

## Lighthouse Academy Mission Statement

Lighthouse Academy provides positive learning experiences and life skills to students in Kent County who are either expelled, court placed, or are special education students who would benefit from this program that weaves academics, counseling services, life skills, and career exploration services into a holistic and effective approach.



**LIGHTHOUSE  
ACADEMY**



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"LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY OFFERS A  
WONDERFUL SUPPORT SYSTEM  
SURROUNDED BY EXCELLENT STAFF.  
KIDS COME TO SCHOOL EARLY BECAUSE  
THEY LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE HERE!"

— Teri Ueberroth, Volunteer

### Lighthouse Academy Office

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

Cover art by Lorraine White



**[lighthouseacademyschool.org](http://lighthouseacademyschool.org)**



## A school of second chances

Across this country — and throughout our community — at-risk teens who are expelled, court involved, or overwhelmed by life stressors face a bleak and uncertain future in our traditional educational system.

Now, in Kent County, there is a beacon of hope: **Lighthouse Academy**. Originally opened in January 2005 as a private program and now expanding as a charter school in 2008, Lighthouse is a unique and innovative school reaching out to teens who've run out of educational options.

THE STAFF HERE  
"DON'T QUIT, THEY  
KEEP TRYING HELP"  
— Brandon  
(Lighthouse student)

## A new paradigm of learning

**Lighthouse Academy** provides best-practice educational instruction, family support casework services, and clinical services to at-risk teens.

### The result? An innovative approach to learning that is evidenced by:

- Solution-based, not problem-focused thinking
- Student-tailored curricula
- A holistic, individualized approach to goal-setting with each student
- Academic and personal guidance from a support team, including Master's level school social workers

## Smaller is better

At Lighthouse, smaller class sizes allow for greater personalization. Students benefit from working at their own pace and also have the advantage of:

- A state-of-the-art computer lab
- Experiential learning opportunities
- Guest speakers

And we bring a heritage of mercy and compassion into the classroom.

## Ensuring relationships, rigor, and relevance

Students attending Lighthouse find a welcoming, non-intimidating setting

"I DEAL EVERY DAY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF OUR KIDS... AND SCHOOL PROBLEMS ARE ONE OF THE MAIN ISSUES. IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE A RESOURCE LIKE LIGHTHOUSE."

— Ken Van Woerkom  
Supervisor, 17th  
Circuit Court  
Family Division

where the hallmarks of relationships, rigor, and relevance lead to success both in and out of school.

**We Ensure Relationships** — Our dedicated professionals offer daily coaching and mentoring, fostering strong, open dialogue that promotes achievement and self esteem.

**We Ensure Rigor** — All students are given a challenging curriculum preparing them for college or work.

**We Ensure Relevance** — Students find greater success when coursework clearly relates to their life goals.

## A brighter future

Our ultimate aim is to help students aspire to their greatest potential beyond receiving their high school diploma, be it military service, technical training, apprenticeship, or college.

## Filling a critical void

Approximately 1,000 Kent County youth are not attending school right now due to truancy, suspensions, and expulsions. Once expelled, they often fall through the cracks. Most are too young to enter the work force, and many are already involved in substance abuse and/or crime. Research shows that 50 percent of these youth will be incarcerated within a year's time.

Other educationally at-risk youth may be placed at Lighthouse Academy by the court, or as recommended by their special education plan.

With options like Lighthouse, we succeed in serving the most disenfranchised members of our society — and we enrich ourselves as a community.

**The need to reach these youth is urgent.** To learn how you can make a difference, please call (616) 949-2287 or [www.lighthouseacademyschool.org](http://www.lighthouseacademyschool.org).