

# Solid Foundations and Forward Momentum

Local private school has educated in Nashua for over thirty years; embraces forward motion with physical expansion, a student and family-supportive philosophy and an exciting, progressive curriculum.

It began last summer when construction and landscape crews got underway with the work of preparing World Academy's new rear parking lot, the first phase of an construction project that will bring the school's total facilities to nearly 50,000 square feet of modern, educational space. The new parking lot and walkway leads to an entrance in the rear of the building where parents and staff come into the school behind the original front door that has stood facing Roby Park for nearly twenty years. Where that first front door once stood, construction crews are well underway with an addition that will change the face of Spit Brook Road forever. Since last fall, backhoes and steamrollers have trudged around the building in the fenced construction area and inside, the school staff has prepared and sent home detailed information to families explaining the site prep and foundation work as it goes on, keeping the excited school community well-informed. Heads really turned when the towering elevator shaft went up early this winter. A square, cement block structure with gaping holes where the doors would open in the new, two-story building, the grey, "blocky" presence of the elevator shaft was the first element of the construction that resembled a real structure, and it was striking against the bright blue January sky. With Mother Nature considerate of the school's construction plans, World Academy's new, state-of-the-art Middle School and Gym/Theater Complex project has moved along right on schedule this winter. The process is no simple undertaking from anyone's perspective, but it's safe to say that the school's owners, Kathy and Gary Nelson, along with the entire construction team, are breathing just a bit easier as spring fast approaches and the winter has remained remarkably calm. "This is energizing and exhausting at the same time; like running a marathon!" jokes Kathy Nelson, who is also Head of School. Nelson's focus has been unquestionable throughout the planning and onset of the project. "A school like ours requires an incredible amount of dedication from the entire staff, working together toward one outcome—exceptional, individualized education for each student. The construction project is, of course, another level. It is exciting and, admittedly, a little surreal to see this unfold after so many years of growth,

planning and preparation. I couldn't be more thrilled and pleased that as this work progresses, our entire team has continued an emphasis on the incredible quality of education that World Academy delivers... all the way from Birth through Grade Eight for each individual student and every family." Nelson's words are not carelessly chosen. World Academy long ago implemented the Individualized Student Plans that are at the heart of the educational experience at the school. The school's mission statement highlights the importance of supporting every student's success by nurturing and enhancing their cognitive/intellectual, physical, socio-emotional, cultural and creative aspects and just as importantly, by embracing 'the whole family.' With a student population of nearly 400 that hails from as far south as Boston, MA and as far north as Concord NH, the nearly 40% culturally diverse school community incorporates many family customs and values. The enrollment itself is a testament to the school's success in upholding the values of its mission statement and the ongoing recognition of not only its student's needs, but the needs of the community it serves as a whole. Nowhere else in this area can families go for seamless, progressive education from six weeks old until their students enter high school, and go there with every confidence that their family's values, religious choices and dreams of personal and academic happiness and success for their students will be embraced and supported by a school that partners with parents in the educational process.

While the construction, which will offer dedicated science, math, art, music and collaborative spaces, is a bright, shiny new chapter in the World Academy story, in actuality, the school is steeped in thirty years of history. From its start as a Preschool serving thirty-five students on Daniel Webster Highway, what was once "Small World" has grown carefully and purposefully into an affordable, independent private school with a focus on progressive curriculum and an absolute dedication to the best interests of its students and their families. The Middle School and Gym/Theater construction will also include new playing fields near the school's in-ground wading and swimming



Above: Middle School teacher Sha Dubois and her students in "the annex" space World Academy leases for it's Middle School until the new construction brings the 4-8th grades under one roof this fall.

poools and summer camp cabin, a perfect addition to the already beautiful six-acre campus. The buildings and construction are not bold, hopeful "leaps of faith," but rather bricks and mortar that will physically support the existing comprehensive programs. World Academy's first Eighth Grade Class will graduate in May of 2012, months before the construction will be completed. "We are designing a 21st century learning community that will foster a sense of belonging, well being and promote high academic performance," says Principal Lisa Dias. "Keeping the needs of our middle school students in mind, this facility will provide flexible, modern spaces that will best support the innovative teaching and learning that is currently happening at the school."

Since before construction commenced, World Academy has proven its dedication to the quality curriculum, student success and embracing families first and foremost. While physical growth speeds along (the elevator shaft is now surrounded by steel framing and insulation outlining the new Middle School against the Nashua skyline) the faculty at World Academy continues to enhance the experience of each student...every day. The 1:1 laptop program in the 4th through 8th Grades has Middle School students utilizing computers throughout their day, from research to presentation, and from test preparation to daily communication with their teachers and peers. Teachers collaborate

to make curriculum meaningful, with research for science class reviewed and edited in peer groups during Language Arts. Art projects demonstrate scientific concepts and electives include courses like: "Engineering and Design Challenge," "Basic Aid Training," "World Cooking," and "Public Speaking." Starting in 2011, the Service Learning component took Middle School students to the Huntington retirement community next door, where residents and visiting students shared conversation along with card and board games. Through these fun-filled outings, World Academy students experienced the importance of community involvement firsthand. NorthStars is the chosen moniker of the schools' sports teams and the NorthStars Boys Indoor Soccer team finished their season at the Tyngsboro Sports Center in second place of the Boys U10 Division last week; the girl's successful season having ending just a few days earlier. World Academy recently began the process of joining the Class S Division of Tri-County Athletics for all sports and parents and students have rallied with offers to coach and support. A comfort level with expressing needs or desires as a student, parent or entire family stems from this school's family-supportive mission and philosophy. It also comes from a community accustomed to have many options and activities for their children. American Sign Language instruction begins in the Infant classroom at World Academy, and as students progress through the Toddler

and Preschool Programs they are introduced to Music & Movement Class, spend time in the dedicated Gross Motor Area, utilize technology in the classroom and the Mac lab, visit the Music Room and sign up for extracurricular classes like karate, tap, ballet, Lego League and private piano instruction. Beginning in Kindergarten students start World Languages, Art Class and Chorus and continue with Technology Class through Third Grade, before joining the Middle School Program. World Academy takes part in the Appalachian Mountain Club's overnight nature camp program each spring, and intramural sports include both Friday afternoon P.E. as well as skiing and swimming trips for all. Exciting electives such as Chinese and Hip Hop Class are normal fare. With the Individualized Student Plans in place for every age, small class sizes and world-class staff, this is a school that truly focuses on meeting the needs of its students, and providing personalized education for each. Unrestrained by religious affiliation or rigid educational philosophy, and serving only its own motto "To each, a world of opportunity," World Academy is quickly taking it's place as the premier educational option in the Southern NH area.

Enrollment is ongoing for 2012-2013 Programs from Birth through Eighth Grade, including Summer Camp. To find out more, contact Director of Admissions, Samantha Bonenfant at 603.888.1982 or visit [worldacademynh.com](http://worldacademynh.com).

