



DEPAUL SCHOOL OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Annual Report and Honor Roll of Donors, Spring 2026

Scan to give



THE TURNING OF THE TIDE



TO OUR DEPAUL COMMUNITY



When I look at where DePaul began and where we are now, I feel overwhelmingly grateful. What started as a vision for serving children with dyslexia in a way that was truly specialized, intentional, and life-changing has grown into something beautiful.

Today, because of the generosity and belief of this community, we are blessed with a building that **stands as a reflection of that vision and of the people who gave, supported, prayed, and believed in DePaul** along the way.

The building itself isn't what makes DePaul so special, of course. It's what happens here every day. It's the confidence rising in a child who once felt defeated. It's the relief families feel when their child is finally understood. It is the expertise, care, and commitment of a faculty and staff who regularly unlock potential in these extraordinary kids. The philanthropy that gave us this incredible place is a powerful reminder of what happens when a community comes together.

That momentum is carrying us toward something big — a new 4,000-square-foot multipurpose space with a science lab, room for events and gatherings, and turf where kids can play soccer, kickball, and just be outside together. It gives us room to grow and serve your children even better.

We are also incredibly excited about the ways our impact is expanding beyond our campus. Through partnership with the Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center, we are training more and more educators in Duval and surrounding counties. This means so much because it extends the reach of this work far beyond the walls of DePaul. In that same spirit, we will also begin offering Orton-Gillingham tutoring sessions after school for small groups on satellite campuses.

As I enter my 11th year as Head of School, I feel reinspired, humbled by your generosity, and more committed than ever to this mission. It's a privilege to lead a school with this heart, this purpose, and this kind of community behind it. Thank you for believing in the DePaul School of Northeast Florida. You helped make this school into exactly what it is. You are the reason we look toward the future with hope as we change the lives of dyslexic children, one trajectory at a time.



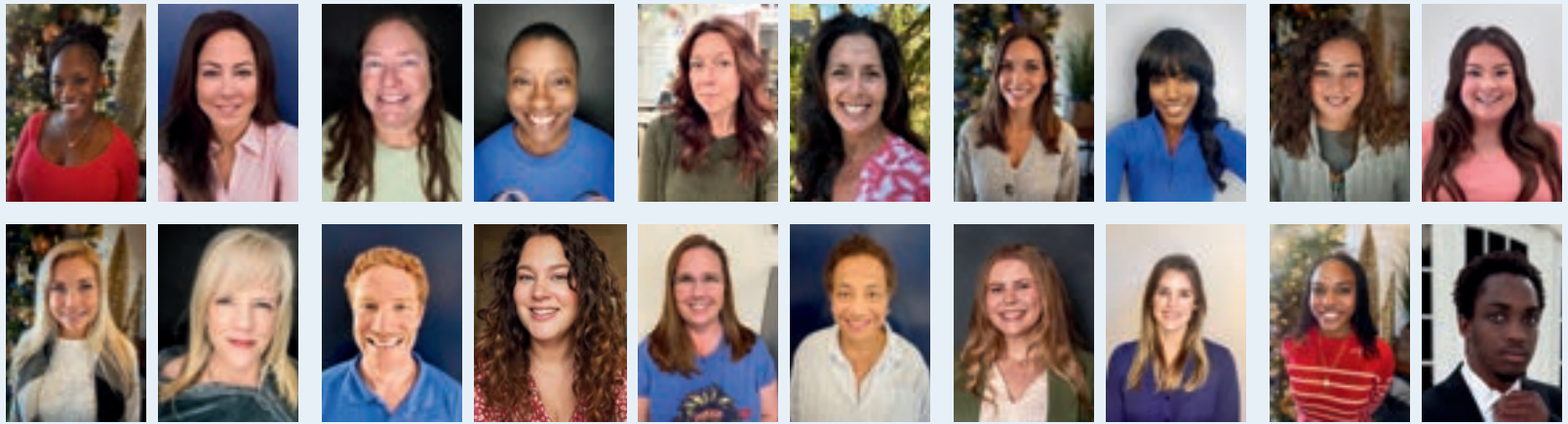
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber D. Oliveira".

