



Design by 2017 Quad Prep students





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**QUADPREP**  
THE QUAD PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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## Our Mission

The Quad Preparatory School transforms the lives of 2e people—those who are gifted and learn differently—by redefining the experience of school. Our personalized model fully integrates social and emotional learning with challenging academics, empowering our students to rise to the level of their extraordinary talents.

Through our innovative programs, we are leading a larger movement in service of both 2e people and society at large.

## Our Values

Quad Prep is a kind and joyful learning community where everyone is celebrated for who they are.

- We ignite students' strengths and passions and allow students to safely pursue academics at the highest levels through learning from mistakes.
- We are trustworthy and steadfast, and our high academic expectations challenge students to grow uniquely as people and in the way they learn.
- We widen our students' perspectives, giving them the tools to know themselves and find success in the future of their choosing.
- We never give up on each other, and are driven by the ethos of "not if, but how."





## The Quad Preparatory School Model

The Quad Preparatory School was founded on the bedrock of gifted special education and best-in-class, evidence-based clinical practice. Using this deep understanding of prior paradigms as a launchpad to innovate, our experts break down school walls and academic silos to redefine the very cornerstones of school and learning:

### Instruction Redefined

One-to-one personalized instruction is the cornerstone of our program and the most effective way of educating asynchronous learners. Up to one third of instructional time in core academic subjects is one student-one teacher, allowing for children's gifts and talents to soar.

### Classroom Redefined

All aspects of the Quad Prep learning environment are designed to adapt to and flexibly meet the wide range of learning needs characteristic of twice exceptional, or 2e, learners, yet also provide the structure and predictability necessary for building the foundations of learning. In addition to personalized 1:1 instruction, our students participate in multi-age group seminars of up to 10 students that allow for academic discourse, collaboration, and creation. Students are grouped based on interests, academic level, compatibility, and social learning style.

### Whole Child Redefined

Social, emotional, and academic learning is completely integrated at The Quad Preparatory School. Psychosocial teachers are fully part of the classroom team. Academic and clinical faculty receive the same training so that teachers can carry out therapeutic plans, and therapists help brainstorm ways to practice psychosocial goals through academics. Finally, integration means that wherever possible, curricula target both academic and social and emotional growth.

### Inclusion Redefined

As children become more mature and gain more independence, the curriculum takes our students out to the wider city. There are ongoing opportunities to participate in gifted and independent classrooms via unique community-wide partnerships with schools, universities, and our city's vast cultural and educational public resources.

### Parent and Outside-Provider Collaboration Redefined

Staff have weekly communication with families and monthly parent and outside-provider phone conferences for joint planning of goals. Leadership maintains an open-door policy and the culture of our school is responsive and collaborative.



## Our Students

Our kids have too frequently been identified by their challenges (i.e., difficulty with executive functioning or with social cognition) instead of by their areas of strength (i.e., curiosity and strong interests), their gifts, and their talents.

Parents of 2e children often find themselves choosing one of two sets of needs: keeping their children in settings that will challenge their enormous potential (i.e., rigorous independent school settings) or moving them to places where they can receive appropriate support in managing their challenges (i.e., special education settings), but where their gifts and talents languish. This is an impossible choice that means education stalls and/or psychosocial well-being suffers.

Quad Prep provides students with the opportunity to capitalize on their strengths and further develop their passions while receiving empathetic support and empowerment to overcome their challenges. Therefore, our entire staff is trained to teach social cognitive and executive functioning skills and strategies. We help students overcome anxiety and rebuild self-esteem, which has all too often been eroded due to prior school experiences insufficient to their needs.

The Quad Preparatory School is an open, inclusive environment designed to foster respect for strengths and differences. We pride ourselves on how well we individualize attention: rather than expect each child to fit us, we fit ourselves around each of our students.

