitivities
- ⬇ Restricted Range of Interests
- ⬇ Poor Concentration and Organizational Skills
- ⬇ Mood Regulation/Emotional Vulnerability

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

-Helen Keller

MISSION STATEMENT

The **touchstone** College Success Program provides person-centered assistance to individuals with learning differences, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or mood, attention or anxiety issues as they transition toward a successful college experience. Support is provided for any academic, behavioral, social, emotional or medicinal concerns. **touchstone** strives to strengthen the foundation established in high school and fosters autonomy as students determine their path for the immediate future.



"Dreams are the touchstones of our character."

-Henry David Thoreau

touchstone Criteria For Admission:

- ⬇ Student displays personal desire/investment
- ⬇ Recent educational/diagnostic evaluation reports
- ⬇ Concurrent enrollment in the St. Anthony School (11/12 Graders)
- ⬇ Average to Above Average I.Q.
- ⬇ Full commitment from parents/guardians seeking a supportive bridge for the students transition into college and adult life

The touchstone College

Success Program Offers:

- ⬇ Cooperative partnership with **Collin College**
- ⬇ Professionals dedicated to your students success
- ⬇ **The St. Anthony School** accreditation (Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools)
- ⬇ Experienced assistance managing the complexities of higher education
- ⬇ Individualized coaching focusing on immediate, short term and long term goals
- ⬇ Academic tutoring
- ⬇ Specific skill training in self-advocacy
- ⬇ Frequent progress evaluation/planning meeting with students, parents and staff
- ⬇ General transportation between **the St. Anthony School** and **Collin College**
- ⬇ Commitment of licensed and certified professionals creating and implementing personalized degree plan
- ⬇ Ability to work with existing members of your treatment team

Phase I: Dual-credit for Juniors and Seniors enrolled at the St. Anthony School
Phase II: Post-secondary support to students AFTER high school (starts January 2017)

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

-Albert Einstein