Pallotta School
at Italian Home for Children

WELCOME

The Pallotta School is equipped with the structure and staff to support students with unique educational and behavioral needs. The Pallotta School is a program of the Italian Home for Children, an organization that helps youth and families with emotional, behavioral, and educational challenges thrive in their communities. The Pallotta School is located in Jamaica Plain, a neighborhood in Boston, on Italian Home for Children's 8-acre campus. The campus is also adjacent to Harvard University's beautiful Arnold Arboretum. The Pallotta School has been providing hope for hundreds of children and families with educational difficulties for over 30 years and looks forward to continuing this work for many more years to come.

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WHO WE SERVE

- K-8th grade
- Ages 4-14
- Students who need one of three types of programs:
  - Therapeutic Day School
  - Residential Education
  - Extended Evaluation

- **Students with complex diagnoses, including:**
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders (autism, attention deficit, learning disorders)
  - Social communication/pragmatic language issues
  - Mood disorders (bipolar, depression)
  - Anxiety disorders (generalized, PTSD, OCD)
  - Disruptive, impulse control disorders (oppositional defiant, intermittent explosive disorder)
- **Students with social emotional, and behavioral needs, such as:**
  - Strengthen social skills
  - Improve emotional regulation
  - Address behavioral issues such as externalizing and internalizing behaviors
- **Students presenting with:**
  - Challenges with focus and attention
  - Lacking self-advocacy skills or self-confidence
  - Struggling with academics
  - Concerns around following rules
  - Mood lability
  - Symptoms and behaviors commonly displayed as a result of experiencing traumatic events such as hypervigilance, strong fight or flight response, somatic complaints, etc.

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ACADEMICS

- Comprehensive Curriculum of Reading, Language Arts, Spelling, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art/Humanities, and Physical Education
- Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core
- MCAS testing
- Reading and Math Specialist to conduct assessments and consultations to classroom teachers to tailor teaching for students' needs
- Physical Education emphasizes prosocial behavior, teamwork, sportsmanship, health, and wellness
- Art, Music, Life Skills and Physical Education twice weekly
- Small class sizes
- Opportunities for 1:1 support
- Multi-modal instruction
- Opportunities for Assistive Technology
- Highlight individual wellness by providing learning opportunities for healthy eating habits and physical education

1:4 (or 2:9)

STAFF: STUDENT RATIO

HOLISTIC ACADEMIC SUPPORT

EIGHT-WEEK SUMMER SESSION

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Curriculum

Reading – Fundations (K-3) and Megawords (4-8)

Wilson Fundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students in grades K-3 receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study
- High frequency word study
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension strategies
- Handwriting
- Spelling

Megawords is a phonics program for students reading above a third-grade level. The skill-based Megawords series presents word lists arranged by word structure and spelling pattern, teaching reading, spelling, and usage through instruction and progression of skills.

English Language Arts – Wit and Wisdom (all grades)

Wit & Wisdom® is a comprehensive K–8 curriculum that has transformed English language arts (ELA) instruction in classrooms across the nation. Great Minds® believes that classrooms are places where students and teachers encounter wit, wisdom, wonder, rigor, and knowledge, and that literature, history, art, and science all have a place in ELA instruction. By providing a framework for inquiry, Wit & Wisdom helps students build rich layers of knowledge. It inspires teachers and students to experience complex texts and ideas on a deeper level by fostering the questioning spirit that will shape the next generation of great writers, thinkers, and leaders.

Math – Eureka Math (all grades)

Numbers should add up to more than a right answer. They should inspire aha moments and joyful connections. Eureka Math® set a new standard for rigor, coherence, and focus in the classroom so students gain a deeper understanding of the why behind the numbers, all while making math more enjoyable to learn and teach.