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*It's because of Quad and everyone here and beyond that I am as successful as I am. I wouldn't be who I am without Quad. It's been quite an experience and however nervous I am to leave and enter a new phase of my life, it doesn't matter, because through determination and creativity, we can all be successful.*

*—First graduating Quad Prep high school student*





## Academic Overview

The Quad Preparatory School provides students with a vibrant academic program that accommodates the asynchronous development that is characteristic of our students. Our unique education model integrates social and emotional development with academic endeavors in a holistic manner. Preps are multiaged (within two grade levels) groups of 8-10 children who typically stay with the same teachers for two years for continuity and stability.

The curriculum is founded on the understanding that as young minds are building skills, they need both challenging material and engagement in higher-order thinking. This exposure empowers and prepares students to tackle increasingly complex problems and issues as their basic skills develop.

### Curriculum Framework

We use an eclectic curricular framework to provide students with a "big picture" and then break concepts down into the smaller parts for in-depth study. This translates into a foundation that presents a geographical (space) and chronological (time) context for all knowledge. When children ask questions, they are asking to understand the systems, patterns, and relationships that form the networks of all disciplines and knowledge—a natural developmental attribute. Our framework creates a "big picture" of the universe and planet, then life, humans, and civilization, which provides a sound foundation for all other study in literature, science, arts, mathematics, and social studies. A leading STEM (abbreviation for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) emphasis is present throughout the school and extends learning into the innovation, invention, and creative problem-solving skills needed to tackle the problems of the future.

From the very start our students develop a sense of identity and purpose. As we nurture this natural need for reflection we lay the foundation for the habits necessary for creative productivity present in the curriculum for the higher grades. At the upper levels, we use a curricular model from studies in gifted education that first presents core information and then makes connections in cross-disciplinary exploration, delves into real-world practice revealing relevance of the material, and comes back to the reflective practice of identity in asking, "what does this have to do with me?" and "how can I make a difference?" This then leads to interaction with working professionals in many disciplines through mentorships and apprenticeships, and engagement in the innovation needed for 21st-century problem solving.

Our school also embraces the arts as an integral part of everyone's education. We have art, theater, and music departments headed by professionals in their fields who adapt their curriculum and instruction to mesh not only with what is going on in the classroom, but with the interests and talents of each child. All students attend both art and music through 8th grade, with a minimum of one year of each required in high school.

Upper School students are also required to take a language other than English, and can also choose among a number of electives including drama, computer science, film, woodworking, Student News, and design engineering.

### Instruction

Academic instruction at Quad Prep embodies a variety of strategies. First and foremost, we start with our students: strengths and interests are identified and developed early; we focus and build on what children can do instead of miring them in what they cannot do. We know that when students are engaged by working in areas of talent and/or interest, they are more apt to address their challenges.

One-to-one instruction allows our teachers to accelerate, modify, pursue special interests, or adjust pacing to specific needs to fill in learning gaps while raising the achievement bar. Students are prepared for academic discourse by meeting in seminar groups of varying sizes to discuss any and all areas, from math problems to philosophical and ethical issues. They also collaborate in project-based learning, grouped by similar interests and employing problem-solving strategies and presentation skills. We monitor new learning in many different ways: projects, artwork, dramatic presentations, debates, written pieces, and formal presentations, as well as quizzes and tests. Students gain experience in many modes of demonstrating what they know, while being scaffolded for success at their choice of product.





## Curriculum: Social and Emotional Integration

In developing a new 2e school model, the concept of breaking down the silos of educator and clinician is foundational. It allows us to transform education for our students by purposefully and meaningfully integrating academic, social, and emotional learning. Integration occurs all day, every day.