Dr. Amber Oliveira
Head of School
DePaul School of Northeast Florida

"We are blessed with a building that stands as a reflection of that vision and of the people who gave, supported, prayed, and believed in DePaul"

DEPAUL SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF



DePaul's Team Has

12 Orton Gillingham Trained Teachers
7 Lindamood Bell Trained Teachers
15 Bachelors Degrees
9 Masters Degrees
1 Doctorate of Educational Leadership

1 Certified Structured Literacy/Dyslexia Interventionist
1 Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
1 Barton Certified Dyslexia Tutor
1 Barton Certified Dyslexia Screener



Thank you to these DePaul Board and staff members for monetary and classroom material donations:

Trey Csar, Heather Callejas, Kevin Copeland, Wendie Crook, Christine Crowley, Dr. Chanley Dudley, Dana Erman, Lori Gaglione, Danielle Gill, Dylan Gill, Tamara Gill, Jordan Halperin, Kelly Harrell, Megan Heiden, James Henley,

Dan Kolbensschlag, Frank Mangin, Reeyan McCullough, Luke McNair, Teri Modisette, Angelina Moss, Amber Oliveira, Charlotte Parker, Nicole Potter, Donna Pulito, Sara Schryer, Hannah Sharp, Blair Sisisky Sherman, Craig Shoup, Miranda Slocumb, Becky Waldron, Kelly Wedel, David Wingard, Chris Yost

Student Reading Growth Soars

Mission Statement

DePaul is committed to understanding and educating students with dyslexia and related specific learning differences such as visual and auditory processing and attention deficits.

We maintain a commitment to excellence in core academics while nurturing a student's confidence and development.

READING GAINS

93%

DePaul: 93% of students made a full year of reading progress OR MORE in one school year*

^ Compared to broader local literacy outcomes: In Duval County only 49% of students are reading on or above grade level by year's end.



"My son has never done so well and so consistently on spelling tests and reading tests in his whole school career! We

appreciate all that you are doing for him so much. He is really enjoying school and his success. This is the first time he isn't feeling defeated and lost. We see the carry over at home.

You are a miracle worker! We are so blessed that he was able to switch to your school and have you for his reading teacher."

*Courtney M.
DePaul Parent*

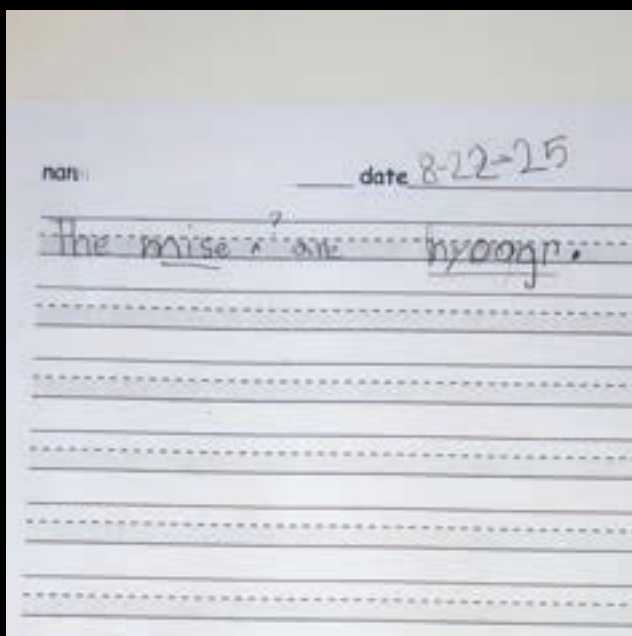
**students whose primary learning barrier is dyslexia*

**English Language Arts achievement rate for 24-25 for all grade 3-8 DCPS students tested. This figure includes neurotypical students .*