Sample Schedule

8:45-9:35	*Bus Arrival or Drop-off & Quiet Choice Time*
9:45-10:45	*Math*
10:50-11:50	*Language Arts*
12:00-12:30	*Lunch (provided)*
12:30-1:00	*Recess*
1:00-1:20	*Reading*
1:20-2:00	*Life Skills*
2:10-2:20	*Snack*
2:00-2:40	*Social Studies/Science*
2:40-3:20	*Physical Education*
3:30-4:15	*Art/Music*

STUDENT LIFE

School Culture and Values

At the Pallotta School, we hope that students will be able to foster pride in themselves and in their communities. Therefore, we promote our Pallotta PRIDE expectations in our educational and clinical learning spaces: Students are expected to be Positive with their words and actions, Responsible with their schedules and belongings, Inspiring to their classmates, Dedicated to their goals, and Engaged in learning. When students display behaviors in line with these expectations they receive special tickets that can be exchanged for prizes weekly in our Pallotta School Store. In addition, staff provide students with praise for positive behaviors continuously throughout each school day, as well as therapeutic limit setting and verbal and visual prompts for expected positive behaviors when extra support is needed.

Pallotta

P *ositive with their words and actions*

R *esponsible with their schedules and belongings*

I *nspiring to their classmates*

D *edicated to their goals*

E *ngaged in learning*

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Events and Traditions

Recognition Day

The Pallotta School hosts a Recognition Day for students and their families every Spring to celebrate the students' hard work and growth from the school year. Students are recognized by teachers and staff for their accomplishments, progress, and their contributions to the Pallotta School community.

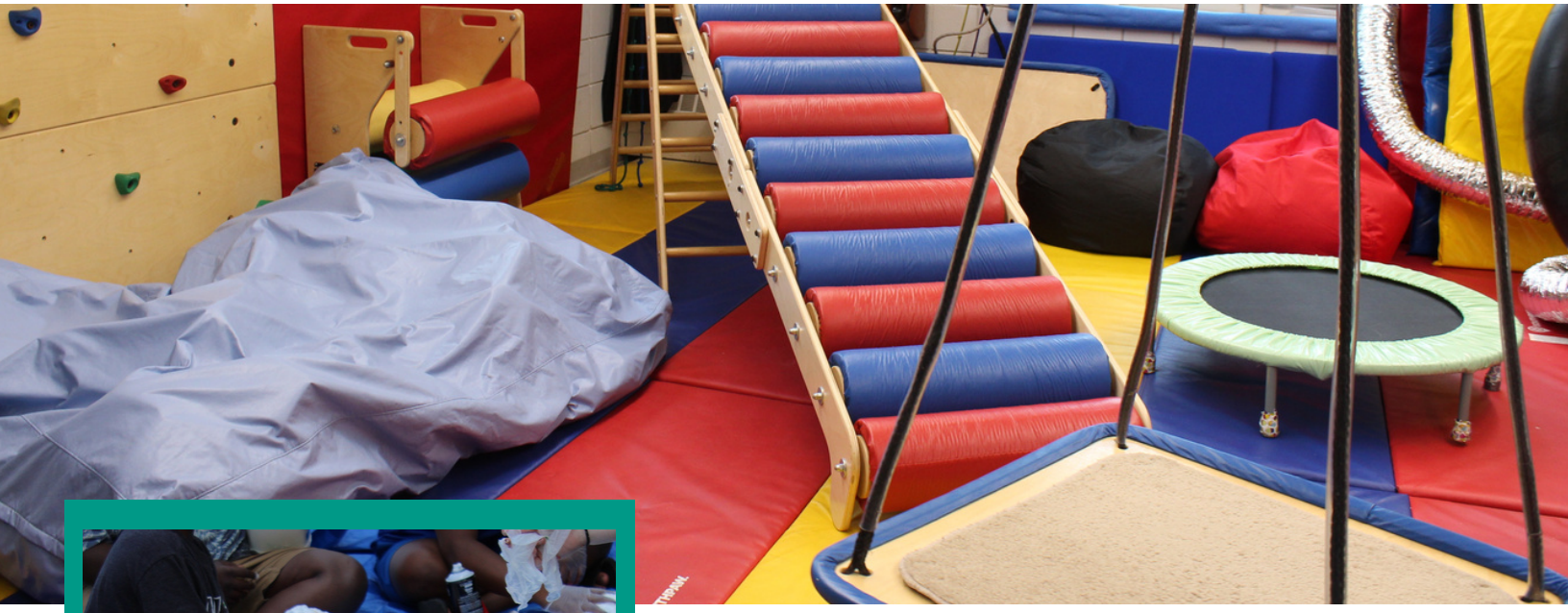
Sunsplash

Italian Home for Children holds an annual end-of-summer celebration, Sunsplash, for all of the youth and families we serve. Students and teachers look forward to the Sunsplash festivities, which often include slip 'n slides, bouncy houses, a dunk tank, and more.

