Day School Overview
Catholic Charities currently offers an alternative to public school for students whose needs are difficult to meet in traditional public school classrooms, even with supports and modifications.

Students who enroll at Catholic Charities may display challenging behaviors due to mental health needs, having experienced trauma, or a diagnosis of a developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorders. Students may also have associated medical issues such as a seizure disorder that can complicate the education program.

Most students have already met the criteria for special education services in their home school district and have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that Catholic Charities implements. Formal progress reports are completed quarterly however the education team will meet as often as necessary to assess a particular student’s progress.

Staff Training
All employees are required to be certified in Non-violent Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI) annually. Catholic Charities has CPI trainers on staff and offers CPI training frequently.

All Employees are required to be certified in CPR and First Aid and Catholic Charities also has a CPR trainer on staff and frequently offers CPR training.

All employees are required to attend regular staff training opportunities. A training library is available with additional educational materials covering a wide variety of disability topics, that include research based approaches and best practices in related fields.

LOCATION:
Catholic Charities
3710 East Ave. South
La Crosse, 54601
(608) 782-0710
Day School Offerings

1. Small classroom size, typically under 6 students with extremely low staff to student ratios.
2. Educational services at the elementary, middle, and high school level.
3. Educational content includes traditional classes in math, language arts, science and social studies, using materials from the home school district that are modified or using content curriculum that has been modified for students with special needs. Positive behavioral supports and social skills training are embedded into the curriculum throughout the day.
4. Therapy services such as speech/language, occupational therapy and physical therapy are available on a consult basis in conjunction with the home school therapists.
5. A full size gym and outdoor playground are available for physical activities. A sensory room can be accessed daily for sensory integration or for relaxation.
6. Art and P.E. content is offered weekly and follows the state standards suggested by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
7. Hot lunch options are available.
8. All staff are trained in the principles of Trauma Informed Care as supported by the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction. Dr. Bruce Perry’s Six Core Strengths for Healthy Childhood Development are also incorporated into all areas of programming.
9. Staff uses best practices for students on the autism spectrum, including visual structure, sensory integration, social skills instruction and communication strategies.

10. Weekly community involvement can include swimming, going to the library, shopping, going out to eat, horse therapy, and accessing public services while teaching life long functional and recreational skills.
11. Formal vocational programming is available to all high school age students and can include simulated work experiences, paid work on campus, community based work experiences and classes that teach the soft skills of employment.
12. The goal for students enrolled at Catholic Charities is to return to less restrictive educational settings. Once the team feels the student is ready to transition to a less restrictive educational setting (usually the home school), the team develops a specific transition plan and is available to support the student in the less restrictive environment for as long as the team deems necessary.
13. Combined programming is available allowing the student to access needed services in multiple environments. For example, a student may need to begin their day at Catholic Charities and then transition to less restrictive environment in the afternoon.
14. Catholic Charities is working corroboratively with Aquinas Catholic Schools to offer a more inclusive environment for students as an option. Currently this is available at the high school and middle school levels.
15. Evidence based practices for students with mental health needs are incorporated into the daily programming.

Other Services

Catholic Charities offers additional support services that can compliment the day school program.

- On site consultation can be provided at the local school district by trained professional staff.
- After school care is available on all school days until 6:00 PM. On non-school days and some holidays, the after school program is available during the day. Focus of this programming is community based incorporating life skills training.
- In home support services are available that allow staff to work with students in the home and/or community environments. The nature of the services is determined by the parent and is usually funded by the department of human services in the home county. Private pay is an option.
- Limited respite hours are available on the weekends during the day but not overnight.
- As students graduate from the public school system, usually between the ages of 18-21, a variety of adult services are available during the day that focus on employment skills and functional life skills.