



Classical Learning for All Students

with Dr. Amy Richards

Lecture 6: Start Small: First Steps for Schools

Outline:

Steps a School or Homeschool Might Take to Welcome Students with Special Needs

- Two kinds of key concerns that schools or homeschooling parents tend to have about offering classical education to students with special needs.
 - The first concern is that they will be unable to serve these students well.
 - Look at what formal or informal systems your school already has in place for serving students with learning differences.
 - Develop a formal system for documenting the progress of these kinds of learners.
 - There are some diagnostic and therapeutic services available to all children through public school districts. Find out what your local school district offers.
 - Start small. Slowly build the kinds of services that you will offer.
 - Make a system for documentation. This allows there to be a community around the child who might have a learning difference.
 - IEPs are legal documents put in place by public schools to ensure that the students are receiving the education guaranteed to them by the IDEA law.
 - For internal use, simplify forms (not as detailed as IEP or 504 plan). Include the following:
 - Diagnosed disability
 - Accommodations and modifications that the school is agreeing to provide to the student.
 - A timeline for the assessment and reassessment of the outlined strategies
 - The second concern is that these students will be disruptive to the more typical children in the classroom.
 - There must be a place for special education in Christian education.
 - When resources are limited, as they always are, having students with special needs can sometimes pull resources away from the rest of the class.



- Another piece of the puzzle bears consideration. The changes we make and the spaces we make end up benefitting all students.
- Community is created among the students by their care for students with disabilities. We practice for life.
- In attending to the needs of students with disabilities and learning difference, we often end up highlighting needs that are human needs (comfortable space, quiet, order).