### Integration of Classroom

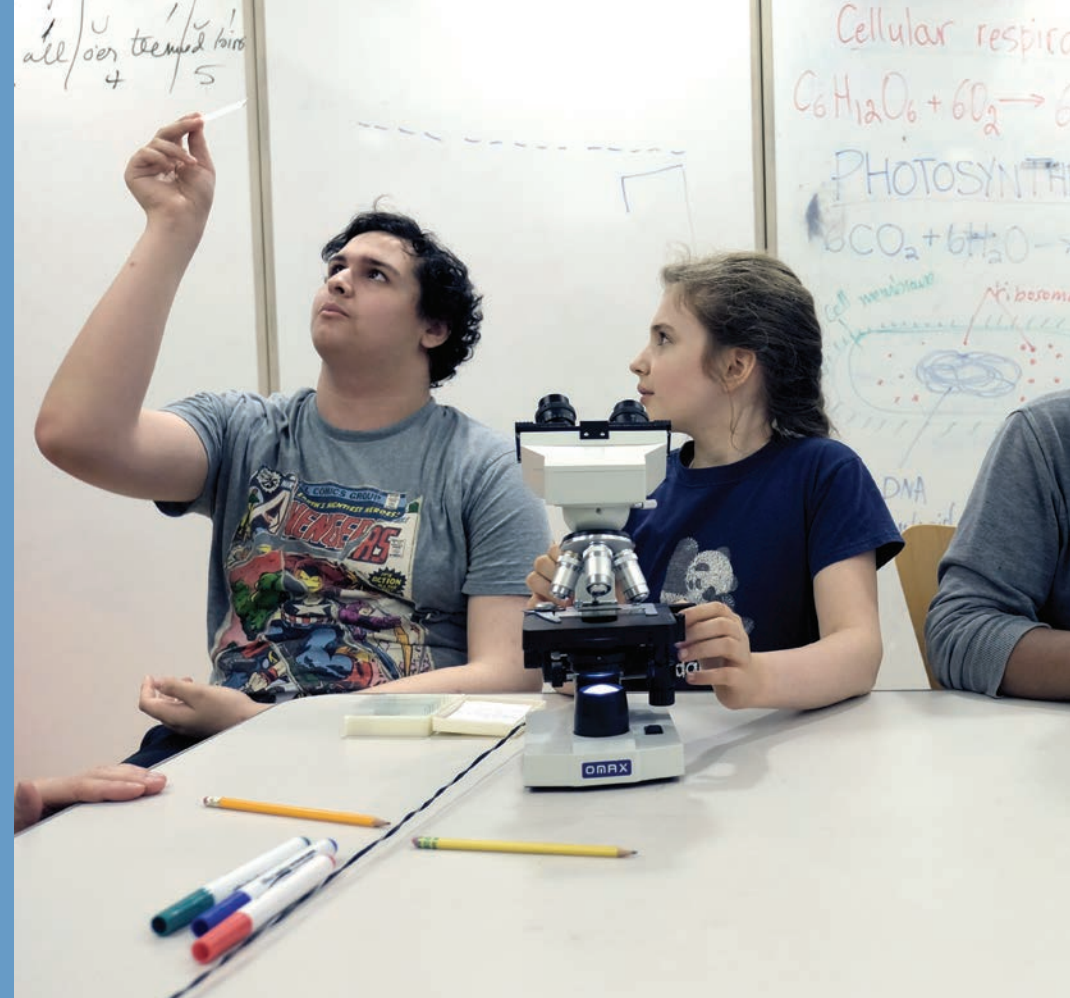
A Quad Prep classroom always includes a team of academic teachers and clinically trained psychosocial teachers, whose job is to act as liaison with the clinicians working with each prep. As such, they coach students to carry out strategies developed with their clinical team. Children are dismissed at noon on Fridays to protect time for required, crucial collaboration taking place in psychosocial meetings between clinical and academic staff.

### Integration of Curriculum

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is fully integrated into the whole school curriculum. This is exemplified by our "Citizenship" curriculum - a vertical K-12 curriculum that threads through the humanities lessons each year and intentionally incorporates social thinking and social cognitive teaching strategies for students who need extra support in these areas.

### Integration of Professional Education and Training

We believe that in order to train ideal professionals to meet the needs of psychosocial students, higher education needs to reform and eliminate the artificial separation inherent in university departments of education, psychiatry, clinical psychology, and related therapies. Our ultimate goal is to train hybrid professionals prepared to meet the diverse needs of 2e students.



