



SCHOOL PROFILE

2008-2009

OVERVIEW

Administration

Ryan Plosker, M.S., CAGS, Ed.D. (candidate)
Headmaster and Founder

Danielle Godek, MAT, M.Ed., Ph.D. (candidate)
Dean of Education

Brian Jukins, MSW, LICSW,
Dean of Students

Peggy Buscema, MSW, LICSW,
Dean of Clinical Services

SAT Mean Scores	Math	Reading	Writing
New England Academy	548	598	560
Massachusetts	522	513	511
National	515	502	494

School

New England Academy is a private college preparatory day school located in Beverly, Massachusetts. The coastal location on the North Shore of Boston allows access for students to attend New England Academy from locations in greater Boston, New Hampshire, and Maine. The school is a highly sought after private placement for its rigorous college preparatory curriculum coupled with individual attention to students. The school is designed to address high academic abilities as well as the social and emotional challenges that students experience. Students are accepted for enrollment based on highly selective admissions criteria. New England Academy is accredited by the **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** and is a **New England Association of Schools and Colleges** candidate.

Mission Statement

The mission of New England Academy is to provide students with a challenging academic curriculum in a supportive environment in which each student's academic talents, social, and emotional skills are developed in preparation for college and life.

Philosophy

The philosophy of New England Academy is that many children have the cognitive and academic ability to be academically successful, however, due to the child's social and/or emotional struggles, students are unable to access their academic skills and talents. New England Academy believes that when students are presented with a rigorous academic curriculum coupled with school based counseling,

Accreditation

Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education

New England Association of Schools
and Colleges-Candidate

School Code

220-129

National Affiliations

New England League of Middle Schools

National Honor Society

Association for Marketing Students

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

the child will be able to find academic, social, and emotional success. At the heart of New England Academy's mission is to prepare students for college. New England Academy students experience a college preparatory curriculum combined with direct college preparation through work with their guidance counselor.

School Academic Levels

New England Academy is designed for students grade six through twelve. Academic classes are based on a two-tier system in which students can enroll in **college preparatory and/or honors level courses** in the core curriculum areas. In addition, students have the opportunity to take **Advanced Placement** courses through Virtual High School. Each student meets 1:1 with his/her counselor to discuss areas of academic strength and weakness as well as areas of interest. Through this academic analysis, students are able to carefully select their courses, and map out their overall high school plan in preparation for college. Students at New England Academy are held to rigorous graduation requirements in preparation for college.

All students must have four years of English, Social Studies, Science, Math, Foreign Language, Physical Education, and extra-curricular activities. Each year long course earns one credit toward graduation. A typical A-F grading system is employed with the minimum passing grade of D. Grade point average is calculated on a four point scale with an A earning four points, B three points, C two points and D one point. All grades including transfer credits are incorporated in a student's grade point average without specific weights for honors or advanced placement courses.

CURRICULUM

English Language Arts

The New England Academy English Language Arts Curriculum is a dual program of writing and literary analysis. The writing component applies the “Write Traits” and “Write Source” Series to teach the elements and process of writing across the curriculum. Students focus on using a process writing approach to compose open response and long compositions applying the six traits of effective writing: Idea Development, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. In addition, students complete various forms of writing including research writing, creative writing and personal writing. Students and teachers evaluate writing, based on rubrics, to identify areas of strength and need for improvement for each paper. Upper level students use the text, *Write for College*, which applies the “Write Traits” to prepare students for the rigors of writing at the college level.

The literary component at New England Academy combines high interest contemporary literature and classic literature. A variety of authors and genres give students a comprehensive experience with texts and high level literary analysis. Readings include selections from the McDougal Littell Language and Literature Series including American Literature, World Literature and British Literature, as well as Focused Anthologies from Nexttext featuring Mythology, American Literature, and World Literature and selected novels.

English course options include **Introduction to Literature**, **American Literature**, **World Literature**, and **British Literature**.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Curriculum at New England Academy empowers students to learn about the past and see how history connects to today. The **World History** Curriculum focuses on cultural studies, key concepts and themes that prepare our students to be global citizens. The two year in-depth **United States History** Curriculum spans our country’s history from the beginning up through the 21st Century and includes geography, economics, citizenship and America’s history makers. This two year sequence prepares students for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Exam in United States History. Upper level students can take advantage of course offerings such as **Economics**, **Government**, **The Challenge of Democracy**, or **Civics**.

Mathematics

The New England Academy Mathematics Curriculum is designed to give middle school students a foundation in number sense, algebra, geometry, and problem solving to apply to more advanced levels of math. High school students take advantage of course offerings including **Algebra I**, **Geometry**, **Algebra II**, **Pre-Calculus**, **Calculus and Statistics**. The structured problem solving approach encourages the students to think through the steps of problem solving and demonstrate their mastery of concepts through discussion and writing. Hands-on activities and student-led lessons are incorporated during class to help students develop essential analytical skills.

