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# SCHOOL PROFILE

*2021-2022*

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# OVERVIEW

## Administration

Ryan Plosker, Ed.D.  
*Headmaster and Founder*

Kate Hayes, MSW, LICSW  
*Dean of Students*

Patricia Bernheart, M.Ed., CAGS  
*Dean of Education Programming*

Peggy Buscema, MSW, LICSW  
*Dean of Admissions*

Jackie Thompson, MSW, LICSW  
*Dean of Clinical Services*

Katie Anderson, MA  
*Director of Guidance*

## National Affiliations

National Honor Society

New England League of Middle Schools

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

## 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 the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

## 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 and 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, because of their 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

## Accreditation

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

## SAT Mean Scores

	Reading	Math
New England Academy	606	513
Massachusetts	591	593
National	533	528

## ACT Mean Scores

	Composite
New England Academy	24.8
Massachusetts	27.6
National	20.3

**School Code** 220-129

school-based counseling, 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 participate in a college preparatory curriculum combined with direct college and career planning through work with our Director of Guidance.

## Academic Levels

New England Academy is designed for students in grades 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. Each student meets one-on-one with their counselor to discuss areas of academic strength and weakness as well as areas of interest. Through this academic analysis, students can 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, two years of College and Career Writing, 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 courses.

# CURRICULUM

## English Language Arts

The New England Academy English Language Arts curriculum is designed to support the development of reading, writing, critical thinking, speaking, listening, and responding skills. The literary component at New England Academy combines high interest contemporary and classic literature to engage the imagination and gain exposure to a variety of voices and experiences. The primary focus of the study of English is the examination and appreciation of literature. The best literature—whether prose, poetry, or drama—offers a new perspective on the human condition, both in the United States and around the world. It leads students to a fuller understanding of themselves and of those around them, as well as provides connections to larger cultural and historical contexts. Readings include selections from The Language of Literature textbook series, as well as the individual novels and other works specific to the course. Students in grades 10-12 also follow the Sadlier-Oxford vocabulary program. As writing is at the heart of both academic and “real world” communication, it is essential that students master not only the mechanics of writing, but also the nuances of effective writing in different contexts. The goal of the writing program at New England Academy is to help students become strong, independent writers who can communicate effectively in a variety of settings. Students use the process of writing to focus, clarify, deepen, and expand their thinking. They learn to support their reasoning with coherent arguments and specific evidence. Students also learn to revise, edit, respond to written comments, reflect upon their progress, and take responsibility for their own work. This is achieved through completion of various forms of writing including research, academic, creative, and personal writing. English course options include Introduction to Literature, Comprehensive Literature, American Literature, British Literature, Film and Literature, and College and Career Writing.

## Social Studies

The social studies curriculum at New England Academy empowers students to learn about the past and how history connects to today. While studying history and the social sciences, students will consider complex historical questions, critically analyze historical information, draw informed conclusions from evidence, and express their unique views in a coherent and well-reasoned way. 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. In the upper levels, students can take advantage of course offerings such as Economics, Modern America, and Post War America.

## Mathematics

The study of mathematics at New England Academy is focused on the overarching development of the following vital skills: attention to detail, sequential thinking, problem solving, problem

analysis, modeling real-life situations, and logical defense of problem-solving. These are integral critical thinking skills for every student to practice and master, as they will be beneficial in subsequent courses and in post-secondary life. The curriculum is designed to give 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, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Financial Algebra 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 study of science at New England Academy exposes students to the process of scientific inquiry, which encourages them to problem solve, think critically, effectively interpret data, and successfully use mathematics as “the language of science.” Proficiency and literacy in the sciences not only opens up a variety of career opportunities, but also helps students to make informed, critical decisions in their personal lives and as part of society. The science curriculum at New England Academy is an integrated program designed around teaching the overarching concepts in biology, earth science, physics, and chemistry. This broad base engages student’s curiosity and develops overall science literacy to apply in more in-depth classes at the high school level. Freshmen and sophomore students are immersed in a comprehensive, two-year Biology sequence which emphasizes the principles and concepts of biology as the study of life. This two-year study prepares students at New England Academy to take the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Exam in the area of biology. Upper level students have course offerings including Chemistry in our Ecology, Physics, Astronomy, Anatomy and Chemistry. Labs are integrated into the classes themselves.

