

## Collaboration is Key at World Academy

The next time you're traveling down Spit Brook Road, be on the lookout for World Academy's recently-expanded campus featuring an amazing new Gymnasium/Theatre Complex and Middle School. Completed just in time for the 2012-2013 school year, students arrived in late August to see the breathtaking results of a journey of planning and construction, that had become a realized dream just one year later.

"It was a complex process to keep the program operating and safe during construction, but to see the smiling faces of students as they play sports in our new gym or participate in classroom activities... it just makes all the hard work worthwhile," explains Kathy Nelson, Founder and Head of World Academy.

While World Academy is exceptional in many ways, one unique feature is the range of ages that the school accommodates. With roots in early childhood education, Nelson and her team of teachers and educators continue their reputation for providing a loving and nurturing environment for infants as early as six weeks old. For the past thirty years, the growing school has been recognized in the community for providing high quality, accredited care and educational programs for all ages and stages. Today, with the benefits of their 25,000 square foot addition, the newly-expanded World Academy is able to provide a seamless curriculum for students right through the Eighth Grade.

World Academy prides itself on a philosophy that promotes diversity, and with a 40% diverse student body, students are learning to collaborate with a wide range of different individuals, learning to respect what makes each unique. If you ask Nelson what she thinks the school's most important asset is, she'll tell you, "It's our spirit of collaboration. We all work together in the best interest of our students." She admits that it takes a highly-committed and passionate team of teachers and faculty to deliver on this collaborative philosophy, but it's an investment they intentionally make for their students.

Teachers, administrators, parents and students collaborate on virtually everything: ideas, issues and opportunities to improve the school. Why? Because it reinforces the lessons being taught in the classroom and fosters 21st Century Learning. Nelson explains "We try to include our students and families in all aspects of our school. As an independent school, we can make decisions at a moment's notice that are in the best interest of our students and families. What makes us different is not only what we do...but, more importantly,



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HOW and WHY we do it."

While the school day ends at 3pm, learning continues in all corners of the school. Students are offered opportunities to do a variety of intramural sports or choose to participate in Drama Club, Continental Math League, Karate, Dance, Lego League, or community service learning projects. All of these opportunities reinforce the school's mission to nurture and enhance the development of the "whole" child because in the global future, students will need a variety of skills, interests and experiences to compete and succeed.

Looking forward, technology continues to be a critical and ever-changing piece of the education experience at World Academy. In support of that, each student from Kindergarten through Grade Eight has access to an iPad. The goal is to provide the tools and technology for students to discover the world around them while developing their passion for learning through their emerging interests.

At any given point in the day, Kathy Nelson can be found walking the hallways of the school. After 30 years, she's still an integral part of the day-to-day operations: interacting with students; checking in with teachers and speaking with her growing family of parents. She explains, "I feel blessed, daily, to be able to share this wonderful school with such dedicated educators and such responsive and caring families. This school is about the 'process' not just the product. This supports emerging collaboration and guides the teams of teachers and families who are dedicated to educating our students for the global 21st century and to promoting the value of inquiry, innovation and the love of learning."



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