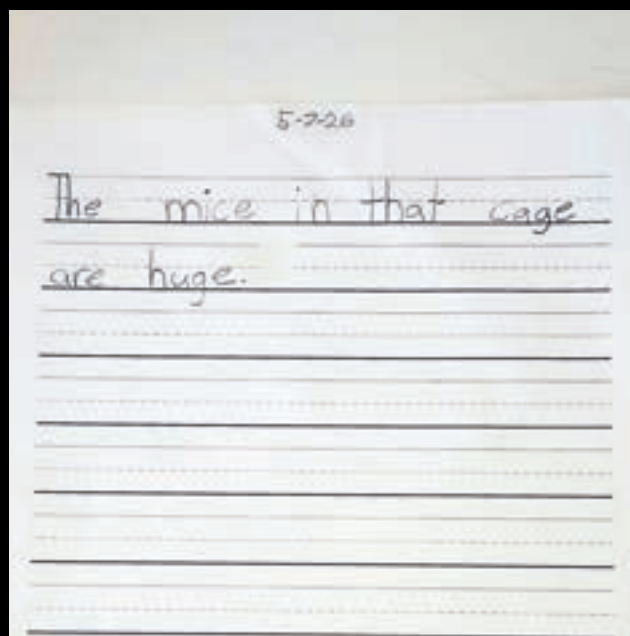
*Source:
<https://edudata.fldoe.org/index.html>*

Student 1

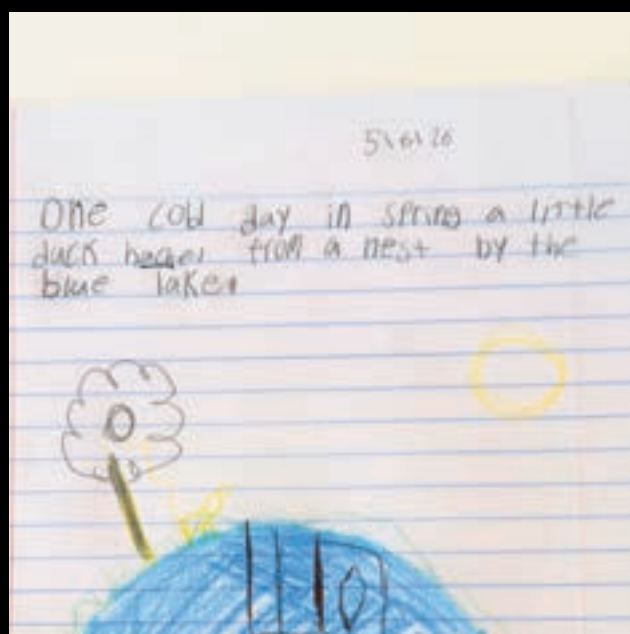
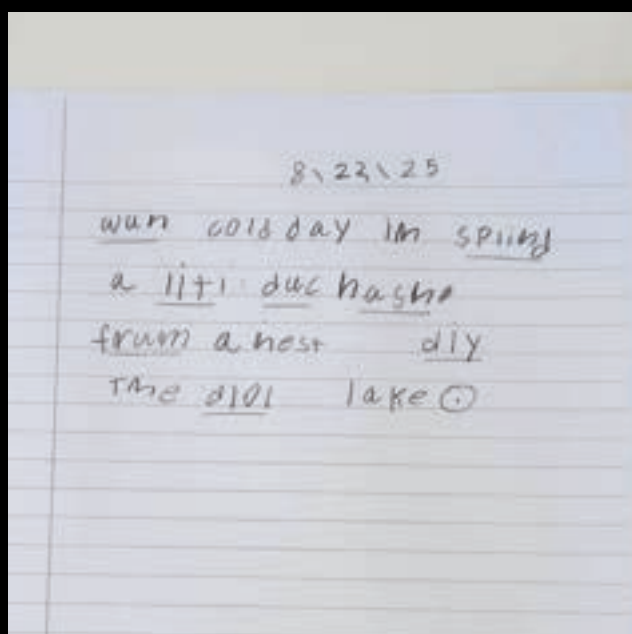
August 2025



May 2026



Student 2



WRITING SKILLS ON THE RISE

At both the beginning and end of the school year, teachers dictate a sentence to each student to help show their progress over time.

*These are a few
real samples
from 2025-26.*

WRITING SKILLS ON THE RISE, CONT'D

August 2025

May 2026

Student 3

8/21/25

Was cold day in spring a little
duck hatched for a nest by the blue
lake.

5-6-26

One cold day in spring, a little duck
hatched from a nest by the blue lake.

Student 4

8/19/25

I had a fun the hike
up the hill but I
needed water.

8/15/26

I had such thirst from
the hike up the hill
that I needed water.

