

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Bridgeport | Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

## BRIDGEPORT

### **Achievement First Bridgeport Academy**

Samantha Lucky, Principal—Elementary School  
655 Stillman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06608  
Telephone: 203-338-0593  
Email: [samanthalucky@achievementfirst.org](mailto:samanthalucky@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: K–4 | Enrollment: 468 | Opening Date: Fall 2007 | Board Chairperson: Richard Kalt – [dkalt@optonline.net](mailto:dkalt@optonline.net)**

### **Achievement First Bridgeport Academy—Middle School**

Stephanie Fox, Principal  
529 Noble Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06608  
Telephone: 203-333-9128  
Email: [stephaniefox@achievementfirst.org](mailto:stephaniefox@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 382 | Opening Date: Fall 2007 | Board Chairperson: Board Chairperson: Richard Kalt – [dkalt@optonline.net](mailto:dkalt@optonline.net)**

**Achievement First Bridgeport Academy** is a rigorous, college preparatory public charter school serving students from the Bridgeport community. The school's program is built on elements of the culture and academic curriculum developed at Amistad Academy. The school is focused on academic and social growth, with college graduation at the core of its mission. There are high expectations for student conduct and academic growth, which fosters a culture of success in which achievement is valued and “cool.” Students feel safe in this positive environment, which allows them to become more self-aware and poised individuals. There are ample learning opportunities because of extended instructional days, small-group instruction, after-school tutoring, and Summer Academy. Graduates of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy are invited to attend Amistad Elm City High School in New Haven as part of a cooperative agreement between the Achievement First schools.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Bridgeport | The Bridge Academy | Capital Preparatory Harbor School

## BRIDGEPORT

### The Bridge Academy

Tyrone Elliott, Director  
160 Pulaski Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06608  
Telephone: (203) 336-9999  
Email: [tyrone.elliott@bridgeacademy.org](mailto:tyrone.elliott@bridgeacademy.org)

### Rachel Allison

Middle School Principal  
Email: [rachel.allison@bridgeacademy.org](mailto:rachel.allison@bridgeacademy.org)

**Grades: 7–12 | Enrollment: 280 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Celeste Markle – [c\\_markle@yahoo.com](mailto:c_markle@yahoo.com)**

**The Bridge Academy** provides a college preparatory curriculum designed to overcome obstacles some have found in the inner city. The school's goals are met through parental involvement; a mentor program with professionals from the Bridgeport business community; an introduction to the world outside Bridgeport that includes the arts; and a small enrollment that fosters a sense of community and self-respect. The Bridge Academy is the only Bridgeport public school that enrolls students in 7th grade and serves them until they graduate.

### Capital Preparatory Harbor School

Richard Beganski, Jr. Asst. Superintendent  
777 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Telephone: (475) 422-5900  
Email: [rich.beganski@capitalprepharbor.org](mailto:rich.beganski@capitalprepharbor.org)

### Dr. Ayanna Carter

#### Upper School Principal

777 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Telephone: (475) 422-5900  
Email: [ayanna.carter@capitalprepharbor.org](mailto:ayanna.carter@capitalprepharbor.org)

### Ronald Hawkins

#### Lower School Principal

461 Mill Hill Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Telephone: (860)969-3300  
Email: [ronald.hawkins@capitalprepharbor.org](mailto:ronald.hawkins@capitalprepharbor.org)

**Grades: K-12 | Enrollment: 778 | Opening Date: Fall 2015 | Board Chairperson: Richardo Griffith - [richardo.griffith@capitalprepharbor.org](mailto:richardo.griffith@capitalprepharbor.org)**

**Capital Preparatory Schools** provides a year-round, college-preparatory education that encourages students to become scholars and agents of change. At Capital Prep, every student is expected to graduate and attend a four-year college of their choice. Capital Prep is an early-college model, which means students will have access to college courses while in high school.

