



**STRAWBRIDGE  
SCHOOL**

*Hope for the future,  
power in the present.*



**BOARD OF CHILD CARE**  
*of The United Methodist Church, Inc.*



## Hope for the future, power in the present.



The Strawbridge School guides students to achievement and closely monitors their future, ensuring they are prepared for success beyond the classroom. The staff's main goal is to provide a stimulating educational experience that develops students' interests. The student's goal—either returning to public school or graduating from Strawbridge—depends on the team of the individual student and the student's objectives for the future.

No matter the path, Strawbridge School provides each student with the tools, structure, curriculum and overall successful academic experience to secure their educational foundation.

The Strawbridge School reaches every child individually through a variety of services and programs. Multiple programs are housed within the larger Strawbridge program, all licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education. The Type I program is licensed to serve day school regular and special education students primarily with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Other disabilities served include learning disabilities, mild mental retardation, spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injuries and other health impairments such as attention deficit and attention hyperactivity disorder.

The Type III program is a separate short-term transitional education program designed to support a student's continuity of education and ensure the student's education is not compromised when returning to public school.

The school's General Educational Development (GED) program is licensed through the Maryland State Department of Education to offer pre-GED and GED preparation to support youth who have found traditional academics difficult.





## The Strawbridge School Learning Environment

The Strawbridge School serves special education students from grade 5 through age 21 according to each child's individualized education plan (IEP), and Maryland State curriculum so that each student accomplishes his or her individual IEP and state and county graduation requirements.

Strawbridge teachers are certified by the Maryland State Department of Education—in alignment with the No Child Left Behind federal regulations. Content area teachers are certified in or are working toward content area certification, in addition to special education certification. All teaching assistants hold

bachelor's degrees and each social worker is licensed by the Maryland Board of Social Workers. These qualifications provide a strong, energetic and specialized team of teachers and clinicians who give students a range of behavioral and academic supports, including individual and group therapy, social work services, psychiatric services and state-certified teaching.

Through the academic and behavioral skills taught, our students learn accountability, consequences and the benefits of doing well. Each classroom maintains an average ratio of nine students or less taught by a state-certified teacher and an assistant teacher. The school is organized into three highly structured areas—a middle school, self-contained certificate program, and high school and vocational program.

- The middle school houses grades 5-8 and is a self-contained classroom offering students all major academic courses, physical education and fine arts.





- The self-contained certificate program is a highly individualized and structured program designed for students unable to meet Maryland High School Diploma requirements. Students focus on functional life skills and vocational programming.
- The high school program offers all academic courses according to referring county requirements in a therapeutic milieu. Students complete high school diploma requirements by transitioning between academic classes and completing four credits in a vocational program.
- The hybrid program is a highly individualized and supportive self-contained high school classroom model. Students have access to the core content teachers

but without the transitioning of a typical high school class. The program is designed for youth who have difficulty with the traditional high school model.

Strawbridge offers a range of elective classes and extracurricular activities to enhance the school experience. Art, music and physical education are available to all students according to credit requirements. Extracurricular teams, including flag football, basketball, softball and cheerleading, are open to students during the corresponding season.

### **Additional Programs that Build Knowledge and Success**

#### *Vocational Program*

The Strawbridge School's vocational program complements the students' education. The program allows students





*My son Christopher has made tremendous progress during his time at the Strawbridge School. He has gained self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of pride. The impact is clearly visible! He continues to gain valuable life skills through the vocational program and his on-campus experiences, while academically Christopher has experienced academic achievement never before seen in school.*

*~ Maureen Shanklin*

to explore vocational opportunities through hands-on training, and prepares them for the world of work.

The vocational program offers training in print shop, horticulture and culinary arts. Each vocational area is worth four credits and gives students an overview of the vocation and the knowledge and skills for meeting industry-ready benchmarks. In each vocational area, students train on industry equipment and are taught by teachers who are experienced in the field and meet Maryland State Department of Education vocational teacher standards.

### *Technology Programs*

The school's technology includes a computer lab and student access to an online tutoring system. In addition, each classroom is



outfitted with a Smart Board (an interactive whiteboard that uses touch detection) and two computers.

The school has two mobile labs of NEO 2's, which are keyboards that interface with the Smart Boards.

### *PBIS/Behavior Management*

The Strawbridge School participates in the state initiative of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), a process for creating safer and more effective schools. PBIS is a systems approach to enhancing a school's capacity to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom management systems. The approach focuses on meeting the needs of all students and staff in all settings.



The Strawbridge School staff believes that behavior management is an important piece to the school environment. All students participate in a school-wide behavior management program that includes daily point sheets, a school store, incentive trips and level-based privileges. Students and staff focus on positive behavior outcomes rather than negative consequences. Also enhancing student behavior management is a therapeutic sensory room that promotes positive

behaviors for students with sensory impairment or neurological challenges. It includes soothing music, wall murals and soft lighting.

Additionally, Strawbridge uses the web-based School Wide Information System (SWIS) to track and analyze behavior by student and program, allowing for changes in staffing patterns, behavior intervention plans and overall approaches to student behavior.

*The Board of Child Care is a nonprofit, multi-service organization serving children and families in Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia as an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church. Programs include residential and short-term care, foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption services, special education and a car loan program. Since 1874, the Board of Child Care has served as a community of hope: providing an opportunity to heal, and a safe and caring environment for children, youth and families.*



## Contact Us

3300 Gaither Road  
Baltimore, MD 21244

T: 410.922.2100  
800.CARE.734  
F: 410.496.5601

[info@boardofchildcare.org](mailto:info@boardofchildcare.org)  
[www.boardofchildcare.org](http://www.boardofchildcare.org)

## Accreditations

Council on Accreditation (COA)

Educational Assessment Guidelines  
Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE)

National Commission for the  
Accreditation of Special Education Services

## Licenses

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland Department of Human Resources

Maryland Department of Health and  
Mental Hygiene

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services





Hope for the future, power in the present.



**BOARD OF CHILD CARE**  
*of The United Methodist Church, Inc.*

3300 Gaither Road, Baltimore, MD 21244  
410.922.2100 • 800.CARE.734 • Fax: 410.496.5601  
e-mail: [info@boardofchildcare.org](mailto:info@boardofchildcare.org)  
[www.boardofchildcare.org](http://www.boardofchildcare.org)



N♦C♦A♦S♦E♦S  
Accredited