Student 5

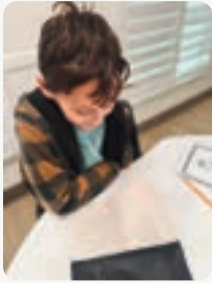
8-21-2025

I felt confident when I marched
from the shower to my room,
but unfortunately I forgot about
brushing my hair.

May 5, 2026

I felt confident when I marched from the shower to my
room, but unfortunately I forgot about brushing my hair.

WE TEACH THE WAY THEY LEARN: THE ORTON GILLINGHAM APPROACH



What is it?

OG was created to teach students with dyslexia to read. Instead of expecting children to “just pick up” reading naturally, it teaches reading using a sequence of very specific steps.



OG is Multisensory

Students learn by seeing, hearing, saying, and writing at the same time, which helps the brain connect language more effectively.



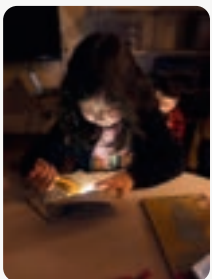
OG is a Powerful Tool That Eliminates Confusion

Lessons build slowly and carefully so students can confidently master one skill before moving to the next. The class doesn't move on without them.



Outside of DePaul, OG is Almost Inaccessible

It's assumed that an approach like OG is used in special ed classrooms, but sadly this isn't the case. For many dyslexic students, OG is the difference between a life of learning and a life of illiteracy.



DePaul Stands in the Gap

Too many kids spend years believing they are the problem, when in reality the educational system simply is not equipped to teach the way they learn.



PAUL BERTOZZI Advantages Of A *Different* Mind

"I would study and study... then get a 60–70 and think—how?!"

DePaul alum Paul Bertozzi is on the phone recalling his early years in school. Unlike the ball fields and basketball courts—where his ability eventually had room to show itself—the classroom never quite met him there.

"It wasn't that I wasn't learning," he says. "I just learned in a different pattern than what was typically taught."

Paul was doing all the right things in school and getting all the wrong results.

For a while, that was the pattern: effort without traction, results that didn't line up with what everyone, parents and teachers included, knew he could do.

And then a separate path—an evaluation at Nemours for epilepsy—turned the compass true north.

Paul was and is dyslexic.

Sobered at this news, his parents understood they couldn't take for granted that any standard education would truly connect with Paul's intelligence.

The next few years were a cycle of special teachers, tutors, schoolbooks on tape, programs, accommodations, and even revisiting fourth grade.

Paul was right on the cusp of middle school when his parents found the DePaul School of Northeast Florida.

"Seventh grade was a really good year for me," he says of the transition.

"The biggest thing DePaul changed was my self-confidence. I saw that *everybody* had a learning bridge to get across. Being in a classroom like that—the teacher engagement—it changed my mindset.



I thought, ‘Okay. I can *do* this.’”

At DePaul, learning didn’t revolve around avoiding mistakes—it made room for them. Getting it wrong wasn’t something to hide. It was how you *got there*.

In that kind of environment, something began to shift. DePaul is built on respect for the natural learning process of dyslexia, and as Paul grew in the classroom, he began to trust his instincts.

That tenacity—and that self-trust—carried him through to a high school diploma, a degree in economics from Auburn University, and into an early career in banking.

On paper, everything had lined up.

“I worked for Lehman Brothers in New York before coming back to Jacksonville to work for Merrill Lynch. I’m a huge proponent of this city. This has always been home. But finance—there just wasn’t a passion there.”

For someone who had spent years working past the wrong thing to get to the right thing, that instinct marked a turning point.

“I had always enjoyed construction—something I did in college. A friend and I transitioned into a construction company doing apartment turns. I managed field staff. He handled sales. I really enjoyed leading people and running the business.” After working with two local contracting companies—a match made in heaven—Paul saw an opportunity in 2014 to launch his own business: Live Oak Contracting.

“It was always in my blood to go out and build my own business and become that entrepreneur. I loved reading the plans, being able to take things from a flat sheet of paper and see it built in the field and understanding all of it.”

Paul built Live Oak with a signature mix of vision, skill, and investment, primarily in people: his team, his community, and organizations like the Jaguars Foundation, K9s United, and The Len Mattiace Foundation.

And it took off like a bottle rocket. Over the next decade, Live Oak Contracting would go on to contract more than \$1.4 billion in projects across the East Coast.

