

NEW LIBERTY INNOVATION SCHOOL

A PERSONALIZED EDUCATION



NEW LIBERTY INNOVATION SCHOOL

A Salem Public School

Welcome all. Challenge yourself. Create a positive impact.

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What is New Liberty Innovation School?

New Liberty Innovation School is a small high school within the Salem Public School district. We accept students who live in Salem, MA. As an Innovation School, we can also accept tuitions from districts outside of Salem.

We are a competency-based school, which means we believe learning happens anytime, anywhere, and students can showcase evidence and knowledge from all areas of their lives.

Our program works beyond the scope of traditional high school education by providing students with small class sizes, and real-world learning opportunities both inside

and outside of the classroom, and the ability to focus on topics and projects of interest to each student. In addition to academic opportunities, the New Liberty staff provides students with wrap-around support and coaching, which enables students to fully engage in their learning and make academic and social-emotional progress.

Whether a student is looking to restart their quest for a high school diploma, or simply looking for a more personalized and flexible learning environment, New Liberty offers opportunities to all.

A Welcoming Community

Students often cite our strong sense of community and positive student-adult relationships as the main reasons they thrive at New Liberty. Students get to know staff and each other through daily advisory classes and regular off-campus experiential learning opportunities. Our Clinical Coordinator and clinical support staff are available to provide real-time support, counseling, and home visits to students and their families throughout the day.

“People change when they come here.”
- Randalee

Personalized and Flexible

At NLIS, we offer **Competency-Based Education (CBE)**, which means student progress is measured against academic, social-emotional, and employment-related competencies that align with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan. Students earn competencies from work and projects both inside and outside of the classroom, and have unlimited opportunities to demonstrate skills learned in each.

For example, students have a variety of opportunities to provide and build evidence for competencies through our

experiential learning activities like visiting parks, museums and the YMCA. They also develop skills and evidence by working on individual or small group projects in our Blended Learning Center. Competency is showcased through a wide variety of methods, including portfolios and exhibitions, essays, exams and group projects. As a result of this personalized approach, students are invested and engaged in their learning.

Flexible Scheduling

Every student deserves the right to earn a high school diploma regardless of their schedule, which is why we offer all our materials online for students unable to partake in on-site full-time classes. We believe everyone can learn, and every young adult can get an education. New Liberty Innovation School offers a personalized and flexible path to get there.

Who are our students?

While our student body shifts slightly from year-to-year, on average we have approximately 50 students. Our students represent the diversity of Salem. We welcome all students, including English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and students who are LGBTQAI.

Academics, Essential Habits and Employment Skills

AT NEW LIBERTY, WE BELIEVE OUR THREE PILLARS HELP DEVELOP ENGAGED CITIZENS FOR SUCCESS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Academics - Academics come first at New Liberty. Our educational structure allows us to personalize learning for individual students, and help them learn in the formats that resonate with them. Students work towards skills, or competencies, in academic, social-emotional, and workplace subjects, which create a well-rounded program of study. To earn a diploma, competency must be demonstrated in all required subjects, a final Capstone project must be completed, and the student must pass all MCAS tests.

Essential Habits - We believe success derives from successful habits, which is why staff at New Liberty focus on creating habits for future growth in our students. Each of our students receives an education in forming the successful habits and 21st century learning skills they will take with them into the working world and beyond to become productive in both personal and professional settings. Our Essential Habits include social-emotional skills like being an active listener, executive function skills like being organized and goal oriented, and 21st century skills such as collaboration and leadership.

Employment - Students at New Liberty are provided with “sheltered employment” opportunities where they can practice work-readiness skills while in school and find what they love to do. We also have partnerships with local organizations to provide paid internships to our students. Additionally, students must complete several weeks of consistent, successful employment during their tenure at the school to graduate, giving them a head start in the working world.

“There’s a strong connection with staff.”

- Viktor



A Success Story

Christyna



Christyna participated in our first annual Symposium (Project) Month in December, 2016. This was a required three-week, experiential-learning program for all students. Students worked on one of three projects, all day with two co-teachers. Learning anytime, anywhere is a cornerstone of a competency-based system, and Symposium Month gave students an opportunity to focus intently on a real-world problem outside of school. Over the course of the month students made new connections with each other and took on new challenges, such as interviewing community members as part of a business plan. On Symposium Showcase Night students shared their final products with a larger audience of family members, community partners, and district personnel.

Christyna was part of the “Start Your Own Start-Up” group and on Symposium Showcase Night she pitched her business “Shark Tank-style,” and secured a \$200 stipend to get started! With colorful and plentiful social media, Christyna pitched her business, “Styna’s Cupcakes”, by serving up some of her specialties to the audience. Her pizza-puff is growing in popularity already, and a holiday version complete with a frosting-created Santa’s cap, was a hit with her fellow students. “I’ve never had a class like this before that made me really believe I could start my own business!” said Christyna.



A Success Story

Young Mother of a 2-year old

When her daughter (Maya) was younger, Sabrina had the goal of graduating by 2015. She was an 18-year old mother of a 2-year old child, who was ill and under hospital care. It was difficult to find a school that would not penalize her for taking care of her child. New Liberty was understanding of her situation, and worked around her daycare schedule, which allowed her to keep moving towards graduation.

She was able to go at her own pace, focus on one subject at a time until she felt comfortable moving to the next level. She was not pushed to meet strict deadlines, but was encouraged to understand the material over adhering to time constraints. Through guidance at New Liberty, she was able to grow and focus on time management, which will prepare her for deadlines and schedules in college.

The teacher-student relationship did the most for her success. Teachers not only listened and understood her point of view, but guided and encouraged her to move towards her goal.

Through empathy, listening, and diligence, Sabrina and her teachers were able to work together to help her graduate.

Sabrina's teachers understood her situation, but also held her accountable, and they were able to connect on a personal level and push her forward. Through the process, she learned she had to be responsible for herself in order to succeed. She became one of New Liberty's first mid-year graduates in December of 2016.

Do you know a student who would be a good fit at New Liberty?

Reach out to our Recruitment and Intake Specialist at:

information@newlibertysalem.com

or call us at **978.825.3470**