Serving as the anchor for student development, Capital Prep educators provide an educational environment that creates opportunities for all students to realize and fulfill their academic, social, and civic responsibilities. As leaders of social justice, we expect our students to use their education to improve the lives of others.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Bridgeport | Great Oaks Charter School | New Beginnings Family Academy

## BRIDGEPORT

### Great Oaks Charter School Bridgeport

John Scalice, Principal  
375 Howard Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605  
Telephone: (203) 870-8188  
Email: [jscalice@greatoakscharter.org](mailto:jscalice@greatoakscharter.org)

**Director of Operations, Latoya Hubbard**  
Office: (203) 870-8188  
Email: [lhubbard@greatoakscharter.org](mailto:lhubbard@greatoakscharter.org)

**Grades: 6-12 | Enrollment: 661 | Opening Date: Fall 2014 | Board Chairperson: Susan Briggs - [sbriggs@greatoakscharter.org](mailto:sbriggs@greatoakscharter.org)**

The mission of the Great Oaks Charter School-Bridgeport (GO-BPT) is to prepare students to succeed in college. The purpose of the school is to give students the knowledge and values required to graduate from a competitive four-year college by delivering individualized instruction, emphasizing character development, and fostering relationships with families. What sets GO-BPT apart is the tutoring model. GO delivers at least two periods of one-on-one or small group tutoring to every student every day through the Great Oaks Tutor Corps.

At GO-BPT, the unrelenting focus on academic achievement with individualized care and support develops students' mindsets, skills, and knowledge to prepare them for high school and college success. We deeply value our scholars and recognize the greatness in every individual. Our team gets to know students extremely well so that they can educate to the individual to maximize their potential.

### New Beginnings Family Academy

Ronelle P. Swagerty, Chief Executive Officer  
184 Garden Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605  
Telephone: (203) 384-2897  
Email: [rpswagerty@nbacademy.org](mailto:rpswagerty@nbacademy.org)

**Collette Fearon, Elementary Principal** | [cfearon@nbacademy.org](mailto:cfearon@nbacademy.org)  
**Valore Turner, Middle School Principal** | [vturner@nbacademy.org](mailto:vturner@nbacademy.org)  
**Katherine Habansky, Asst. Principal, Elem.** | [khabansky@nbacademy.org](mailto:khabansky@nbacademy.org)

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 499 | Opening Date: Fall 2002 | Board Chairperson: Donald Foley – [Donald.e.foley@gmail.com](mailto:Donald.e.foley@gmail.com)**

New Beginnings Family Academy (NBFA) mission is to provide students with a meaningful, high-quality education through experience-based learning that helps them develop essential social, emotional, and critical-thinking skills. To accomplish the goal of preparing students for life-long success, NBFA works with experts from Bank Street College of Education to implement a progressive education model with emotionally responsive practice. This model attends to the whole child, not just academics, and focuses on developing collaborative, socially responsible leaders by organically weaving ethics and character building into daily instruction in small-class settings. Our student-focused approach brings out the best in each child by getting to know them individually, encouraging curiosity, and fostering their personal interests.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Bridgeport | Park City Prep Charter School

## BRIDGEPORT

### **Park City Prep Charter School**

Bruce Ravage, Executive Director  
1550 State Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605  
Telephone: (203) 953-3766 ext. 119  
Email: [bravage@parkcityprep.org](mailto:bravage@parkcityprep.org)

### **Lorraine Moore**

Assistant Director  
Telephone: (203) 953-3766 ext. 137  
Email: [lmoores@parkcityprep.org](mailto:lmoores@parkcityprep.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 360 | Opening Date: Fall 2006 | Board Chairperson: John Bryk - [jbryk@ZNCLAW.COM](mailto:jbryk@ZNCLAW.COM)**

The mission of Park City Prep is to maximize the academic achievement of each student in preparation for admission to, and success at, selective college preparatory high schools.

As part of the rigorous curriculum that emphasizes mathematics, scientific inquiry and technology, the faculty and staff work to instill in each student the "PREP" values of responsibility, excellence, and perseverance, and to imbue students with a vision of a future filled with opportunity and promise.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Hartford | Achievement First Hartford Academy

## Hartford

### **Achievement First Hartford Academy**

Raven Obas, Principal—Elementary School  
305 Greenfield Street  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 695-6560  
Email: [RavenObas@achievementfirst.org](mailto:RavenObas@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: K–4 | Enrollment: 453 | Opening Date: Fall 2008 | Board Chairperson: Patsy Mundy – [pmundy@travelers.com](mailto:pmundy@travelers.com)**

Achievement First Hartford Academy Elementary opened as part of Superintendent Steven Adamowski’s ambitious reform plan for Hartford Public Schools. At Achievement First Hartford Academy Elementary, a tremendous focus is placed on reading, which occupies three hours of instruction per day broken into alternating blocks of small group instruction. Teachers and students start the day with Morning Motivation, which includes recognition of exemplary REACH (Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship and Hard Work) and a schoolwide song to put all students on track to have a successful day of learning. At Achievement First Hartford Academy Elementary, teachers do not just preach constant learning—they practice it. Every teacher has a coach who they meet with on a weekly basis to identify strengths and develop strategies for improvement.