Special Programming

The Pallotta School at Italian Home for Children has fun events and guests year round. This year, Boston College Football players visited our campus to play a game of flag football. Students enjoyed socializing with the players, practicing plays, and learning about the importance of teamwork.

CLINICAL SERVICES



Clinical Supports

The Pallotta School clinical team consists of master's level therapists trained in working with children with special needs and their families. Clinical interventions with students focus on supporting social/emotional functioning while strengthening home, school, and community connections. Clinical goals may surround identifying emotions, developing coping skills, and teaching and strengthening social and self-advocacy skills. The Pallotta School clinicians provide weekly individual therapy, therapeutic social skills group and dyad work, family treatment, case management services, and crisis intervention, as well as providing ongoing consultation and collaboration to school staff and outside providers. The Pallotta School clinical and educational programming is informed by positive behavior management interventions and trauma-informed care, and staff receive ongoing training in these important frameworks. Common evidence-based practices utilized by our clinical team include the ARC model of trauma-informed care, Applied Behavior Analysis, Expressive Arts Therapy, Play Therapy, and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. With a full-time nursing team on campus, the Pallotta School is able to support students with medication administration during the school day as well as other health-related needs.

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Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology Services

The Pallotta School has a full-time Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) and Occupational Therapist (OT). Services consist of individual and small group treatment, comprehensive evaluations, and continuous progress monitoring. Intervention is provided for students who receive these services as part of their IEP to support daily academic and social-emotional needs. Speech and Language sessions may focus on strengthening a student's expressive language, comprehension, speech sound production, fluency, and/or social communication. Occupational Therapy may focus on the development of gross motor, fine motor, visual motor/perception, sensory processing, and self-regulation skills. Each therapist also integrates lessons within the classroom and consults with teachers on an ongoing basis to provide accommodations within the classroom.

Behavioral Supports

The Pallotta School utilizes trauma-informed behavior-based treatment interventions to best support our students in accessing educational and clinical programming each day. All Pallotta School staff are trained in applied behavior analytic interventions, such as positive behavior reinforcement and classroom management techniques, as well as trauma informed care and therapeutic crisis intervention (TCI). The Pallotta School is able to support students requiring Functional Behavior Assessments and BCBA consultation services on their IEPs. In addition to BCBA consultation, the Pallotta School Behavior Team consists of three full-time experienced behavior interventionists available to support students with behavioral regulation throughout each day.

WRAPAROUND SERVICES

Continuum of Care

Italian Home for Children provides an integrated network of powerful and effective programs to help children and families with emotional, behavioral, and educational challenges thrive in their communities. The continuum of programs at the Italian Home provide children with the opportunity to enter for one service and possibly be referred to and benefit from many of the other programs offered. This continuity of care is very beneficial to the overall improvement and health of the individual child.

Services and Accreditations

- Residential Education
- Applied Behavioral Analysis
- Intensive Treatment Residence
- Emergency Residence
- Community-Based Acute Treatment
- Out of School Time Programs
- Partial Hospitalization Program
- Family Therapy
- Therapeutic Mentoring
- Group Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- In-Home Therapy
- In-Home Behavioral Services

- Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH)
- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools
- Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
- Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Massachusetts Coalition of Applied Behavior Analysis Providers

