

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Back to Basics Learning Dynamics, Inc.

BY T.J. PRUSHINKSI

» Whether you are a school district looking to translate IEPs into Spanish or Urdu, a school that needs English Language Learner (ELL) teachers, or a student that needs help passing biology, Back to Basics provides it all. Back to Basics Learning Dynamics, based in Wilmington, is the only true one-stop-shop for everything in education.

Since Executive Director Juli Bennett took over the business two years ago from founder Beverly Stewart, Back to Basics has been busy expanding its offerings and adding new technology. Virtual tutoring, online teaching, telephonic interpretation, and online interactive training sessions on topics like sexual harassment and diversity and inclusion are just a few of the new offerings. The company has also expanded nationwide and re-branded its fully certified school, Augustine Hills School, which is a micro school that teaches one-on-one at their location or online.

"We loved all the different offerings that Back to Basics provided and knew we could build this into a national brand," said Bennett.

Augustine Hills School is Back to Basics' hidden gem. With the uncertainty of returning to school this fall, the school has received dozens of calls asking how they can help teach at home. Kids come to Augustine Hills School for an individualized experience. The schedule is built around the student's needs, as are the classes. Each class is one-on-one with the teacher, building the student's confidence and giving them the ability to explore their own interests at their own pace.



"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." — Ignacio Estrada

"COVID-19 just makes our work that much more important," Bennett explained. "As schools and students figure out how they will continue, we're happy to be helping districts continue ELL and other special education services in person or online. Our services never stopped, and our instructors were able to work with the kids that needed it the most. Our interpretation department was very active in helping parents understand online learning. It will be even more important to fill in the gaps as schools explore hybrid and virtual schedules."

Like every business, Back to Basics is adjusting to the new reality of the global pandemic. Their building, located at 6 Stone Hill Road, was already set up with private rooms, which helps with social distancing. For added safety, all students and tutors are required to wear a mask and wash their hands before and after every session. The school also installed plexiglass for psychoeducational testing

so that evaluators can still observe the testee without the risk of transmission.

"We're taking extreme precautions to ensure the safety of our teachers and students," Bennett said.

Like every other small business, Back to Basics experienced a slow summer. With school starting back up, the company is prepared and poised for growth. Tutoring, teaching, and providing a safe learning environment so kids can continue to learn in new ways are key to moving forward.



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interned for the State Chamber in the summer of 2020. This fall he will be a senior at the University of

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