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## DARE TO LEARN

# Nashua Schools Offer a World of Opportunity

**T**hough location, cultural opportunities and proximity to work are key elements to examine when looking to settle or relocate, the availability of quality schools often weighs heavily in the decision-making process.

In a region known for educational excellence, it can be the most important consideration – something Greater Nashua's educators are keenly aware of.

"We have the benefit of an intellectual community that sees the value of a quality education," says Kathy Nelson, founder, executive director and head of school at the World Academy.

Providing young students with the opportunity to succeed often tops the wish list of families searching for a new home town. Those coming to the Greater Nashua area have a wide range of options. Children can often respond

to different styles of education, and with a number of public and private schools throughout the region, parents can choose from a diverse range of educational approaches.

### Private Schools

Take, for example, **the World Academy** (138 Spit Brook Rd., Nashua.) This unique school, founded in 1980, is a private, independent, accredited school for children ranging in age from six weeks through eighth grade designed to "educate, nurture and enhance the development of the whole child from birth through grade 8." The 55,000-square-foot campus is located on six wooded acres in Nashua, and serves approximately 500 families with a staff of 80 teachers – all of whom regularly re-examine the school's progressive offerings.

"All of our programs are designed to offer a seamless continuum of knowledge and skills from one level to the next, with a curriculum that embraces the diversity of our families and promotes individual success and confidence to give each a competitive advantage in his/her global future," Nelson says. "Teachers are continuously re-evaluating the quality and relevance our curricula and offerings to ensure that students' needs are met at each level."

One of the World Academy's distinguishing characteristics is its ability to quickly alter its approach based on what will best serve the student's academic needs.

"We are also unique in that our organizational structure, which requires no formal board of directors, allows us to instantaneously address student and family needs, as time is of the essence in the life of our students," Nelson says. "We answer to families for the growth of their children, which is an incredible motivator to be the best we can be."

The school has an open-door policy, which allows teachers to collaborate throughout the curriculum, across grade

levels and in support of each child. Cross-curricular learning creates a deeper base for student proficiency, and teachers and administrators are intentionally easily accessible.

The school has a beautiful gymnasium with a rock climbing wall, and offers a full physical education program that includes activities such as soccer, basketball, floor hockey, cheerleading, golf, karate and fitness. The arts program is also continuing to grow – something that is an important part of a student's overall education, according to school administrators.

"Unlike other schools that are cutting back on the enrichment programs such as art, we are concentrating on adding to those subjects to create well-rounded students with not only science, technology, engineering and math proficiency, but also joy of the arts," Nelson says.

This well-rounded approach, emphasizing a comprehensive, in-depth and culturally-diverse curriculum, best prepares students for the next phase of their education and lives.

"No matter what the future holds for each student when leaving our school, each will have the skills to seek out the

information needed to succeed," Nelson says. "Our goal is to build knowledgeable, skillful students so they can be meaningful and purposeful contributors to their own futures."

Among the private school options in Greater Nashua are the **Derryfield School** (2108 River Rd., Manchester); **Bishop Guertin High School** (194 Lund Rd., Nashua); the **Rivier University Early Childhood Center** (420 South Main St., Nashua); St. **Christopher School** (20 Cushing Ave., Nashua) and the **Nashua Christian Academy** (55 Franklin St., Nashua.)

## Charter Schools

Several charter schools have also been established in the Greater Nashua area.

**The Academy for Science and Design** (486 Amherst St., Nashua), which opened in 2007, focuses on STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and math. Students in their junior and senior years can major in a subject – like aeronautics and aviation; chemistry and biomedicine; or space, astronomy and astronautics – just as a college student would.

**The Gate City Charter School for the Arts** (7 Henry Clay Dr., Merrimack) has opened its doors, offering an arts-integrated curriculum that includes drama, dance, music and visual arts. The goal, according to administrators, is to produce graduates who excel in both academics and the arts and have the knowledge, creativity and inquisitive nature that fosters a lifelong love of learning.

## Public Schools

Nashua is served by 12 elementary schools, three middle schools: **Elm Street Middle School** (117 Elm St., Nashua); **Fairgrounds Middle School** (27 Cleveland St., Nashua); **Pennichuck Middle School** (207 Manchester St., Nashua) and two high schools: **Nashua High School North** (8 Titan Way, Nashua); and **Nashua High School South** (36 Riverside Dr., Nashua).



The World Academy (above and opposite page) is a private, independent, accredited school for children ranging in age from six weeks through eighth grade.