### **Achievement First Hartford Summit**

Emily Wojtusik, Principal—Middle School  
305 Greenfield Street  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 695-6760  
Email: [emilywojtuski@achievementfirst.org](mailto:emilywojtuski@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 444 | Opening Date: Fall 2008 | Board Chairperson: Patsy Mundy – [pmundy@travelers.com](mailto:pmundy@travelers.com)**

Achievement First Hartford Middle opened in 2008 as part of then-superintendent Steven Adamowski’s ambitious reform plan for Hartford Public Schools and is now included in the district’s portfolio of schools. The school has one clear goal: ensure that every eighth-grade student leaves the school with the academic and character skills necessary for success in a rigorous, college-preparatory high school program.

In addition to providing a rigorous academic program, AF Hartford Academy Middle is also committed to character development, and the school explicitly teaches students in Grades 5-8 to live by the REACH values: Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship and Hard Work. After school, students participate in a wide array of sports teams, music and arts opportunities, and academic clubs.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Hartford | Achievement First Hartford Academy

Jumoke Academy Charter Schools

## Hartford

### Achievement First Hartford Academy

Laneka Thomas, Principal-High School

High School

305 Greenfield Street

Hartford, CT 06112

Telephone: (860) 695-6680

Email: [lanekathomas@achievementfirst.org](mailto:lanekathomas@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 250 | Opening Date: Fall 2008 | Board Chairperson: Patsy Mundy – [pmundy@travelers.com](mailto:pmundy@travelers.com)**

Achievement First Hartford High School is a public charter high school in Hartford. It shares best practices with Achievement First Amistad High School in New Haven, the first high school in the Achievement First network of high-performing public charter schools, as well as with Achievement First Brooklyn High School, which opened in Brooklyn, NY, in 2009. One of the best lessons learned from Achievement First Amistad High School, which opened in 2006, is the need for urban high schools explicitly committed to closing the achievement gap. Achievement First Hartford High School will ensure that students receive the consistent academic rigor and character development they need to complete the path to college.

### Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Charter Schools

Dr. Troy Monroe, Executive Director

999 Asylum Avenue, Suite 200

Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: (860) 216-9634

Email: [monroet@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:monroet@jumokeacademy.org)

**Tanisha Whitter, Executive Assistant to Dr. Monroe**

Telephone: (860) 216-9634

Email: [whittert@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:whittert@jumokeacademy.org)

Academic Dean, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall

Email: [gordonhall@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:gordonhall@jumokeacademy.org)

**Grades: PK–4 | Enrollment: 394 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: James Michel - [jmichel@centralcthd.com](mailto:jmichel@centralcthd.com)**

Jumoke Academy's goal is to prepare children to compete in the global marketplace by achieving high academic and social excellence. Students are required to maintain full participation in a rigorous academic program that develops their critical thinking skills and mastery of grade appropriate math, reading, writing and science. Jumoke Academy maintains a strong partnership with its parents, community members and local universities. Among the school's objectives are teaching all children a foreign language, technology/library science and arts literacy.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Hartford | Jumoke Academy Charter Schools

## Hartford

### **TED Elementary**

Latoya Johnson, Principal  
250 Blue Hills Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 216-9621 ext. 621  
Email: [johnsonl1@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:johnsonl1@jumokeacademy.org)

**Grades: PK–4 | Enrollment: 394 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: James Michel - [jmichel@centralcth.com](mailto:jmichel@centralcth.com)**

**Jumoke Academy's** goal is to prepare children to compete in the global marketplace by achieving high academic and social excellence. Students are required to maintain full participation in a rigorous academic program that develops their critical thinking skills and mastery of grade appropriate math, reading, writing and science. Jumoke Academy maintains a strong partnership with its parents, community members and local universities. Among the school's objectives are teaching all children a foreign language, technology/library science and arts literacy.