### Integration of Leadership

No one traditional model of school leadership suffices to develop and oversee a truly integrated program. Thus, at least until there are more sufficiently trained and experienced leadership candidates, leadership at our school is shared equally between an expert in academic instruction and an expert in clinical and social/emotional leadership. Additionally, a multidisciplinary Executive Leadership Team is empowered to assist in the execution of the goal of true, authentic co-leadership.



## The Social Thinking Framework

- Establishes a common vocabulary to discuss social functioning
- Breaks down social concepts into concrete, teachable formats
- Includes fundamental social concepts, such as perspective taking and the hidden rules of social communication
- Helps children and adults navigate the nuanced world of social interaction

## Related Services

### Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists and staff receive training, clinical supervision, and consulting from Special Programs in Occupational Therapy (SPOTS). For more than 30 years, the co-founders of SPOTS, Paula McCreedy and Prudence Heisler, have been providing occupational therapy to preschools, charter schools, independent schools, and developmental centers, as well as in their centers in SoHo and Brooklyn.

### Speech Therapy

Speech and language therapy is provided in either one-to-one or small-group sessions, depending on each child's individual needs. All students participate in social learning groups each week, which are heavily informed by Social Thinking®.

### Social Thinking

The Quad Preparatory School receives ongoing coaching and professional development from the Social Thinking® Training and Speakers' Collaborative, a teaching framework developed by Michelle Garcia Winner, M.A., CCCSLP ([www.socialthinking.com](http://www.socialthinking.com)), which includes a variety of curricula and instructional tools for individuals aged preschool through adult.





Quad Prep also uses the Informal Social Thinking Dynamic Assessment Protocol to ensure that each social learning group includes students who are well matched in terms of social radar and social cognitive goals. The Dynamic Assessment is an informal assessment tool that helps educators and clinicians better understand each student's different levels of social cognition and match teaching strategies to the social strengths and challenges of the individual.

### **Counseling**

Each student is assigned a counselor who provides individual counseling if needed. The counselor also acts as the point person for each child's social and emotional learning plan.

### **Reading and Math Support**

We have learning specialists and reading specialists on staff who are trained in Wilson and Orton-Gillingham methodologies, among

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*We are beyond happy and overjoyed with our Quad experience. Our son is thriving and he has shared with us just how much he loves being a student at Quad. "Liberating" is one of the adjectives he used, along with "accepting." We are so very grateful we found you!*

*—8th grade Parents*





## Early Childhood

Our Early Childhood program embodies all of the essential principles of high-quality early education for young children. The doorway to a child's initial social and academic learning pathway, these early years are often a child's first formal school experience, and, as such, we are building a foundation for future scholarship. In keeping with the philosophy and values inherent in educating young learners, our program provides all of the crucial components they require to become engaged and passionate about learning. These include:

- Caring Community
- Supportive Learning Environment
- An Engaging and Well-Organized Classroom
- Nurturing Setting Capitalizing on Students' Strengths and Gifts
- Strong Social Emotional Foundation

All of the classrooms foster learning through play where symbolic, active, and self-motivated play experiences serve as the backdrop for education. With hands-on, project-based investigations, our developmentally enriched environment supports our young learners, building their self-confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills. Nurturing our students and stimulating their love of learning encourages the growth and maturity of essential executive functioning skills, readying them for the years ahead.





## Admissions

We are excited to have you learn more about our community! Prospective families are strongly encouraged to attend an admissions tour prior to starting an application to our school. To schedule a tour, please fill out our inquiry form at [quadprep.org](http://quadprep.org). Applications are available also through our website beginning each October for the next academic year.

When applying, parents need to provide the information required online and upload a neuropsychological evaluation, IEP (if applicable), and previous school reports.

For admissions questions, please email us at [admissions@quadprep.org](mailto:admissions@quadprep.org) or call us at 646-649-3913 (ext: 110).





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