Science

The New England Academy Middle School Science Curriculum is an integrated program designed around teaching the overarching concepts in biology, earth science, physics and chemistry. This broad base engages students’ curiosity and develops overall science literacy to apply in more in-depth classes at the high school level.

Freshman and sophomore students at New England Academy are immersed in a two year Biology sequence. The courses include the cornerstones of **Biology** and extended studies in **Issues and Decision Making**, **Biotechnology**, and **Forensics**. This two year study will prepare students at New England Academy to take the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Exam in the area of Biology. Upper level students have course offerings including **Earth Science**, **Physics**, and **Anatomy and Physiology**.

Foreign Language

New England Academy offers **Spanish** or **French** as a core content class for all students. In Level I Language Classes, students are exposed to foreign language through a world cultures approach. These classes introduce foreign cultures through people, language, and history. Upper level students take four years of a Foreign Language to work toward literacy and fluency that further prepares them to become global citizens. The Foreign Language curriculum culminates with a community service project, school wide event, and/or trip where students apply the language they have learned.

CURRICULUM

Project Adventure

The physical education component at New England Academy links physical education and character education through Project Adventure. Project Adventure, with over thirty years of experience in adventure and experiential physical education, offers a comprehensive curriculum to New England Academy students. The course begins with a series of low elements involving games and obstacles. Then, students participate on high elements on the challenge ropes course. These activities are designed to help students go beyond perceived boundaries, develop flexible problem solving skills, build personal character and self esteem, and creatively work as a team.

Electives

As part of the course work at New England Academy students participate in daily electives. Electives are offered so that students have the opportunity to take a variety of courses to stretch interests, provide new experiences or pursue a passion. Common electives are: **Child Development, Nutrition, Neuropsychology, Art, Drama, Newspaper, Photography, Music Appreciation, Media Analysis, Health, Martial Arts, Yoga, Fitness, and Virtual High School on-line electives.**

Extra-Curricular Activities

Each week students at New England Academy participate in extra curricular activities. These include such things as **Experiential Learning, Community and Global Service, Cross Country Running, Art, Drama, Music, Chess Club, Foreign Language Club, Physical Fitness, Sports Teams, Online Courses, International Neuroscience Brain Bee, Child Development Internships, Community Service, National Honor Society.** Students also participate in the yearly **Academic Bowl Competition.**

College Preparation

At the heart of New England Academy's mission is to prepare students for college. Students and Families receive support and assistance to complete every step of the college process from exploration to admission. New England Academy students experience a college preparatory curriculum coupled with direct college preparation. Junior and senior level students meet one-on-one with the guidance counselor and go through a College Planning course so that they can begin to explore their interest areas and future areas of study. This course also assists students in previewing colleges that may be a potential fit for their areas of interest, school size preference and future field of study.

In addition to college exploration in the classroom setting, New England Academy has college representatives visit on a monthly basis, to review their college, programs of study and to answer questions students may have. Additionally, as part of the year round school experience, New England Academy staff and students visit colleges throughout the area.

Class of 2008 College Acceptances

Castleton State College
Champlain College
Clark University
Framingham State College
Franklin Pierce University
Green Mountain College
Keene State University
Landmark College
Lesley University
Marian Court College
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Merrimack College
Mitchell College
North Shore Community College
Roger Williams University
St. John's College, Santa Fe
Suffolk University
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
University of New England

STAFF PROFILES

Ryan Plosker M.S., CAGS, Ed.D. (candidate)

Executive Director and Founder

Ryan is the Executive Director and founder of New England Academy. Throughout his career, Mr. Plosker has worked to bridge the gap between psychology and education to meet the needs of students—from his clinical work at Children’s Hospital in Boston to his later work as a public school psychologist, school director, and special education administrator. Mr. Plosker shares his educational and clinical insights, teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level. He has a B.S. in Psychology, a Masters and CAGS in School Psychology and completed his Ph.D. coursework from Northeastern University before completing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Massachusetts.

Danielle Dillman, M.Ed., MAT, Ph.D. (candidate)

Dean of Education

Danielle’s specialty areas include curriculum and I.E.P. facilitation and teacher development. She was a special education teacher for ten years, a special education team chairperson and, most recently, the Supervisor of Special Education for a large public school. Danielle brings a wealth of teaching and curriculum knowledge as a licensed teacher, Principal, and Special Education Administrator. Danielle is pursuing her Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership.