A dozen years later, he leads one of the fastest-growing private construction companies in America.

In retrospect, he says, “Failures are part of the learning process. We have to be grateful for them. If success just comes easy, you just stay in that lane. You never look to achieve greater.

I’ve told my son: everybody can run from A to B. But when you think the way we do, you work twice as hard, zigzagging through the field to get there. But look at everything you achieve through that process! You learn more than you would just getting to the finish line as quickly as everybody else.

Everything I’ve achieved—and everything I’ve failed at—has been because I don’t think in a standard A-to-B lane.

Calling dyslexia a disability? It’s not that to me.

It’s a different way of thinking that allows you to excel beyond what others expect.”



THE LARGEST SINGLE-NIGHT FUNDRAISER IN *DEPAUL'S HISTORY*

Partygoers ate, drank, bid, and danced their way into the record books at DePaul's 45th birthday celebration





JOIN US

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

6:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

DRINKS4 DYSLEXIA

2026

EVERY SIP COUNTS.

Scan to register or sponsor

EATS, DRINKS, &
GOOD COMPANY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FLORIDA
DYSLLEXIA
LITERACY
CENTER



In April 2026, I had the honor of testifying before the U.S. Senate's HELP Committee, advocating for legislation to codify dyslexia as a distinct diagnosis. While sharing my perspective as a physician and a mother of a dyslexic son was tremendous, hearing the hurdles families face nationwide left me with one overwhelming thought: *How lucky we are to have DePaul?*



DePaul is a gem—a place where specialized education is delivered with heart, joy, and transformative results. But the truth is, Jacksonville remains a "dyslexia desert," and the need in our city currently outpaces our reach. DePaul has big dreams for the future, including satellite campuses in under-resourced neighborhoods, but we cannot wait for tomorrow to make an impact. Through our Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center, we are already empowering teachers and building community tutoring programs to change the landscape of literacy in our town.



At DePaul, children learn that they are not limited because their brain is wired differently. They are empowered to appreciate their strengths, advocate for themselves, and to shape their own destiny. Your partnership fuels this growth. There are many unsolvable problems in this world, but dyslexia already has a clear solution—and together we are living it.

Thank you for dreaming big alongside us, embracing our bold vision, and enabling real change for our kids, both now and in the future.

Chanley Dudley, MD
Board President

2025
–26

Dr. Chanley Dudley, **Board Chair**
Craig Shoup, **Vice Chair**
Luke McNair, **Treasurer**
Meg Heiden, **Secretary**
Scott Bacon
Heather Barlow
Kevin Copeland
Christine Crowley

Trey Csar
Dr. Shaqwana Freeman-Green
Blair Sisisky-Sherman
Sara Schryer
David Wingard
Chris Yost
Frank Mangin, *Ex-Officio*
Dr. Amber Oliveira, *Ex-Officio*

2025-26 HONOR ROLL OF *DONORS*



PRINCIPAL GIVING

\$1 MILLION

Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund

\$100,000+

William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust

The Agate Foundation

The Bryan Family Trustees of The
Henry & Lucy Gooding Endowment

DUVAL



\$50,000+

The Graham Family

Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation

Patrick and Marianne Brown

DePaul received

\$2,052,962.83

in monetary and
in-kind gifts

80 DONORS

Gave \$500 or more

90%

of top donors
are repeat givers



\$25,000+



Fidelity Charitable



Lucy Gooding Charitable
Foundation Trust

The Pajcic and Nicholson Family

2025-26 HONOR ROLL OF *DONORS*

\$20,000+

Nutter Family Foundation

Dr. William T Smith and
Mrs. Lisa Smith

\$15,000+

John and Anne Baker
Kimberly and Richard Sisisky
Chad and Heather Corbitt

\$10,000+

The Thomas M. Kirbo and Irene B.
Kirbo Charitable Foundation

The Joseph and Gertrude
LaRose Fund

\$5,000+

Frank and Vickie Mangin
Sara and Travis Schryer
Warren & Augusta Hume Foundation
Southern Grounds
Skip and Katie Borghese
Brian Dew
Tom and Bonnie Dudley
Christopher and Lyssa Ball
CSX
Carol Lane
Susannah and Buck Williams