### **Jumoke Academy Honors Middle School**

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Principal  
339 Blue Hills Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 904-7831, ext. 831  
Email: [gordonhall@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:gordonhall@jumokeacademy.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 149 | Opening Date: 2010 | Board Chairperson: James Michel - [jmichel@centralcth.com](mailto:jmichel@centralcth.com)**

Nicknamed "**JAH-SMaRT**," this middle school academy is thematically centered on STEM education and promotes classroom and enrichment activities that facilitate scientific exploration. Our mission is to develop our students into mature, young adults who will make valuable contributions to the global society. Eighth graders will leave JAH-SMaRT with a desire to question the world around them and the 21st century skills necessary to change it for the better!

Students at JAH-SMaRT participate in a rigorous academic program in language arts, math, science, and social studies. In addition to these subjects, students receive character development classes about how to navigate the transition to middle school life. Students also receive exposure to different career options in math and the science through guest lectures and a host of science themed enrichment classes.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Hartford | Jumoke Academy Charter Schools

## Hartford

### **Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory**

Nikilia Reid, Principal

875 Asylum Avenue

Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: (860) 904-5864, ext. 864

Email: [reidn@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:reidn@jumokeacademy.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 116 | Opening Date: Fall 2012 | Board Chairperson: James Michel - [jmichel@centralcthd.com](mailto:jmichel@centralcthd.com)**

**Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory** is an honors middle school with an arts integrated focus. Our mission is to develop our scholars into mature, young adults who will make valuable contributions to the global society. Scholars will graduate with exceptional 21st century skills, an appreciation for the arts, exemplary character, an understanding of diverse cultures and a confident sense of self.

At Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory (JAH-HC), scholars participate in a rigorous academic program in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition to these subjects, scholars participate in extensive arts studies that include instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, dance, and theater. The arts are also infused throughout the academic curriculum. Through experience in creative pursuits and performances, scholars will develop skills of leadership, self-motivation, collaboration, goal setting, planning, organization, and effective communication. We have created and value an environment that is engaging and responsive to adolescent development. Scholars at JAH-HC will be excited about learning, intellectually curious, and will act with thoughtfulness and compassion.



# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Manchester | Odyssey Community School

## Manchester

### Odyssey Community School

Dr. Philip O'Reilly, Executive Director  
579 West Middle Turnpike  
Manchester, CT 06040  
Telephone: (860) 645-1234  
Email: [poreilly@odysseyschool.org](mailto:poreilly@odysseyschool.org)

**Jessica Swann, Co-Principal**  
Email: [jswann@odysseyschool.org](mailto:jswann@odysseyschool.org)

**Michelle Bashaw, Co-Principal**  
Email: [mbashaw@odysseyschool.org](mailto:mbashaw@odysseyschool.org)

**Grades: K–8 | Enrollment: 329 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Miriam Lewis - [mlewis@odysseyschool.org](mailto:mlewis@odysseyschool.org)**

**Odyssey Community School's** (OCS) mission is to provide a positive elementary and middle school experience that emphasizes academic excellence, the ability to communicate effectively using traditional and technological media, and the development of strong character and self-confidence. Odyssey believes that students need to be intelligent consumers of information in this ever-changing information age. OCS provides a variety of technology tools to help students learn, and teach students to use these tools to enhance their education. The academic curriculum is rigorous, with a strong focus on helping students become critical thinkers and problem solvers.

The CIRCLE values Courage, Integrity, Respect, Curiosity, Leadership and Excellence have been our guiding values since Odyssey's first days. Teaching students to incorporate these core values in their lives, in both formal and informal ways.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Amistad Academy

## New Haven

### Amistad Academy - Elementary School

Brooke Williams, Principal  
130 Edgewood Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: (203) 772-7000  
Email: [brookewilliams@achievementfirst.org](mailto:brookewilliams@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: K–4 | Enrollment: 464 | Opening Date: Fall 2006 | Board Chairperson: Carolyn Greenspan - [cbgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:cbgreenspan@gmail.com)**

Amistad Academy Elementary opened in New Haven in 2006 as the long-awaited elementary expansion of the flagship Amistad Academy Middle School. At the beginning of the elementary school's first year of operation, only 4 percent of kindergarten scholars were reading at or above grade level; by the end of the year, the percentage had risen to 99 percent. The key to Amistad Academy Elementary's success is a school culture built on a strong foundation of sharing and caring, working hard, reflecting, and having fun. Every morning, the music teacher kicks off Morning Motivation with a chant called "Are you going to have fun today?" For teachers, collegial observation is common, and "best practices are constantly shared."