Peggy Buscema, MSW, LICSW

Dean of Clinical Services

Peggy has over ten years of experience in the field of Social Work and has worked in a variety of settings. Beginning her career as a clinician at McLean-Franciscan Children’s Hospital, she moved into the field of education as Clinical Director and Program Director of Essex Academy. She is a licensed School Adjustment Counselor and Supervisor as well as a Massachusetts Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.

Brian Jukins, MSW, LICSW - Dean of Students

Brian began his career as a counselor at Children’s Hospital, Boston. After working at Children’s Hospital for three years, he joined Essex Academy as a school social worker and spent six years there prior to joining the New England Academy team. Brian is a licensed School Adjustment Counselor, Principal and Massachusetts Independent Clinical Social Worker.

Dale Dick, M.Ed.- Associate Dean of Education

Dale graduated from St. Lawrence University with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Elementary Education. She spent six years working as a high school special education support teacher before earning her Master’s degree in

Moderate Special Needs. Dale is a licensed General Education teacher, K-8, a Special Education teacher, all levels, and a Special Education Administrator.

Susan O’Brien, M.Ed. - I.E.P. Coordinator

Susan has spent over thirty years as a Special Education Administrator in Massachusetts working both in private and public schools. Most recently, Susan was the Director of Pupil Services for the Andover Public Schools District. Susan has worked as a consultant to public and private schools and a program evaluator.

— CLINICAL STAFF —

Amy Benjamin, M.Ed.- Guidance Counselor

Amy has over seven years of experience in various public school educational settings. She was the former Mental Health Grant Facilitator for the Methuen Public Schools as well as a teacher and soccer coach. Her licensure is in Elementary Education and School Guidance. She has spent a significant amount of time working with and visiting potential colleges for students.

Michael Culp, MAT- School Counselor

Michael has been teaching Theatre in varied forms for nearly thirteen years. He has spent the last four years of his career working in a therapeutic setting, integrating social pragmatics into a drama curriculum, most recently as the Program Coordinator and a Counselor for the “Spotlight” Program in Danvers. Michael consulted with New England Academy in the development of social skills groups prior to joining the NEA team. Michael has received both a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre and a Masters of Teaching from the University of Richmond.

Karra Briley, MSW, LCSW - School Social Worker

Karra is a licensed Social Worker and School Adjustment Counselor. With a background in protective services, Karra has significant experience working with children and adolescents in the community setting. She obtained her Master’s degree from Salem State College.

Katie Giello, R.N. - School Nurse

Katie began her career working in various acute-care medical settings caring for individuals of all ages. She has a passion for children and enjoys interacting daily with the students at New England Academy. Katie received her B.S. in Nursing from Salem State College and is a Massachusetts licensed Registered Nurse.

STAFF PROFILES

Jamie Golden, M.S., LMHC - School Counselor

Jamie has many years of experience in working with students in a variety of school and clinical settings. Jamie received her Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Lesley University with an expressive arts specialization. Jamie has worked in school settings as both a school clinician and guidance counselor at the high school level. Jamie teaches a variety of fine arts courses.

Hollie Jacobs, M.S., LMHC - Expressive Arts Therapist

Hollie joined New England Academy's clinical team after many years working in a variety of clinical settings. Hollie has been instrumental in the development of New England Academy's Fine Arts Program. She received her Bachelor's degree from Emerson College in Theater Education and her Master's in Mental Health Counseling and Expressive Arts from Lesley University in the areas of art, music, drama and dance. Hollie provides 1:1 counseling as well as offering expressive art therapy courses for students.

Jaclyn Hart, M.S. - Speech and Language Therapist

Jaclyn completed her clinical training at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Speech/ Language Pathology and is eligible for reading Specialist certification. Jaclyn has worked in a variety of school and clinical settings and has specialized in pragmatic language development.

Bonnie Swart, MA, NBSNP - School Psychologist/ Neuropsychologist

Bonnie graduated from Alliant International University in San Diego with her Masters in School Psychology. She is a licensed School Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, and is a diplomat of the American Board of School Neuropsychology.

Cindy Veatch, MSW, LICSW - School Social Worker

Cindy has been working in the field of special education for over ten years. Prior to that she was an outpatient, mental health clinician and also worked in the fields of foster care and adoption. She has extensive group work experience as well as individual and family treatment experience. Cindy is an adjunct professor at Gordon College in the Social Work Department. She has completed post graduate studies and is certified in Child and Adolescent Treatment through Boston University. Cindy is licensed as a School Adjustment Counselor and a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.

Susan Warner, MSW, LICSW - School Social Worker

Susan has been working within clinical and school settings for over ten years. As a school-based social worker and community based therapist, she has a high level of expertise working with students with social and emotional disabilities. Prior to her school based experience, Susan worked extensively in residential treatment facilities and Early Intervention programs. She has completed post graduate studies and is certified in Child and Adolescent Treatment through Boston University. Susan is a Massachusetts Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.