\$6260 was raised
through the *Charleston Wrap*
fundraiser of Fall 2025



\$2,500+

Angelina Buchanan
Courtney and Daniel Ikeda
Chanley and Tommy Dudley
Meg and Adam Heiden
Cornelia and John Baker
Sandifer Design Build
Blair and Zachary Sherman
Stephen D. Busey
Biscottis Restaurant
Bill and Sandy Bond
Luke McNair
Meridian Waste
Canam Systems
Grant Thornton LLP

2025-26 HONOR ROLL OF *DONORS*



\$2,000+

Benjamin and Cassie Cochran
Davis and Elizabeth Knight
Lori Gaglione and William Nall
Chris Yost

\$1,000+

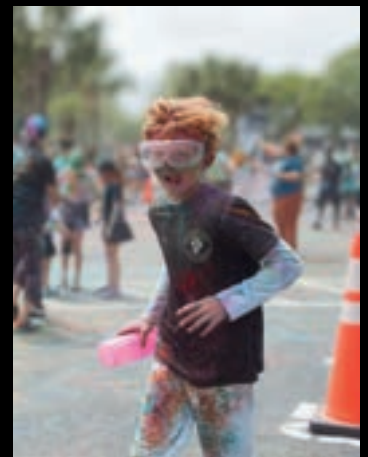
Trey Csar and Sunny Gettinger
Gus and Jackie Gustafson
Chelsea and Nick Sandifer
Mike and Cindy Shillingford
Brian and Mari Rosner
John and Deena Wallace
Rebecca Adams
Marilyn R. Carpenter Revocable Trust
Nate and Taylor Day
Alan and Ellen Cottrill
Joseph and Karie Kovacoc
McGregor and Mary Elizabeth Lott
Michael and Summer Taras
Brad and Neely Thomas
George Bateh
Southeast Orthopedic Specialists

\$500+

Rebakah and Chris Hagan
Matthew and Amy Arbuckle
Paul and Rebecca Bergson
Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball
Allen Skinner
Ry and Cameron Lucie
Ryan Schwartz
Matthew and Sarah Hummer
Barbara McCallon
VyStar Credit Union
Regency Centers
Dot Herndon
Andrew Barndt and Donna Pulito-Barndt
Charmaine Chiu
John and Nancy Barnard
Travis Camp

DePaul School exists because
of people like you.

Thank you.



**COLOR OUTSIDE THE
LINES RUN FOR
DYSLEXIA 2026**

**\$40,000 raised for
campus expansion**



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN **ANNUAL GIVING** **AT DEPAUL**



Annual Giving is one of the most powerful ways you can support students at the DePaul School of Northeast Florida.

Gifts to the Annual Fund provide essential, unrestricted resources—allowing DePaul to meet student and classroom needs as they arise, all year long.



Because of Annual Fund support, every DePaul student will benefit from:

Small,
individualized
classes tailored for
students with
dyslexia

Expert teachers
trained in
evidence-based
literacy instruction

Tuition assistance
that keeps a
DePaul education
accessible to
families

Specialized tools
and technology that
build reading skills
and confidence

Ways to support

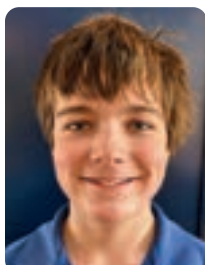
- Annual Gifts
- Recurring Gifts
- Matching Gifts
- Stock or Securities Gifts
- In-Kind Gifts

**To support this school
through our Annual Fund,
please contact:**

Hannah Sharp
Director of Development
sharp@depaulschool.com



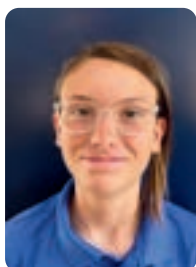
STUDENTS, ALUMNI, & WHAT'S NEXT



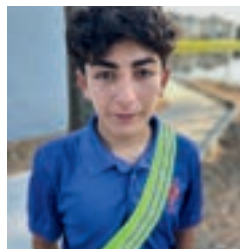
Mican
Douglas E.
Anderson
School of the
Arts



Matthew
The Bolles
School



Charlie
Bishop Kenny
High School



Wyatt
Episcopal
School of
Jacksonville

Kyle, Charles, & Bayani
The Greenwood School

Nathan
Creekside
High School



Brennan
Nease
High School



Cordes Spickelmier
graduated from Christ's
Church Academy and was
accepted to 9 colleges. He will
be proudly attending Samford
University in Birmingham, AL,
this fall.