### Amistad Academy – Middle School

Roseann Basile, Principal  
130 Edgewood Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: (203) 772-7000  
Email: [roseannbasile@achievementfirst.org](mailto:roseannbasile@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 380 | Opening Date: Fall 1999 | Board Chairperson: Carolyn Greenspan - [cbgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:cbgreenspan@gmail.com)**

Amistad Academy Middle, the Achievement First flagship, opened in New Haven in 1999 and celebrated its 10th year of operation in 2009. The school was profiled in the PBS documentary "Closing the Achievement Gap" (2004) and was named Connecticut's 2006 Title I Distinguished School after having the greatest performance gains of any middle school in the state. The school gathers every week for Morning Circle, where students are recognized by teachers and peers for academic achievement and strong character skills. Town Meetings take place every six weeks and build school spirit with music, skits, cheers, and awards. Amistad Academy Middle's robust after-school enrichment program, Encore!, offers students daily expert instruction in theater, karate, dance, orchestra, volleyball, step team, graphic design and other arts and athletic activities.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Amistad Academy | Booker T. Washington Academy

## New Haven

### Amistad Academy – High School

Dr. Simon Obas, Principal  
580 Dixwell Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: (203) 772-1092  
Email: [simonobas@achievementfirst.org](mailto:simonobas@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 666 | Opening Date: Fall 2006 | Board Chairperson: Carolyn Greenspan - [cbgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:cbgreenspan@gmail.com)**

Achievement First Amistad High School is based on an innovative premise: closing the achievement gap by providing a prep-school quality education to inner-city students. Achievement First Amistad High School combines rigorous academics and high expectations with a host of supports, including SAT prep, intensive college counseling, tutoring, explicit character education and a school culture in which it is “cool” to be smart.

### Booker T. Washington Academy

John Taylor, Executive Director  
804 State Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: (203) 691-6535  
Email: [john.taylor@btwacs.org](mailto:john.taylor@btwacs.org)

**Elementary School Principal, Dr. Reginald Hickman - [reginald.hickman@btwanewhaven.org](mailto:reginald.hickman@btwanewhaven.org)**

**Middle School Principal, Tavares Bussey – [Tavares.bussey@btwanewhaven.org](mailto:Tavares.bussey@btwanewhaven.org)**  
306 Circular Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514  
Middle School Telephone – (203) 230-0071

**Grades: K–8 | Enrollment: 540 | Opening Date: Fall 2014 | Board Chairperson: Kelcy Steele - [pastorksteele@gmail.com](mailto:pastorksteele@gmail.com)**

Booker T. Washington Academy’s goal is to prepare scholars for college and beyond through a mission inspired by Booker T. Washington’s Credo: Excellence is doing common things in uncommon ways.

BTWA is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and challenging learning environment to ensure that every scholar has the capacity to read, write, think, discuss and problem solve, and that these transferable skills are effectively utilized to achieve their college and career objectives.

BTWA educates its scholars for leadership and responsible citizenship in society by developing the cognitive, moral, and social skills of children so they can compete academically and thrive in a diverse global community. BTWA’s scholars will receive a rigorous and developmentally appropriate curriculum including activities that address the unique talents and backgrounds of each child in the areas of science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, technology, physical education, music, and art.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Common Ground

## New Haven

### Common Ground High School

Monica Maccera-Filppu, Executive Director, x1216  
New Haven Ecology Project  
358 Springside Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515  
Telephone: (203) 389-4333 x1216  
Email: [maccerafilppu@commongroundct.org](mailto:maccerafilppu@commongroundct.org)

**Assistant School Director, Dr. Shanequa Sturgis-Nash**  
Email: [shanequa.sturgis-nash@commongroundct.org](mailto:shanequa.sturgis-nash@commongroundct.org)

**High School Director, Cherry Pacquette-Emmanuel**  
Email: [cherry.pacquette-emmanuel@nhep.com](mailto:cherry.pacquette-emmanuel@nhep.com)  
Telephone: (203) 389-4333 x1203

**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 230 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Robert Parker – [bob.parker@nhep.com](mailto:bob.parker@nhep.com)**

Common Ground is the nation's oldest environmental charter high school, working to build the next generation of successful college students and powerful environmental leaders. The school uses three campuses—the forested ridge of West Rock State Park, the school's 20-acre educational farm, and the city of New Haven—to engage students and provide challenging, relevant learning experiences.

