

NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY

ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.



A World of Possibilities Awaits...



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Hope


“How do you know if your child is going to be an anxious kid? What do you do if the first word out of their mouth is ‘uh-oh’? In the third grade, I hid in the cubbies when faced with an MCAS exam and by 8th grade I felt I would never be able to step into a school ever again. I had conceded that my life was going to be a series of extended hospital visits, an endless purgatory controlled by my fears.

Then I found NEA.

When I walked into NEA, it was like a switch just flipped. Here I was understood. Here I was “normal”. Here I found support and understanding. Here I found a second family.

Some of the things I’ve seen and some of the changes that I’ve witnessed in myself, and others, are nothing short of extraordinary. I feel so fortunate to have met all these people and had all these experiences. I am proud of my school. And I find myself wanting to scream it from the rooftops. I want people to know just how special this place is....”

Kelsey, Valedictorian, Class of 2010
National Honor Society, Connecticut College



*Where students are family
and school feels like home*



OUR STUDENTS

NEA was founded on the core belief that every student can be successful and that every student should have the opportunity to live a happy, healthy and productive life. We believe that a school can offer an academically challenging and engaging curriculum within a nurturing environment in which each student's individual social and emotional needs are recognized and supported. Many students that are "falling through the cracks" of education today have the cognitive ability to be academically successful, yet lack the ability to access these skills and talents. Many times, students' social and emotional struggles stand in their way. At NEA, we help students learn how to overcome these barriers.

We believe a bright future awaits each and every student at NEA – a future best nurtured one step at a time, one goal at a time, one hope at a time.




"At NEA, we believe that kids come first and that every student can be successful when they have a compassionate, empathic, and individualized education that is based on their strengths, needs, and a vision to their future. We truly believe that lives can be transformed."

Dr. Ryan Plosker
Executive Director and Founder
New England Academy

OUR MISSION

To provide a challenging academic curriculum in a supportive environment in which each student can develop his or her academic, social and emotional skills in preparation for college and life.

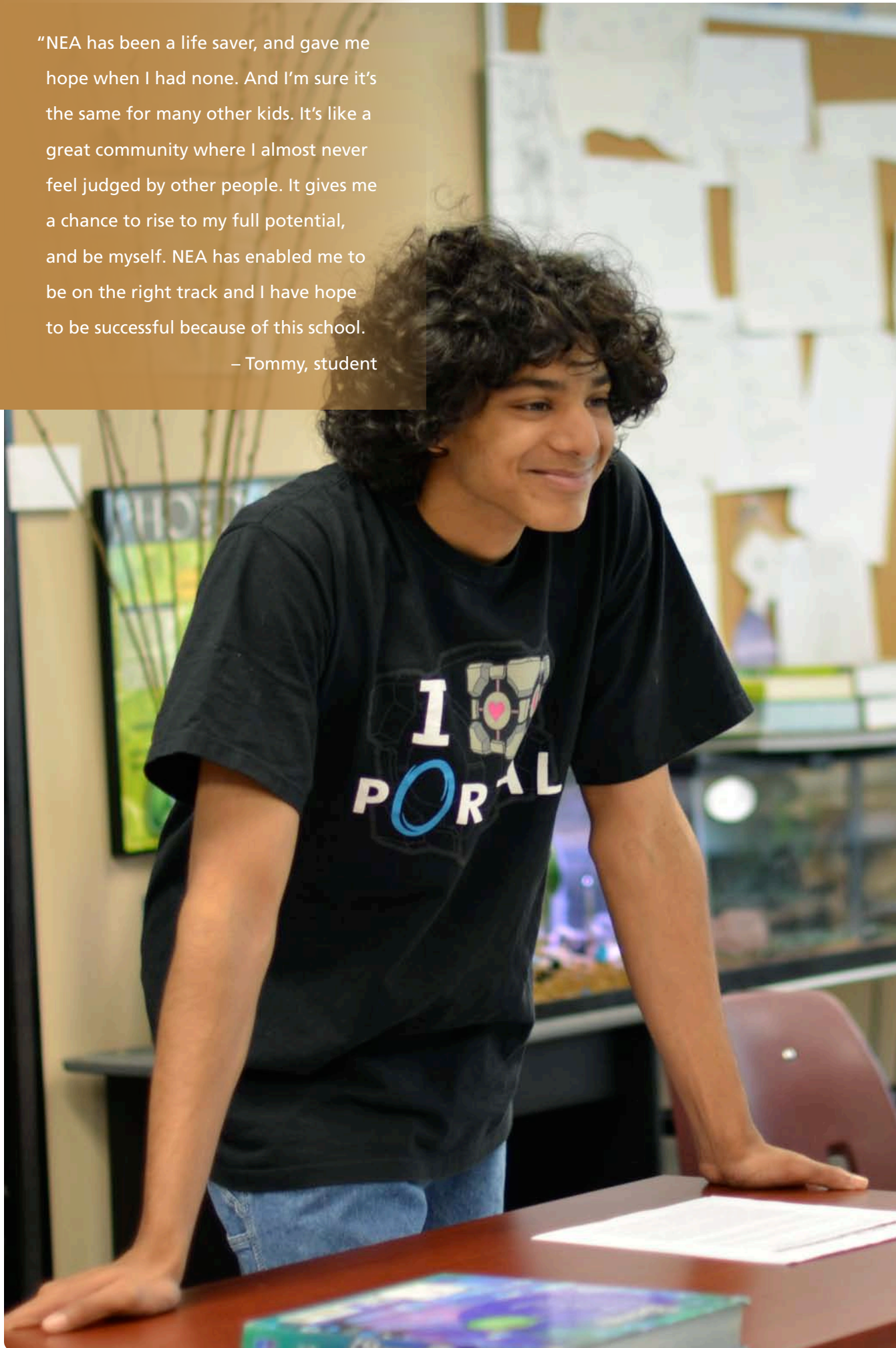
A close-up photograph of a woman with long blonde hair and glasses, wearing a red graduation cap and gown, hugging a graduate. The graduate is also wearing a red cap and gown with a yellow tassel. In the background, other graduates in red gowns are visible, some clapping. The scene is set in a large hall with chandeliers.

