We’re Off
to a Great Start!

The first month has flown by! Students have transitioned remarkably well. Last minute details regarding construction have been nearly completed. The “flexible” thinking by our students is commendable. Our therapists are completing their initial evaluations, horse therapy has begun, and student scheduling has been finalized. I am excited for our programming to begin!

I can’t express enough of my gratitude to the staff at Lakeland Star School Academy. The energy and passion that is brought to school everyday is clearly reflected in how our students are developing in their educational journey. Words can’t express “our” thanks and appreciation toward the contractors, custodians and all who have been instrumental in the preparation of our building. Our classrooms, sensory rooms and Art room is state of the art.

I look forward to November 19th, as that is when our final shipment of our classroom furniture will be delivered.

On behalf of our students and staff, a sincere- “Thank-You”

With gratitude and appreciation,
Mr. Mikoleit

We are an environment that fosters acceptance and honors individual strengths.

We cultivate self-reliance and determination in all students, so they may discover their unique potential and maximize their capabilities.
Equine Therapy for STAR Students

Equine therapy provides a combination of sensory, motor and neurological input that some individuals on the Autism Spectrum find to be beneficial. Riding benefits communication (requires an interaction with people and the horse itself), focus and behavior, motor skills (requires a controlled movement), and strength and balance (exercises many muscle groups and builds core strength). Horses create a dynamic three-dimensional movement that can’t be reproduced in a clinical setting.

–Eric Mikoleit, STAR lead teacher

Welcome Indigo

Two-year-old yellow lab “Indigo” is the newest Lakeland STAR School/Academy staff member working with our 20 students. As our facility dog, Indigo, trained by JourneyTogether Facility Dog, Inc., knows 80 commands. His award training titles include Community Canine, Canine Good Citizen and Novice & Intermediate Trick Dog.

Advanced social robot for autism

Lakeland STAR School/Academy staff will explore possible new teaching tools. Milo, an advanced social robot, developed by Dallas, Texas-based Robokind, is a facially-expressive robot for social and emotional skills. Milo is part of Robots4autism curriculum.

As an evidence-based curriculum, robots4autism teaches social, behavior and emotional recognition skills. Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can practice and improve their communication skills, emotional understanding and self-regulation techniques, skills that they can carry beyond the classroom into a productive adulthood.

“It’s a fun thing to do. You can learn a lot of things. I’m learning a lot of new things that I’ve never known. It’s calming, relaxing—a stress-reliever.”
Scarlette, student

“Equine therapy is giving students a chance to be outside the box—I’m so pumped because we are rockin’ it. We are blowing it out of the barn. They are doing really, really well. The whole world opens up.”
-Lenelle Scholl, Scholl Community Impact Group