Jake Dompe graduated
from Fletcher High School
and is taking classes at
FSCJ to get a degree in
U.S. History. He plans to
finish his education at
UNF and become a 10th
grade history teacher.



Carrian Hawthorne enrolled
in UNF and is in his third year
of the USoar program.

Taylor Reaves earned her
Associates Degree in
Psychology from FSCJ.

Jacob Harris graduated high
school early and earned his
Advanced Welding Certification.
He is currently at Universal
Technical Institute working on
getting certified as a Marine
Mechanic.



Share your photos and alumni updates
with us at info@depaulschool.com

From A DePaul Parent



"This is where I need to be."

Those were the words from my 8yr old daughter when she climbed into our car after her visit day at DePaul School of NE FL. Who would have thought those seven words would be so impactful and bring *me* to tears?

If you're reading this, you probably know the road that leads here. The meetings that went nowhere, the reports full of clinical language that somehow still didn't explain your child to the people supposed to be teaching her. Finding the right school for Mia felt overwhelming after our experience in public school, Covid, and moving to a new city where we hadn't built our village yet.

Mia is bright, creative, and full of potential but in a traditional classroom setting she felt frustrated, misunderstood and left behind. We knew she needed a learning environment designed to help her succeed.

Finding DePaul was truly life-changing for our family. It was different from day one. The teachers already knew how to teach her in a way that actually made sense for her brain. Watching that click into place was something I'll never forget. For the first time she wasn't behind. She was exactly where she was supposed to be.

Her reading has improved so much. But what gets me is her confidence. She raises her hand in class, reads out loud, wants to help when there's an opportunity, and now approaches learning with grace and excitement instead of fear and resistance.

We didn't just find a school here, we found our people, our community, our village. DePaul has become a place I truly can't imagine our family living without.

If your child is still looking for where they belong, I hope they get the opportunity to spend a visit day here. Sometimes you just walk through the doors and know this is home.

With so much gratitude,

Coty Woods

Mia's Mom

**1 IN 5
PEOPLE HAVE
DYSLEXIA.**



**IS IT
CAUSING
YOUR CHILD'S
READING
PROBLEM?**



Screening for 2027-28 Enrollment Begins This October

If your child is struggling in school due to dyslexia symptoms, please visit our website in October 2026 to book a tour and start the enrollment process.



www.depaulschool.com
904.223.3391



DePaul
A School for Dyslexia in Jacksonville

**School of
Northeast
Florida**
We Teach the
Way They Learn

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *TOGETHER*



In November 2025, DePaul students gave 2000+ boxes of pasta to Feeding NE Florida

Special thanks to the generous students, parents, and staff who donated supplies for shelter pets during our drive in December 2025.



YOU helped run these events

Trunk or Treat
Thanksgiving Fall Festival
The Holiday Variety Show
The Valentine's Hoedown
Teacher Appreciation Week



Advocating for dyslexia awareness on First Coast Connect and the *What the Health Just Happened* podcast

WHAT IS THE FLORIDA DYSLEXIA LITERACY CENTER?

Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center is a 501C3 nonprofit
that expands DePaul's reach to
those who may *never walk in DePaul's door.*



Students have **dyslexia**
in Duval County alone
(grades 2-8)

Most schools and teachers
aren't equipped to teach
students with dyslexia.