## World Languages

New England Academy’s world language curriculum seeks to promote linguistic and cultural literacy while cultivating an enthusiasm for the target language and culture. Currently, New England Academy offers Spanish as a world language. Within the classroom, instruction focuses on exposing students to different cultures through language, cultural studies, and the arts. Students are encouraged to make connections between the study of Spanish and other subject areas, as well as to their daily lives. In addition, the focus is on fostering a personal connection through language that enhances relevant current world events to enable gains in global perspective. With an emphasis on positive verbal participation in the classroom, students will sequentially advance their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing within the context of real-life situations and authentic texts in the target language. World language learning supports students in achieving relevant and practical goals that will benefit them beyond the academic

## Curriculum continued

setting. In Level I Spanish classes, students are exposed to the language through a world cultures approach. These classes introduce foreign cultures through people, language, customs, and history. High school students take a minimum two years of Spanish to develop literacy and fluency that further prepares them to become global citizens.

In the 2020-2021 school year, we discontinued our French language program.

## Enrichments

As part of the course work at New England Academy, students participate in daily enrichment classes. Enrichments are offered so that students have the opportunity to take a variety of courses to stretch interests, provide new experiences, or pursue a passion. Students are offered classes such as Fine Arts, Drama, Music, Health, Mindfulness, Cooking, Cognitive Strategies, Current Events, Experiential Learning, Model UN, Student Council, Chess, and Wellness and Transition Planning.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Each week, students at New England Academy participate in extra-curricular activities. These include such groups as Photography, Yearbook, Fine Arts, Drama, Music, Sports Teams, Dance, Role Playing Clubs, Film Club, and National Honor Society.

## College and Career Preparation

The heart of New England Academy's mission is to prepare students for life after high school. Students and families receive support and assistance to complete every step of the post-secondary process from exploration to admission. Junior and senior level students meet one-on-one with the Director of Guidance and participate in a Post-Secondary Planning Seminar which enables them to explore their interest areas and future areas of study. In the second semester of the senior year, the students participate in a Wellness and Transition Seminar that prepares them for college and workplace culture. In addition to college exploration in the classroom setting, New England Academy has partnerships with Endicott College and North Shore Community College. These partnerships allow high school seniors the opportunity to take courses for college credit as well as to utilize college campus resources such as the art center. Furthermore, as part of the year-round school experience, New England Academy students benefit from yearly visits from college and post-secondary program representatives providing information about their college and programs of study, as well as opportunities to tour several colleges throughout the area.

### Class of 2021 College Acceptances

Amherst College	Emerson College	Quinnipiac University	University of Hartford
Bay Path University	Emmanuel College	Regis College	University of Massachusetts – Amherst
Bentley University	Endicott College	Rider University	University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth
Berklee College of Music	Fairfield University	Salem State University	University of Massachusetts – Lowell
Boston University	Framingham State University	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Massachusetts – Lowell
Brandeis University	Husson University	Simmons University	University of New Hampshire
Bryant University	Johnson and Wales University	Southern Oregon University	University of New Haven
Champlain College	Lasell University	St. Anselm College	University of Vermont
Clark University	Lesley University	St. Joseph's University	Washington and Jefferson University
Colby Sawyer College	Merrimack College	Suffolk University	Western New England University
Cornell College	Middlesex Community College	Tufts University	
Curry College	Northeastern University	University of Connecticut at Stamford	
Dean College	Otis College of Art and Design		
Drexel University	Providence College		

