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HARNESSING THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE

Written by Samantha Wingate, Director of Admissions
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Just about everyone who knows today's students can agree: not all students follow the same predictable patterns when it comes to learning.

Some students seem to easily secure top test scores right from the get-go, while others need to put in a little more effort and try a few more times. In the long run, however, how do academics truly come to each student usually doesn't really seem to impact that student's potential for long-term individual success. In fact, those individuals who struggle may even end up doing better than their peers. In the long run, interesting how that works.

One popular theory for this phenomenon may actually involve something much more potent, if less quantifiable than numbers—a quality called "grit."

It's Good To Be "Gritty"

In a recent TED talk called "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance," educator Angela Lee Duckworth describes how "grit" offers insight into a student's ability to persevere—that is, bounce back from failure, with losses in mind, ready to take on challenges with renewed passion for getting "over" and "down" the road.

(Persevering adversity is a

significant and valuable life lesson. "Gritty" students know how to accept failure and keep on swinging until they reach their goals.

Rather than seeing failure as inevitable or unavoidable, children can be encouraged to view challenges and failures as stepping stones along the road to success—as opportunities, rather than setbacks. Encouraging perseverance through difficult patches allows students to see that failure is part of the natural process that leads to personal growth and may, indeed, be the one most necessary to support success.

For parents, the thought of seeing a child get upset over failure can be daunting, and best instinct might be to steer students away long before that failure is reached. We call these "caring parents," but their need to sweep away all adversity their child may face—but letting students learn from their failures, develop some "grit," and find the solution they've been looking for on their own, can prove largely valuable for taking on challenges later in life.

Turning Losses Into Even Greater Wins

Rather than simply relegating "poor performing" students to less

challenging tasks, we encourage students to take risks and seek success even at the risk of failure. That way, students don't just learn how to succeed, but why they succeeded, and how to replicate that success in other aspects of their studies and life. This is an incredible life skill which will continue to support your child throughout life.

It's that perseverance to push through failure, and to find success as a result of personal effort, that helps shape healthy, dedicated students. By comfortably confronting the prospect of failure and pushing through until that failure is overcome, students build critical skills they will need to adapt and succeed throughout their time at school and well into their future careers.

An old sports saying offers one helpful bit of advice: "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." Children who are encouraged to take shots, catch the rebound, and keep shooting until they score, will develop into confident, enthusiastic learners.

It's all about perseverance—because failure doesn't have to be permanent. For many students, it's simply one important step on their roadmap to success.

SCHOOL CHOICE:

What is it and why is it good for New Hampshire families?

By Samantha Wingate,
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WHAT IS "SCHOOL CHOICE?"

Put simply, "school choice" refers to options and resources available to parents looking to send their child to the school that best suits their educational needs and wants.

As a result of recently-enacted laws in New Hampshire, parents around the Granite State now have expanded resources to send their child to more school choice options.

In many cases, this applies to students who would otherwise have no other affordable option but to attend their designated public school.

WHICH SCHOOL CHOICE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS?

For parents in New Hampshire interested in exercising their child's school choice options, two educational choice programs currently exist on the state level: the Town Tuitioning Program and the Education Tax Credit Program.

TOWN TUITIONING PROGRAM

Enacted and launched in 2017, New Hampshire's Town Tuitioning Program—also known as the "Croydon Bill"—allows towns without school districts that match a student's current grade level to re-allocate the same amount of per-student funding that would go to public schools for students to instead attend their choice of any public or approved private, non-religious school in or outside of the Granite State.

EDUCATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Also available to Granite State parents and students looking to exercise their school choice

options is the New Hampshire Educational Tax Credit, which incentivizes businesses to donate to scholarship-granting non-profit organizations in return for tax credits. Families can then apply for scholarships through these non-profits and put that money toward private schooling, tutoring, online learning, classes at colleges or universities, and/or homeschooling expenses.

WAYS TO GET STARTED

For families looking to take advantage of the educational options available through the Town Tuitioning Program or Educational

Tax Credit program, the NH Department of Education offers a compendium of information regarding State Aid Programs that may help you determine whether or not your student meets eligibility standards for these programs.

We must also keep in mind that many programs offer scholarships or tuition assistance to support those families whose student would benefit from the school but cannot afford them. Be sure to check into those options as well.

We have a mandate to advocate for our state's students and inform parents that they have choices when developing their child's long range educational plans. All of the above are worth investigating when choosing the best education for your child.*

World Academy is a state licensed, independent, developmentally-appropriate and academically rigorous private school for children from ages six weeks through Grade 8. Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, it offers high-quality Early Childhood Programs, Elementary and Middle School, Before and After School Programs, and Summer Quest Camp. For almost 40 years the school has been dedicated to providing all students with a high-quality 21st-century, civically "wonder child" focused education that supports families and engages all facets of a child's being, including cognitive, intellectual, physical, social-emotional, cultural and spiritual aspects. For more information, contact Samantha Wingate, Director of Admissions at 503-888-1982.