This means NE Florida
*isn't educating its most
at-risk kids.*

FDLC helps **teachers AND students**

June 2025

FDLC opened Orton
Gillingham classes for
local educators

Local teachers took this vital
training into 60 Jacksonville
classrooms

**100% saw significant
improvement in students
struggling the most**

AND saved **\$180,000**
in out-of-pocket
training expenses

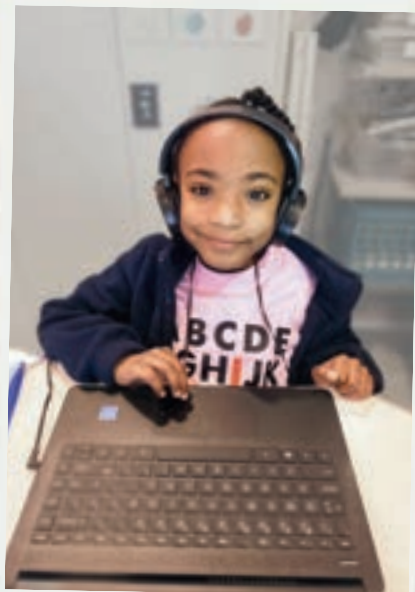
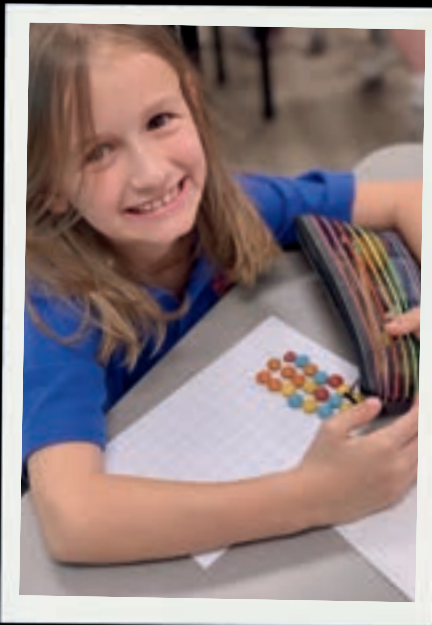
***A second teacher training
session is scheduled for
July 23-28, 2026***

May 2026

FDLC partnered with
DePaul School to launch
dyslexia-specific tutoring
centers in Duval, Clay, and
St. John's Counties.



**FLORIDA
DYSLEXIA
LITERACY
CENTER**





FLORIDA
DYSLLEXIA
LITERACY
CENTER



APPLY NOW

TUTORING FOR DYSLLEXIA

ORTON GILLINGHAM READING INTENSIVES

Struggling to read.
Guessing words.
Avoiding books.
Falling behind.

If this sounds like
your child, **we**
can help.

EXTREMELY limited spots to
ensure an individualized,
diagnostic, multisensory
instruction

- ✓ Empirically proven Orton-Gillingham approach
- ✓ Small groups (four students or less)
- ✓ Expert, highly trained teachers
- ✓ A method trusted at DePaul for over 45 years



LOCATIONS (DEPENDENT ON DEMAND)

DEPAUL

(TINSELTOWN/SOUTHSIDE)

AVONDALE – 2720 PARK STREET

BEACHES – 408 4TH ST N

NOCATEE – 425 TOWN PLAZA AVE



CHOOSE

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
OR TUESDAY & THURSDAY

***STUDENTS WILL BE
PLACED FOR AN HOUR
BETWEEN 4:00 – 7:00 PM**

*No make-up sessions. Structured, leveled groups
are not parent-selected.*

*Thirty minute screening required for placement.
Spots are limited and fill up QUICKLY*

OLIVEIRAA@DEPAULSCHOOL.COM

***NOT FOR CURRENT DEPAUL STUDENTS**

*\$98/session • 64 sessions
Paid in 3 installments:
\$588 deposit secures seat
\$3,400 due Aug 1
\$2,260 due Dec 1*



45
YEARS



Creative Direction,
Design, and
Project Management
for this publication by

Teri K. Modisette

200,000+ Social media
followers worldwide



TikTok and Instagram
@depaulschooljax
facebook.com/depaulschool

9750 Deer Lake Court,
Jacksonville, FL 32246
904.223.3391 |
www.depaulschool.com

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

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DEPAUL SCHOOL OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

DePaul upholds the standards of the Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF). These standards are formally recognized and approved by the National Council for Private School Accreditation.

This is a multisensory school that uses the Orton Gillingham approach.





DePaul School of
Northeast
Florida

A School for Dyslexia in Jacksonville

We Teach the
Way They Learn



Literacy Changes *Everything.*

Annual gifts to DePaul School of Northeast Florida provide **specialized instruction, dedicated educators, and life-changing literacy** for students with dyslexia and related learning differences.

We are deeply grateful for our donors whose generosity makes each student's growth, confidence, and success possible.

Scan to Give