— TEACHERS —

Abigail Adams, B.A. - French

Abigail is a recent graduate of Gordon College with a double major in French and Secondary Education. She also completed academic studies at L'Institut d'Etudes Francaises pour Etudiants Etrangers. Abigail taught French in public school prior to joining NEA. She is a licensed French teacher, 5-12.

Courtnei Bolden, M.Ed. - English

Courtnei has been teaching in the field of special education for over 5-years. With a Master's Degree from Lesley University, Courtnei has been working with students on the development of organizational skill methods to assist students in finding academic success.

Brian Boulger, M.Ed. - Science

Although Brian's specialty is science, he has been teaching all core subjects for the past ten years in a variety of private school settings. Most recently, he worked as an educational administrator. He has a Bachelor's degree in Science and Education from the University of Vermont and a Masters of Science in Educational Leadership and Policy Study from the University of Memphis. Brian is licensed as a General Education and Special Education Teacher, as well as a Vice-Principal and Special Education Administrator.

David Briley, B.S., M.Ed. (candidate) - Mathematics

David's undergraduate degree in Psychology was earned at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He utilized his training in this area while working at McLean Hospital in Belmont, MA. Prior to coming to New England Academy, David worked as a math teacher in public school. He is a licensed Math teacher and is pursuing his Master's degree in Educational Administration.

STAFF PROFILES

Katie Doherty, B.A., M.A. (candidate) - English

Katie began her career teaching English at a North Shore high school before joining the New England Academy team. Katie's specialty is in English, although her passion and experience with special education students is what brought Katie to New England Academy. In addition, Katie has been working as a counselor for the "Spotlight" Program with special education students. Katie is a licensed English and Special Education teacher and will complete her Master's degree in English this year.

Stanley Eaton, MAT - Science Teacher

Stanley is known as the "Science Master" as he has held his teaching license in almost every area of science including General Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Stanley taught for seven years in public schools before joining the NEA staff. He has a passion for teaching students with different learning styles. Stanley has a Master of Arts in Teaching and is licensed in Biology and General Science.

John Gehan, M.Ed. - Tutorial

John is a special educator with more than ten years of teaching experience. He has a Master's degree in Experiential Learning from Endicott College. John's strength is in organization and study skills and he is very creative in helping students understand challenging concepts.

Galadriel McPhail, MA - Spanish

Galadriel has ten years of experience teaching Spanish to both native and second language speakers and has worked with special education students in a variety of settings. With a Bachelor's in Spanish and Secondary Education and a Masters of Arts in Applied Linguistics, Galadriel is 100% fluent in Spanish. She has a passion for students understanding the linguistics of foreign languages and emphasizes culture and the use of conversational language.

Kate Rosato, M.S. - History/Tutorial

Kate is a veteran public school special education teacher, having taught for four in the Quincy public schools as a resource room teacher. Kate earned her Master's degree in Education from the State University of New York and her bachelor's in Sociology, with a minor in Education, from Hobart and William Smith College. She is a licensed General and Special Education Teacher.

Sarah Rouba, M.Ed. - History

Sarah, a native Australian, graduated from Newcastle University and has taught both internationally and in the U.S for the past five years. Experienced in all levels, pre-k through 10th grade, Sarah is a licensed Elementary, K-8 teacher and Special Education teacher who completed her Master's degree in Special Education at Endicott College.

Kathy Strutt, M.Ed. - Tutorial

Kathy is a veteran teacher with over 15 years of teaching experience in both private and public schools. She has worked as both a special and general education teacher and is a licensed Special Educator. Kathy has a B.A. in Psychology from St. Anselm College and a Master's degree in Moderate Special Needs from Boston University.

Greg Twombly, M.Ed. - History

Greg spent the beginning of his teaching career in public schools working in the area of special education, as well as coaching high school sports. Greg has a B.A. in History and Secondary Education as well as a Master's degree in Special Education. He is licensed in both History and Special Education.

Thomas Walsh, B.A. - Mathematics

Tom graduated from Trinity College with a major in Mathematics and Religion. He has been working with high school students for many years as a Track and Cross Country coach. Tom recently worked for the BELL National Summer School Program. He is a licensed Mathematics teacher.

— EXECUTIVE SUPPORT STAFF —

Kellie Faulkner - Admissions Coordinator

Kellie works directly with the Executive Director providing support in the area of admissions. Kellie has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Information Management. She brings a variety of experience to New England Academy ranging from health and human services to college admissions.

Sarah McWhorter - Office Manager

Sarah is at the center of communication for New England Academy. She has her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Spanish from Elon University. Sarah is excellent at multi-tasking the staff and student needs throughout the day.



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