



March 8, 2011

Dear Current and Prospective K-12th Parents,

As of the 2011-2012 school year, Peniel Baptist Academy will be starting a new program to minister to students with processing disorders. Mrs. Jennifer Coburn, one of our current PBA teachers, will be heading this program using curriculum from the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD). Mrs. Coburn holds a Masters degree in Exceptional Education.

The NILD program at Peniel will center on stimulating areas of weakness in perception and cognition. Compensatory techniques are avoided. Instead, **intensive educational therapy** will be given to each student for **80 minutes, two to three times a week, one-on-one**. Techniques used are especially designed to change thinking, stimulate processing, and develop awareness for language, writing, math, and listening. Developed by the NILD research team, techniques are non-tutorial, intense, eclectic, integrated, and emphasize deficit training. Entrance into the NILD program will be based on a full-battery of testing which must demonstrate that the student exhibits one or more characteristics for the learning disabled. *The NILD program is not designed for students who have emotional disorders, severe motor control dysfunctions, or retarded intellectual functions (such as autism and Down's Syndrome).* This program will only serve students who are enrolled at Peniel Baptist Academy.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Students who would like to be considered for the NILD program must receive approval from the School Administration *before* any testing is conducted. The NILD program is a **three year commitment** as the techniques used will demand that much time for completion. Please understand that the fee for the NILD program is \$1980 annually. This fee is in addition to all other school fees including registration, supply, books and tuition. If you are interested in your child being tested for the NILD program, please make an appointment with the school office.

We will only have (7) seven NILD seats available this coming year, so don't miss your chance.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP

As of the 2011-2012 school year, PBA has become a participant in the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities which provides parents who are not happy with their child's public school placement the option to place their child in a participating private school. The amount of financial assistance offered by the McKay Scholarship is based on the student's individual education plan (IEP) which determines the student's matrix level. The McKay Scholarship will pay a certain amount towards the total cost of your child's tuition and fees. Parents will be responsible for paying all fees that exceed the scholarship amount. **Peniel will only be able to accept a limited amount of students in Level 1 or Matrix 251 who are struggling with learning disabilities such as processing disorders.** *(Please note: Due to lack of faculty, funds and facilities, PBA will not be able to accept students with more higher levels of disabilities such as students who have emotional disorders, severe motor control dysfunctions, or retarded intellectual functions (such as autism and Down's Syndrome).*

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THE MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP

In order to be eligible for the McKay Scholarship Program, a student must apply for the program *prior* to withdrawing from public school. The student must also have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and:

- Have been enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys (Grades K-12); or
- Have been a pre-kindergarten student who was enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys and was at least 4 years old
- If your child does not meet these requirements but has an IEP and is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers to a school in Florida from out of state or from a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent change of station orders the child may be eligible for a McKay Scholarship. Please contact the School Choice office at 1-800-447-1636 for additional information.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP?

At least 60 days prior to the first scholarship payment, parents must file an intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program at **www.floridaschoolchoice.org** by clicking on the McKay Scholarships link and then the link titled "Apply for a McKay Scholarship" located on the quick navigation bar on the left-hand side of the screen. If additional assistance is needed, parents may contact the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at 1-800-447-1636. **Please note: To receive 100% of the McKay Scholarship, parents must file their intent to participate by July 1, 2011.**

The scholarship lasts until the student returns to public school, graduates from high school or reaches 22, whichever occurs first.

We hope this information has helped you as prepare for the registration process at PBA. Please remember that PBA has no control of whether or not a students will be receive a McKay Scholarship; however, we will be glad to help you as much as we can with the process. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 386-328-1707.

Sincerely,

Lester Jenkins

Administrator
Peniel Baptist Academy