"A school that can say, with honesty and pride, that no student is left behind. I've never heard of a school that so consistently and admirably serves its student body, both academically and emotionally. It can't protect its students from the ills of life, but what it can do, and what it does, is embrace each student in his time of need, when he feels otherwise helpless, otherwise lonely, and otherwise weak. Every student at NEA is loved and cared for by each and every teacher and staff member. Wherever I go in life, I will never forget everything NEA has done for me."

– Cameron, Class of 2008

“NEA has been a life saver, and gave me hope when I had none. And I’m sure it’s the same for many other kids. It’s like a great community where I almost never feel judged by other people. It gives me a chance to rise to my full potential, and be myself. NEA has enabled me to be on the right track and I have hope to be successful because of this school.

– Tommy, student



ACADEMICS

The academic programs at NEA are designed to reflect our strength-based approach to instruction, where the needs of the whole child are addressed in the academic, social, and emotional realms. Through rigorous curriculum and high academic standards, our students are prepared to achieve their full academic potential.

Our students are enrolled in either college or honors level courses in core curriculum subject areas. Our 8:1 student/teacher ratio ensures that students receive small group and individualized instruction. Overall, the academic programs at NEA are designed to prepare students to excel in collegiate studies, and this is successfully reflected in our 100% college acceptance rate.

ELECTIVES

As part of the daily coursework at NEA, we offer students a wide variety of electives. Electives are offered on a semester basis, allowing students the opportunity to take a variety of courses to stretch their interests, provide new experiences or pursue a passion. Students are offered electives such as: art, drama, newspaper, photography, music, media analysis, health, fitness, and yearbook.

