**5/6 Integrated Therapeutic Classroom**

New England Academy’s grade 5/6 classroom is largely self-contained classroom based upon an integrated therapeutic support model. This classroom will have no more than 6 students and was designed to support younger students, based upon the needs and feedback we have received from prospective parents and many of our sending school districts. The profile of students in this classroom is consistent with that of the larger NEA community, which consists of average to above cognitive and academic abilities coupled with challenges in the areas of executive functioning skills and/or social/emotional functioning.

**Essential components of this classroom:**

* Highly collaborative model between the teacher, counselor, speech/language pathologist, and outreach clinician. The counselor in this position works primarily with this 5/6 group, in a very hands-on manner, working collaboratively alongside the special education teacher to ensure students’ social emotional needs are supported and skill development in this domain are incorporated throughout the school day.
* Weekly individual counseling is offered to each student
* Students are given the opportunity to integrate with other students in grades 7-8 during enrichment classes offered one period per day (e.g. music, experiential learning, art, drama, cooking).
* Daily schedule and routines are highly predictable (e.g. morning meeting every day, permanent subs available when staff are out, etc.) and allow for many opportunities for breaks/movement.
* Integrated cross disciplinary approach to instruction with daily embedded social and emotional skill development. The special education teacher teaches all content areas, except for mathematics, which is taught by a math teacher in another classroom in the same middle school wing of the building.
* Heavy emphasis on parent support, consultation, communication.
* Communication with parents is critical, through weekly contact with counselor and teacher, and monthly consultation with the outreach clinician, to ensure that all aspects of the students’ needs are being assessed and supported across settings - toward the goal of helping students to develop a more positive view of school.
* The family outreach clinician and speech/language pathologist works collaboratively with the 5/6 team to provide a nurturing setting that allows for scaffolding of student skills, social pragmatics, and executive functioning skills as the year progresses, with an aim to prepare them for future expectations in middle school.
* The Dean of Educational Programming oversees this program and supports the 5/6 team to ensure the design and implementation of the supports offered within this program are effective and successful.

*For more information, contact Patti Bernheart, Dean of Educational Programming (ext. 111) or Peg Buscema, Dean of Admissions (ext. 102) at 978-921-1103.*