Common Ground's mission is to cultivate habits of healthy living and sustainable environmental practices within a diverse community, where young and elementary-aged children, middle and high school students, the general public, and environmental practitioners can find connections to the local environment, each other, and opportunities for learning and engagement.

Students build mastery of state standards as they design new green buildings on our site, partner in the research of university scientists, launch successful environmental business ventures, and create outdoor museum exhibits.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Elm City College Preparatory School

## New Haven

### Elm City College Preparatory-Elementary School

Shanice Adams, Principal

407 James Street

New Haven, CT 06513

Telephone: (203) 772-7010

Email: [shaniceadams@achievementfirst.org](mailto:shaniceadams@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: K–4 | Enrollment: 459 | Opening Date: Fall 2004 | Board Chairperson: Dick Ferguson - [dickferguson2000@aol.com](mailto:dickferguson2000@aol.com)**

Elm City College Preparatory Elementary opened in New Haven in 2004 and was the first Achievement First school with an elementary program. Years later, the elementary reading curriculum continues to center on a three-hour, sacred reading block that uses a phonics-based literacy program and text-rich classrooms. Immersed in sounds and words, students are quickly provided with a solid, early foundation for more advanced reading. At Elm City College Preparatory Elementary, teachers find creative ways to encourage and reward hard work, such as taking students on trips to local book stores and participation in "Funtastic Friday" celebrations.

### Elm City College Preparatory-Middle School

Tanesha Forman, Principal

407 James Street

New Haven, CT 06513

Telephone: (203) 772-5332

Email: [ashiaparks@achievementfirst.org](mailto:ashiaparks@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 125 | Opening Date: Fall 2008 | Board Chairperson: Dick Ferguson - [dickferguson2000@aol.com](mailto:dickferguson2000@aol.com)**

In the 2008-09 academic year, Elm City College Preparatory Middle's fifth-graders were the first scholars in the network to have graduated from an Achievement First elementary school and moved up to an Achievement First middle school. While incoming fifth-graders had historically averaged two years below grade level, many of these students were more than a full year ahead. Elm City College Preparatory Middle boasts a particularly "warm demanding" culture, where respect, teamwork and hard work are the platinum standard.

As with all Achievement First middle schools, students at Elm City College Preparatory Middle look forward all year to the end-of-year college field trips—a critical component of the college-focused curriculum. Elm City College Preparatory Middle's fifth-grade scholars visit Temple University in Philadelphia, sixth-graders travel to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, seventh-graders visit Morehouse and Spelman Colleges in Atlanta and eighth-graders visit the University of California at Berkeley. During these trips, students tour the campuses, attend lectures, participate in mock interviews with admissions staff and stay in the dormitories. While the college visit is the core of each trip, students' horizons are broadened in countless other ways. For example, sixth-graders go camping, hiking and biking through Acadia National Park, and many eat their first lobster!

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Elm City Montessori School | Highville Charter School

## New Haven

### Elm City Montessori School

Eliza Halsey, Executive Director  
495 Blake Street  
New Haven, CT 06515  
Telephone: (475) 220-4100  
Email: [eliza.halsey@elmcitymontessori.org](mailto:eliza.halsey@elmcitymontessori.org)

### Principal, Julia Webb

Email: [julia.webb@elmcitymontessori.org](mailto:julia.webb@elmcitymontessori.org)

\*LOCAL CHARTER

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 300 | Opening Date: Fall 2014 | Board Chairperson: Michael Van Leesten - [mvanleesten@gmail.com](mailto:mvanleesten@gmail.com)**

**Elm City Montessori School** (ECMS) is a public school offering a fully implemented Montessori curriculum to New Haven families. Currently enrolling children between the ages of three and five years old, Elm City Montessori School will grow to serve 350 students in grades PK3-8 over the next 8 years. Serving a racially, economically, and socially diverse population, ECMS faculty and staff guide students as they develop within themselves the power to shape their lives and the world around them.

Elm City Montessori School is unique in that it is the only Local Charter School in the state of Connecticut. This means that, although the school has its own board of directors and substantial flexibility with regard to curriculum, ECMS works closely with the school district to ensure its students are taught by unionized, highly qualified teachers and have access to the supports they need to succeed. ECMS students are evaluated using the same tools and are held accountable to the same standards as all students attending New Haven Public Schools.