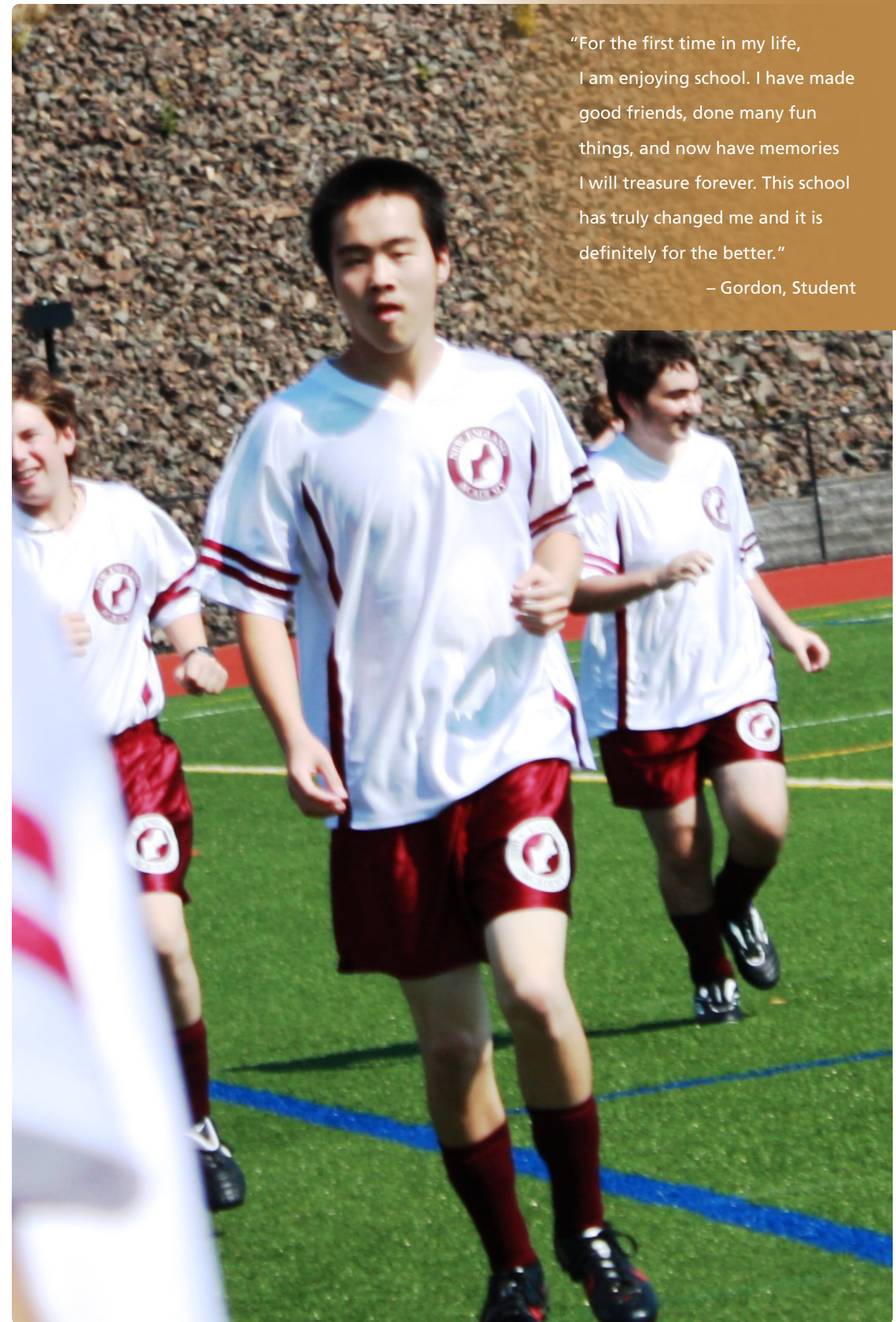


ARTS AND MUSIC

As part of the mission to engage the whole student, New England Academy's arts program integrates a variety of artistic media into the school day, both as a therapeutic tool and as a means of normalizing self-expression. Our visual art and music curriculum is an opportunity to uniquely engage the students in areas of strength and interest not always visible in the classroom. The arts at NEA provide our students with an alternative form of social connection and a chance to share their accomplishments with their families and peers. In addition, the arts promote the development and strengthening of a spectrum of coping skills for when words fail to express the complexity of an experience.

ATHLETICS

The athletic program at New England Academy is built around teamwork, sportsmanship, and having fun. The students have an opportunity to build their athletic skills through instructional practices and competitive games, while at the same time strengthening their character. The commitment that the players and coaches have to one another and the NEA community parallels the team-oriented philosophy of the school and is what Knights athletics is all about.



"For the first time in my life,
I am enjoying school. I have made
good friends, done many fun
things, and now have memories
I will treasure forever. This school
has truly changed me and it is
definitely for the better."

– Gordon, Student



SUPPORT SERVICES

We believe that the school-based counseling support each student receives at NEA is critical to his or her academic success. We work diligently to create a balance for students between challenge and support. To this end, each student is assigned a counselor who meets with them regularly, coordinates communication between teachers, families and other members of the student's support team, and works to ensure that the proper balance of support and challenge is being provided on a daily basis. Students have access to their counselors throughout the school day ensuring issues are dealt with in a timely and proactive manner. Once a student finds social and emotional confidence and safety, their academic skills, abilities and talents can truly flourish.