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Community-Based Programs

Children's Behavioral Health Initiative

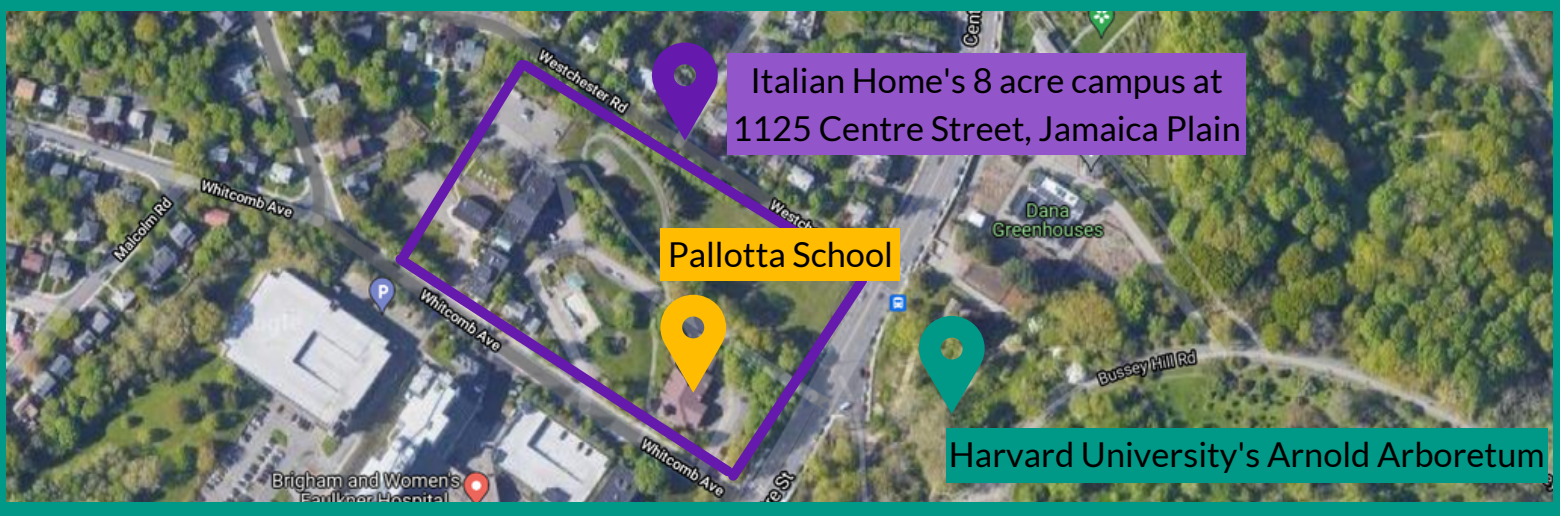
Here at the Italian Home for Children, we provide in-home therapy, in-home behavioral therapy, and therapeutic mentoring under Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI), designed to assist the family unit in a collaborative model that works with the family to create positive changes. The services of CBHI are designed to work together, using one overarching treatment plan, to create a clinical and holistic approach to increasing successful family relationships.

Outpatient Services

Brighton-Allston Mental Health Association (BAMHA), a program of Italian Home for Children, offers individual, couples, family, and group therapy treatment as well as psychiatric medication management. Clinicians are trained in various treatment modalities including: traditional psychotherapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, expressive therapy, and play therapy. The clinic also has an outpatient satellite office in Jamaica Plain.

Applied Behavioral Analysis

Our community-based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program assists children with autism and their families with skill acquisition and behavior management that will allow each child to live their life as independently as possible. Home-Based ABA is often a long term service that can assist the child through various life stages, providing them with the support and expertise needed to navigate each developmental milestone or transition. Home-Based ABA is available to youth (birth-18) in the Boston and Metro areas.



ASSESSMENTS AND ADMISSIONS

Extended Evaluations

The Pallotta School is able to support students requiring Extended Evaluations from their districts. Students seeking these supports will be considered for admission to the school using the same process as any other type of admission. The Pallotta School staff will collaborate with the sending district prior to an admissions decision being made to determine who will be responsible for conducting each requested evaluation or assessment.

The Pallotta School has the capacity to conduct:

- Functional Behavior Assessments
- Academic Assessments
- Biopsychosocial Assessments
- BASC-3 clinical assessments
- Occupational Therapy Evaluations
- Speech and Language Evaluations

Admissions

Interested parents, guardians, and school districts may request a tour and/or information regarding the treatment approach and educational services offered. The actual admissions process consists of the following:

Referral

The Pallotta School receives referrals directly from individual schools/ school districts. Referral packets are reviewed promptly to determine if our program is an appropriate match for the student's needs.

For admission inquiries, please visit:

italianhome.org/admissions

Intake Screening

After reviewing the Referral Packet, an introductory meeting and tour are scheduled. The student and their parent/guardian are encouraged to ask questions as we work together to determine whether our services can help the student achieve their IEP goals. The admissions team then determines if an opening exists in a classroom that matches the student's age and academic level.

Determination

After reviewing all student information, the Admissions Team makes a determination regarding acceptance. Student admission is based on appropriate classroom placement and peer grouping. If our services are well matched to the student's needs, but an opening is not available, the student's referral will remain in place until an appropriate opening is identified.