

# FATHER

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Their doors open to a small flood of children during a mid-morning recess, where they play board games, read, draw or grab a snack in the courtyard.

The school was the brainchild of a Franciscan nun who is no longer with the Diocese of Venice, and originally created Father Anglim's sister school in Sarasota: Dreams are Free.

Between the two schools, there isn't enough room to accept all the applicants. So the process is highly selective, and based on which students they think would be helped most. It involves at least two interviews and the student spends a test-day at Anglim.

"It's very exciting to hear the news you've passed the initial hurdle and then been invited back," Hoffman said.

Principal Moreau said 48 students were turned away last year. Now she's raising funds for a new school in Lee County.

She's also looking for help with tuition assistance. The McKay Scholarship, the only financial help for the school's parents, pays half the yearly \$12,800 cost for one student; 85 percent of Anglim's students use it. Other help comes from community volunteers, said Bonnie Ross, Anglim's director of development.

"That adds to what makes the school so great," Ross said. "We can always use more

community involvement."

The students are non-graded and offered an array of programs in the arts, and core courses in reading and mathematics to prepare for college.

A program called FAST ForWord is an example of the school's extra-sensory programs to help students catch up on their studies: a computer game that asks players to identify speech sounds that have been stretched out by a synthesized recording.

As student's relearn skills, they often move back into the public school system. Others stay and get a high school diploma.

"A lot of students will move on when they're ready," Moreau said. "They come here to get their skills shored up."

The Academy also teaches Catholic doctrine, although only about half the students are Catholic.

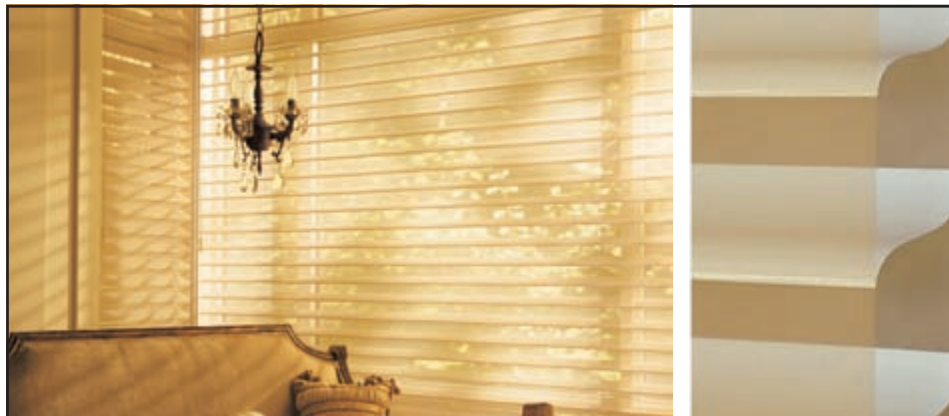
Susan Massie, who has been a public school teacher for 20 years, enrolled her son at the Academy because he's dyslexic and had trouble reading; now he's being read James and the Giant Peach out loud.

"We haven't lost him yet," she said. "He still has that love of reading and that love of learning."

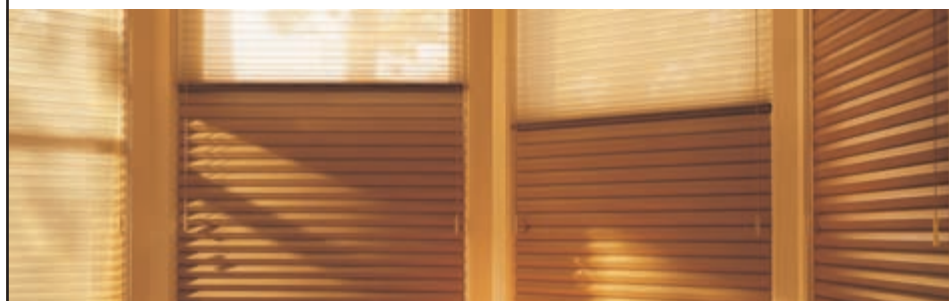
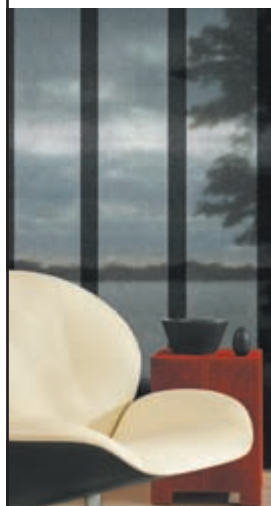
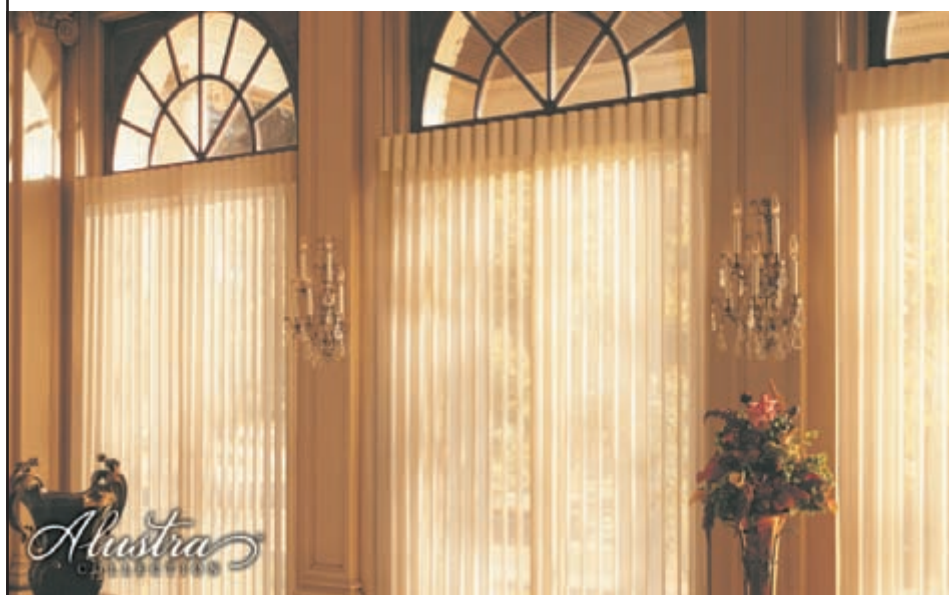
Chris Buzenius enrolled her 16-year-old daughter, because it was a place her learning disabilities would be understood.

"I knew kids at that age can be really cruel if you're different," she said.

For more information, call (239) 337-4010 or visit fatheranglimacademy.org. ■



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