In addition to working towards success in academics and day-to-day life, counselors at NEA also support students in areas including, but not limited to, anxiety management, social skill development, peer issues, feelings of depression, test anxiety, study skill development, learning strategies and school-based concerns. When a student receives support commensurate with their needs, they are more readily able to reach their full potential, rising to meet challenges that may otherwise seem insurmountable.

"What we didn't know about NEA when we enrolled our son, and what we have come to value above all else is that the staff refuses to give up on any student, even when things get tough. When our son would have a tough day, the counselors at NEA were able to bring him back and help him break his disruptive cycle. They were able to look beyond his struggles to see the extremely sweet, generous, talented and wonderful person that needed help underneath. With NEA's help, our son has come a long way in a relatively short time, and for that we will be eternally grateful."

– Nadine, Parent



BEYOND NEA

At the heart of New England Academy's mission is our desire to prepare students for college. Students and families receive support and assistance to complete every step of the college process from exploration to admission. Junior and Senior level students meet one-on-one with the Dean of Guidance and participate in College Planning courses which enables them to explore their interest areas and future areas of study. These sessions allow students to preview colleges that may be a potential fit based on their academic strengths, areas of interest, school size preference, geographic location and their future field of study. NEA also hosts monthly visits from college representatives, takes students on tours of colleges throughout the area, and provides workshops for seniors, preparing them for college life. College essays and applications are completed at school, alleviating much of the anxiety and stress that is often associated with this process.

New England Academy is pleased to have forged relationships with local colleges, allowing NEA high school seniors the opportunity to take courses for college credit. Students travel to campus and participate in classes, getting a true feel for the college experience they are about to embark on.

"Hope can be maintained through a continued vigilance toward the little victories. As long as we do not take our successes for granted and do not forget from whence we came (meaning the progress students have made and the growth we as individuals and as a school have experienced), then we will be rich with opportunities to retain hope.

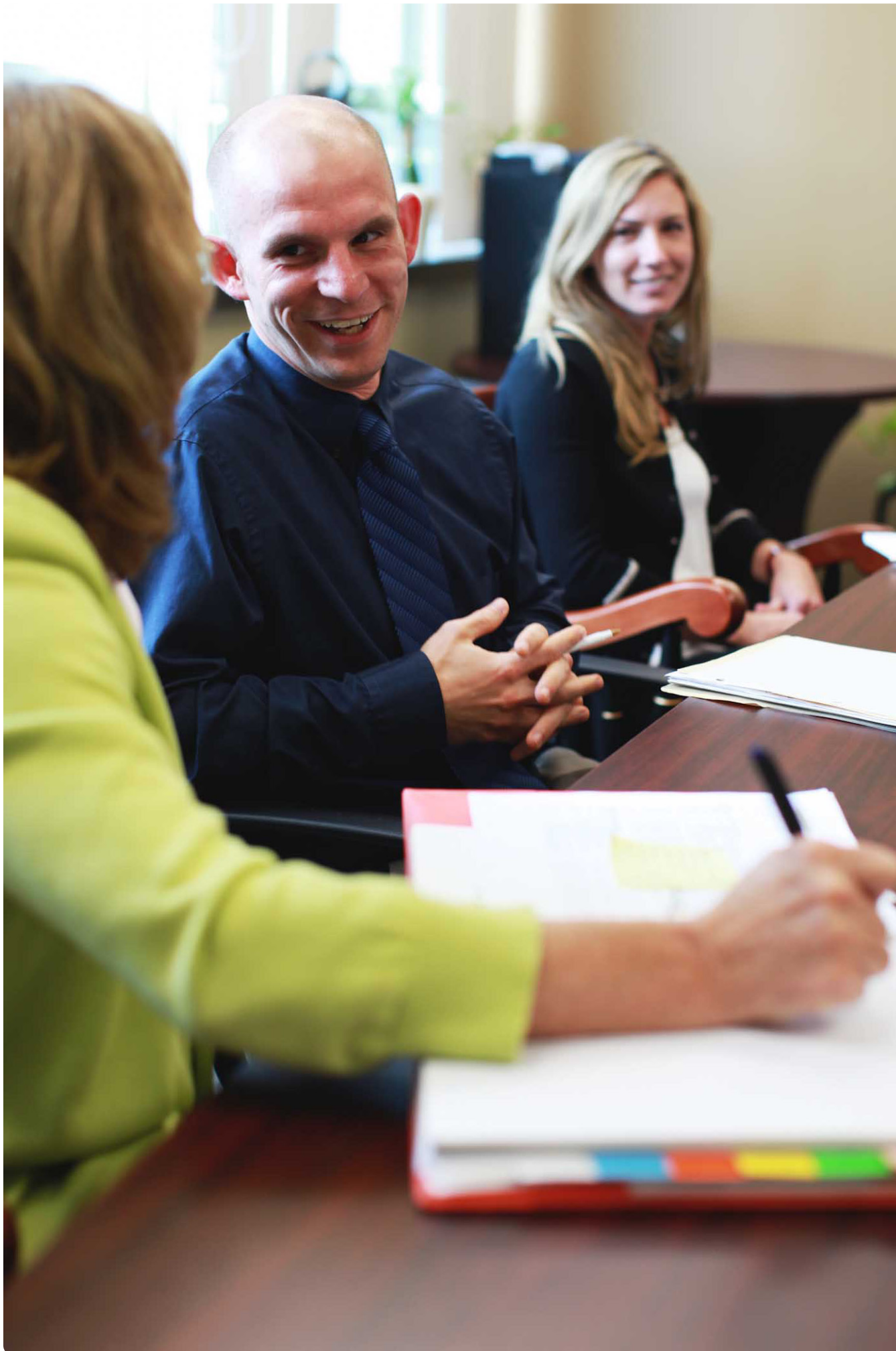
Part of retaining hope is in remembering that hope is all around us. Parents and students come to NEA with hope for a better educational experience, and sometimes not much else. We, as staff, entered into our fields and joined NEA with the hope of making the world better one person, one class or one school at a time. Hope is our default position and movement away from a default position takes effort."

