



Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Harrisburg

# *Neumann University's Autism Endorsement Program for Teachers*

The Diocese of Harrisburg is partnering with Neumann University to provide training for qualified teachers to receive an Autism Spectrum Disorder Endorsement. Currently the Instructional Support Program in the Catholic School system enables our schools to serve a broad range of children. This training will give the teachers additional tools to teach students of all ages who have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum.



*“No child should be denied his or her right  
to an education in faith,  
which in turn nurtures  
the souls of a nation”  
- Pope Benedict XVI*

## The Need

Research from the Center for Disease Control estimates that one in every 88 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This represents a 23% rise in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) from 2009. Corresponding with the rapid increase of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders is a strong demand for skilled teachers and educational support professionals to develop effective learning and behavioral interventions for this population of school aged children.

## The Program

Neumann University offers a four-course (12-credit) Autism Spectrum Disorder Endorsement that focuses on appropriate assessment and research-based strategies with an emphasis on skill development and behavioral modifications for students of all ages who have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum. This endorsement program may be completed in as few as two semesters and may be applied to continuing education units, such as Act 48, needed by practicing teachers. This program is designed for certified school personnel and any individuals who possess interest in expanding their skills and knowledge in this area.

## The Cost per Teacher is \$5000

The ISA committee proposes to raise funds to help offset teacher tuition for this program. With your help we are hoping to reach our goal of \$45,000.

*Please make checks payable to :*

**Diocese of Harrisburg**

**Education Autism Certificate (memo line)**

**4800 Union Deposit Rd.**

**Harrisburg, PA 17111**