### Highville Charter School

Dr. Janet Brown-Clayton, Executive Director  
1 Science Park  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: (203) 287-0528  
Email: [jbrown-clayton@highvillecharter.com](mailto:jbrown-clayton@highvillecharter.com)

### Wathia Kelly, Executive Administrative Assistant to Dr. Clayton-Brown

Email: [wkelly@highvillecharter.com](mailto:wkelly@highvillecharter.com)

### Principal, Che Dawson

Email: [cdawson@highvillecharter.com](mailto:cdawson@highvillecharter.com)

**Grades: PK-12 | Enrollment: 502 | Opening Date: Fall 1998 | Board Chairperson: Linda Baylor - [lbaylor@highvillecharter.com](mailto:lbaylor@highvillecharter.com)**

The Highville Charter School provides the Newhallville (New Haven) and Highwood (Hamden) communities with a PK-12 school with a global studies curriculum. The school incorporates the arts and foreign languages as a means to teach the basic skills as well as the higher-order thinking skills. The Highville School is developed in partnership with three area colleges and seeks to serve as a professional development model school. The school serves as a center for cultural, health, athletic and educational programs, and workshops for the community.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New London | Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication

## New London

### [Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication](#) – (ISAAC)

Dr. Nicholas Spera, Executive Director  
190 Governor Winthrop Blvd.  
New London, CT 06320  
Telephone: (860) 447-1003  
Email: [nspera@isaacschool.org](mailto:nspera@isaacschool.org)

Mildred Rivera, Executive Assistant to Dr. Spera  
Email: [mrivera@isaacschool.org](mailto:mrivera@isaacschool.org)

Principal, William Linski-[wlinski@isaacschool.org](mailto:wlinski@isaacschool.org)  
Telephone: (860) 447-1003

Grades: 6–8 | Enrollment: 276 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Richard Muckle - [rmuckle@isaacschool.org](mailto:rmuckle@isaacschool.org)

**ISAAC**, established in 1997, is a public charter middle school operated by a board of directors. Students are accepted through an open, non-merit-based lottery that currently draws from 13 different towns and cities in southeastern Connecticut. In 2014, ISAAC was awarded the State Department of Education School of Distinction Award for the Highest Progress. In 2020, ISAAC received initial candidacy accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). ISAAC offers an extensive array of arts and communication-themed programs and opportunities, as well as academically rigorous high school preparatory classes that meet the needs of all students. Sixth graders are heterogeneously placed in high school-prep only courses. In seventh grade, advanced levels of study are offered in Honors Pre-Algebra and English Language Arts. In 2021, ISAAC was awarded the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant that allows students the opportunity to participate in after-school programming such as: cooking club, environmental club, video game club, leadership club, along with a full array of seasonal athletics including cross country, fencing, boys' and girls' basketball and girls volleyball.

ISAAC is a diverse middle school in which arts and communication act as the heartbeat. We believe that all students can succeed with hard work and grit. Our stakeholders support the development of each student's journey in becoming critical thinkers, lifelong learners by developing the academic, civic, and social skills needed to be difference makers as active citizens in our communities.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Norwich | Integrated Day Charter School

South Norwalk | Side By Side Charter School

## Norwich

### Integrated Day Charter School

Dr. Ellen Retelle, Director  
68 Thermos Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360  
Telephone: (860) 892-1900  
Email: [ellenr@idcs.org](mailto:ellenr@idcs.org)

**Assistant Director, Debby Allard**  
Email: [deba@idcs.org](mailto:deba@idcs.org)

**Grades: PK–8 | Enrollment: 352 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Cheryl Blanchard – [cherylb@idcs.org](mailto:cherylb@idcs.org)**

The Integrated Day Charter School, in partnership with its children, families and community, provides a safe, flexible, and academically challenging learning environment that meets the unique social, emotional, academic, and physical needs of each child. IDCS students will become confident, socially responsible citizens and lifelong learners who apply their knowledge to improve themselves and the world around them.

Specific areas of concentration include individual research, parental involvement, social curriculum, multi-age grouping, personal goal setting and assessment, community building and an extended schedule.