– Joe Mageary, Dean of Clinical Services



"Endicott was such a great experience for me. Attending a class there while I was still at NEA, really eased some of my qualms about college. It made my first college experience OK."

– Christi, Class of 2011



A COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION

The partnership and collaboration between students, parents, school districts and the community are critical to each individual student's success at NEA. Our experience has shown that when all stakeholders in a student's life are working together, with the student and on their behalf towards a common goal, it is the student who ultimately benefits. Through open and ongoing communication we are able to collaborate thoroughly and effectively.

At NEA, the core of ensuring student success is our faculty's shared passion, collaboration, and commitment to our students. We work continuously on school improvement, innovation, and high professional standards to meet the changing needs of our students.

"When I was five I was diagnosed with selective mutism and social anxiety disorder. My anxious behavior got worse as I got older and by high school I stopped going.

My parents found NEA and for many weeks we'd drive down and park outside and I'd have a panic attack about just going into the building, let alone attending class. I eventually went in and the longer I was at NEA the more I realized that everyone there was on my side. For the first time in my life, I was part of a community of people that supported me and wouldn't let me hide from the world anymore.

Halfway through my sophomore year I signed up for an NEA Vocal Performance Group. I have always loved to sing, had never been able to ever perform. As a result of that leap of faith, something incredible happened. I was able to, quite literally, find my voice. Since then, I performed at Arts Night, at talent shows, and I even performed a Senior Solo in front of 250 audience members.

The same timid, anxiety-ridden girl who was diagnosed with selective mutism at age five has been completely transformed with the support and guidance that comes from an institution run on miracles."

– Eileen, Student



ADMISSIONS

New England Academy has rolling admissions throughout the year. Applicants may be referred by their school district, community organizations, treatment providers, parents, or other appropriate referral sources.

Application requires submission of a referral packet, typically including a student's recent Individualized Education Plan (IEP), academic evaluations, cognitive evaluations, psychological evaluations and an academic profile.

Applications are available for download from our website at www.newenglandacademy.net.

Inquiries can also be made via phone or email to the Admissions Department:

pbuscema@newenglandacademy.net P: 978.921.1103 F: 978.921.2203

NEA AT A GLANCE

Year founded: 2006

Grades: 7-12

Total Student Population: 90

Average Class Size: 8

Student-to-Teacher Ratio: 8:1

Students accepted to 4-year colleges and universities: 100%

Male Students: 60%

Female Students: 40%

SAT mean scores: Math-528, Reading-596, Writing-578

ACT mean score: 24.3

School Code: 220-129

Accreditation

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

National Affiliations

New England League of Middle Schools

National Honor Society

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

National College Affiliations

Endicott College

North Shore Community College