

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Archway Programs Comes to Camden**

*Non-profit launches new innovative program to support high-needs students*

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**ATCO, NEW JERSEY** (August 27, 2018) – Archway Programs continues to grow and expand its special education services with the launch of a new program to benefit Camden students. The Archway School at Cooper's Poynt, an approved private school, offers a groundbreaking method for delivering academics, social and life skills to students seeking private school placement in a public school. This program will serve students in Camden City and surrounding school districts, grades kindergarten through fifth (ages five to ten) and will implement a multisensory approach to learning. The objective is to focus on each child's strengths while providing positive developmental supports to those with behavioral, emotional, intellectual and/or multiple disabilities. The Archway School at Cooper's Poynt will bridge a gap in providing students and families in Camden County the supports needed to address each child's individualized needs and challenges. Archway Programs will utilize vacant space in Cooper's Poynt Family School, located in the neighborhood of North Camden. Similar to the Archway Schools, this program will operate during normal school hours on a ten month school year beginning September 6, 2018.

“Archway Programs is eager to bring its fifty plus years of special education expertise to a traditional public school setting serving students throughout their school districts in Camden. We are honored to support more families, providing students with opportunities that they may not have otherwise. Our school community at Archway Programs prides itself in offering not only superior education, but also in giving that little extra something. We truly care about each and every person who walks through our doors – we are a family. And this translates into a learning environment full of unyielding support to further foster growth and solidify a successful future for all of our students. We are looking forward to bringing this to our new program in Camden,” said Susan Lafferty, Executive Director Education Department.

Archway's highly trained staff will offer Camden and surrounding school district students the strategies and tools to support, not only their academic achievements, but their life experiences as well. This means helping students remove any barriers they may be facing, providing resources that will empower each of them to face their challenges, improve behaviors, to ultimately return to and thrive in their community schools. Staff will consist of a Principal, Social Workers, Paraprofessionals and Certified Teachers. Archway students will have access to the School Nurse at Cooper's Poynt Family School and both Principals will work together to integrate schedules, ensuring the programs are running smoothly. The Archway School at Cooper's Poynt will utilize the successful Archway Schools' behavior management system, in conjunction with the Camden City School District's Curriculum.



280 Jackson Rd  
PO Box 668  
Atco, NJ 08004

tel: 856-767-5757  
fax: 856-767-8047

[www.archwayprograms.org](http://www.archwayprograms.org)

“Camden students have benefitted from Archway Programs’ specialized instruction and caring educators for years,” said Acting State Superintendent Katrina McCombs. “We are thrilled to be able to offer families of some of our youngest learners the services they need through an Archway Program site right here in the City. I am confident that Cooper’s Poynt and Archway will form a lasting partnership that best serves some of our highest needs K – 5th graders, while allowing them to be included in a traditional school environment right here in Camden.”

Leading the Archway School at Cooper’s Poynt is former Archway employee, John Petsch. Petsch started his educational career at Archway Programs back in 2001 and is now returning to lead Archway’s new program in his role as Principal. “I’ve always considered Archway as a second family and enjoyed working with some amazing staff, students and families. As Principal, it means a lot to me to build that same family-oriented culture and environment at Cooper’s Poynt. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to lead a new, innovative program supporting all stakeholders to ultimately assure student success,” Petsch said.

Archway staff at Cooper’s Poynt will have access to Archway Programs’ supplemental resources which will offer unlimited growth for individuals served throughout the community. This includes bringing new job opportunities to the City of Camden, as Archway Programs has hired eight full-time employees and expects this number to grow. The Archway School at Cooper’s Poynt features a high staff-to-student ratio with a maximum of six students in each classroom and will consist of an all-purpose behavior mod room, office space for staff members, and two additional classrooms with expectations to grow later this year.



*Staff visiting the Archway School at Cooper’s Poynt. Pictured here is John Petsch, Cooper’s Poynt Principal and Susan Lafferty, Executive Director Education Department.*



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*Certified Teachers Rachel Edmondson and Bridget Rooney setting up their new classrooms in The Archway School at Cooper's Poynt.*

Since the early 1960s, Archway Programs has consistently provided numerous educational programs and services, serving special needs children, teens and young adults throughout New Jersey. Using a successful model unique to each program, Archway provides a safe, structured and compassionate atmosphere as staff discovers and builds on each student's strengths. The Archway Schools' staff, sending districts, parents and children all work together as a team to support one another ensuring that each child is read for whatever may lie ahead. Dedicated teachers, therapists and counselors work hard with students in small class environments to deliver caring and effective educational services, as well as provide a wide variety of support services, including but not limited to: behavior and stress management techniques, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Staff is highly motivated to give each student the individualized care they deserve. Any type of programming that helps foster communication and social growth in students becomes an integral part of the core curriculum at The Archway Schools, which is always looking for new and innovative methodologies to benefit students.

**For more information on Archway Programs, visit [www.archwayprograms.org](http://www.archwayprograms.org).**

**Media Contact:**

Jillian Pustizzi

856.325.7369

[Jillian.Pustizzi@archwayprograms.org](mailto:Jillian.Pustizzi@archwayprograms.org)

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*About Archway Programs*



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*Since 1965, Archway Programs has been meeting the individualized needs of thousands of families throughout the state of New Jersey. Archway Programs is a diverse, non-profit, human services organization which includes approved private schools for students with disabilities in addition to several model programs providing unmatched services. Built on a solid foundation of core values, providing safety, possessing compassion and promoting individuality, Archway Programs strives to improve the life of every individual served. Our goal is to ensure that each individual's needs are met and customized services are provided and partnered with passionate, committed and talented professionals in a safe environment. Over 440 individuals are currently employed by Archway Programs and this dedicated and talented staff provides services to over 1,800 children and adults requiring individualized care. Please visit [www.archwayprograms.org](http://www.archwayprograms.org) for more information.*



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