## South Norwalk

### Side By Side Charter School

Matthew Nittoly, Executive Director  
10 Chestnut Street  
South Norwalk, CT 06854  
Telephone: (203) 857-0306  
Email: [mnittoly@sbscharter.org](mailto:mnittoly@sbscharter.org)

**Assistant Director, Mary Newbery**  
Email: [mnewbery@sbscharter.org](mailto:mnewbery@sbscharter.org)

**Grades: PK–8 | Enrollment: 236 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Larry Cafero – [lcafero@caferolaw.com](mailto:lcafero@caferolaw.com)**

The mission of the Side By Side Charter School is to create a multiracial learning environment for urban and suburban children and their families that ensures every child succeeds and every voice is heard. The school addresses all factors that affect achievement. It houses a Family Center using the 21st Century School model developed by Edward Zigler at Yale University. As a professional development model school, Side by Side is committed to perfecting the art and craft of teaching. Its philosophy of social justice drives its interdisciplinary curriculum. As a training site for interns, it serves as a model for child-centered, interactive instruction in a diverse setting.



# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Stamford | Stamford Charter School for Excellence

Waterbury | Brass City Charter School

## Stamford

### Stamford Charter School for Excellence

Kevin Fischer, Executive Director

1 Schuyler Avenue

Stamford, CT 06902

Telephone: (203) 989-0000

Email: [KFischer@stamfordexcellence.org](mailto:KFischer@stamfordexcellence.org)

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 560 | Opening Date: Fall 2015 | Board Chairperson: Debra Logan-Rabb - [Therabbs@hotmail.com](mailto:Therabbs@hotmail.com)**

The Stamford Charter School for Excellence is a public charter school based on a proven, nationally-recognized school model, practiced by the Bronx Charter School for Excellence, that can boost student achievement and prepare more Stamford students for college and the jobs of tomorrow. The Key Elements of the Model Proposed for the Stamford School High academic standards focused on preparing kids for college and jobs, extended school days, broad liberal arts education that stresses teaching critical thinking skills, data-driven instruction, rigorous parent engagement and open collaboration with the community.

While there are charter and high schools, there are no charter elementary schools in Stamford. SCSE offers another high performing academic option for families.

## Waterbury

### Brass City Charter School

Dr. Barbara L. Ruggiero, Executive Director

289 Willow Street

Waterbury CT, 06710

Telephone: (203) 527-5942

Email: [bruggiero@brasscitycharter.org](mailto:bruggiero@brasscitycharter.org)

**Academic Dean, Katie Parente:** [kparente@brasscitycharter.org](mailto:kparente@brasscitycharter.org)

**Academic Dean, Lily Zhao:** [lzhao@brasscitycharter.org](mailto:lzhao@brasscitycharter.org)

**Grades: PK–8 | Enrollment: 360 | Opening Date: Fall 2013 | Board Chairperson: Annie Scott – [Annscott622@aol.com](mailto:Annscott622@aol.com)**

Brass City Charter School (BCCS) provides a rigorous academic and holistic social-emotional learning program that will eliminate the achievement gap for underserved students. BCCS enables students to soar academically, develop as people of character, and lead meaningful and productive lives both for themselves and for their community. BCCS is based on the very successful educational model that has operated at the Children’s Community School for 45 years. Highly dedicated staff who believe in the potential of each child, coupled with small classes, an extended school day and a longer school year all support the program. Parents are expected to play a significant role in their child’s education.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Winsted | Explorations

## Winsted

### Explorations Charter School

Jill Johnson, Principal  
The Brian J. O'Neil Building  
71 Spencer Street  
Winsted, CT 06098  
Telephone: (860) 738-9070  
Email: [jill@explorationscs.com](mailto:jill@explorationscs.com)

**Assistant Principal, Joseph White**  
Email: [joseph@explorationscs.com](mailto:joseph@explorationscs.com)

**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 92 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Ginni Block - [ginnib754@gmail.com](mailto:ginnib754@gmail.com)**

The mission of Explorations Charter School is to provide an environment that cultivates a positive attitude toward lifelong learning in an experiential, non-traditional educational setting.

Explorations' program emphasizes activities, which foster the acceptance of responsibility and the development of positive decision-making and problem solving skills. We encourage students to develop a healthy attitude toward their school, community, work, family, and, most important, toward their own sense of self. Through family and community involvement, our students realize how each of us takes ownership in contributing to a better future for all.

It is the goal of EXPLORATIONS Charter School to develop students into adults who will be good citizens, good and productive role models, and giving individuals who will make a positive contribution to society.