

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

## Bridgeport | Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

### BRIDGEPORT

#### **Achievement First Bridgeport Academy**

Shalia Garnett, Principal-Elementary School  
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Bridgeport, CT 06608-1331  
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**Grades: K-4 | Enrollment: 467 | Opening Date: Fall 2010 | Board Chairperson: Rajeev Lakra – [Raj.Lakra@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Raj.Lakra@wellsfargo.com)**

[Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Elementary School](#) is a public charter school located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Serving students in kindergarten through Grade 4, with a focus on cultivating a lifelong love of learning and helping students develop the building block skills of success.

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

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

**Grades: 5-8 | Enrollment: 383 | Opening Date: Fall 2007 | Board Chairperson: Rajeev Lakra – [Raj.Lakra@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Raj.Lakra@wellsfargo.com)**

[Achievement First Bridgeport Academy](#) is a rigorous college preparatory public charter school that serves students from the Bridgeport community. The educational program is built upon the culture and academic curriculum developed at Amistad Academy. Achievement First Bridgeport prioritizes both academic and social growth, with a central mission focused on guiding students towards college graduation and/or careers. Achievement First Bridgeport Academy maintains high expectations for student behavior and academic progress, fostering a culture where achievement is not only valued but also considered 'cool.' Within this positive environment, students feel safe, inspiring them to develop greater self-awareness and confidence. To support our students' learning journeys, we offer numerous opportunities, including extended instructional days, small-group learning, after-school tutoring, and a Summer Academy program. Graduates of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy have the opportunity to continue their education at Amistad High School in New Haven through a cooperative agreement between the Achievement First schools.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Bridgeport | The Bridge Academy | Capital Preparatory Harbor School

## BRIDGEPORT

### The Bridge Academy

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

**Middle School Principal | Rachel Allison** [rachel.allison@bridgeacademy.org](mailto:rachel.allison@bridgeacademy.org)

**Grades: 7–12 | Enrollment: 281 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: James Rawlins, Jr. – [rawlinsj1@gmail.com](mailto:rawlinsj1@gmail.com)**

[The Bridge Academy](#) serves 280 students in grades 7 through 12. We are a small, supportive learning environment that works to meet the diverse needs of all community members. One hundred percent of our seniors are accepted to college, and many return to work at Bridge after graduating. We are especially proud of the fact that many of our alumni send their children to Bridge. We have been serving the families of Bridgeport for over 25 years and look forward to 25 more!

### Capital Preparatory Harbor School

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

### Upper School Principal

**Wynton Borders**  
777 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Telephone: (475) 422-5900  
[wynton.borders@capitalprepharbor.org](mailto:wynton.borders@capitalprepharbor.org)

### Lower School Principal

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

**Grades: K-12 | Enrollment: 775 | Opening Date: Fall 2015 | Board Chairperson: Robert Morton - [robert@mortonsmortuary.com](mailto:robert@mortonsmortuary.com)**

[Capital Preparatory Harbor School](#) 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@gobpt.org](mailto:jscalice@gobpt.org)

**Middle School Principal** | Denise Linares [dlinares@gobpt.org](mailto:dlinares@gobpt.org)  
**High School Principal** | Chris Pellegrino [cpellegrino@gobpt.org](mailto:cpellegrino@gobpt.org)

**Director of Operations** | Latoya Hubbard [lhubbard@gobpt.org](mailto:lhubbard@gobpt.org)

**Grades: 6-12 | Enrollment: 662 | Opening Date: Fall 2014 | Board Chairperson: Bob Carlson - [bcarlson@greatoakscharter.org](mailto:bcarlson@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 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@nbfacademy.org](mailto:rpswagerty@nbfacademy.org)

**Lower School Principal** | Collette Fearon [cfearon@nbfacademy.org](mailto:cfearon@nbfacademy.org)  
**Upper School Principal** | Valore Turner [vtturner@nbfacademy.org](mailto:vtturner@nbfacademy.org)

**Chief Academic Officer** | Pam Dalton [pdalton@nbfacademy.org](mailto:pdalton@nbfacademy.org)

**Grades: PK-6 | Enrollment: 431 | 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. NBFA's emotionally responsive 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)

**Assistant Director | Lorraine Moore** [lmoore@parkcityprep.org](mailto:lmoore@parkcityprep.org)  
Telephone: (203) 953-3766 ext. 137

**Grades: 4–8 | Enrollment: 434 | Opening Date: Fall 2006 | Board Chairperson: John Bryk - [jbryk@ZNCLAW.COM](mailto:jbryk@ZNCLAW.COM)**

The mission of [Park City Prep Charter School](#) 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**

Sueleidy Cruz, Principal–Elementary School  
305 Greenfield Street  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 695-6560  
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**Grades: K–4 | Enrollment: 384 | Opening Date: Fall 2008 | Board Chairperson: Erwin Hurst, Sr. – [ethurst@gmail.com](mailto:ethurst@gmail.com)**

[Achievement First Hartford Academy Elementary](#) was established as a vital component of then-Superintendent Steven Adamowski's ambitious reform plan for Hartford Public Schools. At our school, a tremendous focus is placed on reading, with three hours of daily instruction dedicated to this subject, delivered in alternating blocks of small group sessions. Each school day starts with "Morning Motivation," a joyful time that acknowledges students exemplifying REACH values (Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship, and Hard Work). Additionally, a schoolwide song is sung to set a positive tone, ensuring that every student embarks on a successful day of learning. At Achievement First Hartford Academy Elementary, the commitment to constant learning extends to the educators themselves. Each teacher is paired with a coach, with whom they meet weekly to pinpoint strengths and develop strategies for improvement.

### **Achievement First Hartford Summit**

O'Raina Simmons, Principal–Middle School  
305 Greenfield Street  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 695-6760  
Email: [orainasimmons@achievementfirst.org](mailto:orainasimmons@achievementfirst.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 357 | Opening Date: Fall 2008 | Board Chairperson: Erwin Hurst, Sr. – [ethurst@gmail.com](mailto:ethurst@gmail.com)**

[Achievement First Hartford Middle](#) was established in 2008 as part of an ambitious reform plan led by then-Superintendent Steven Adamowski for Hartford Public Schools and now holds a place within the district's diverse school portfolio. The school's primary goal is clear: to ensure that every eighth-grade student leaves us equipped with both the academic readiness and character traits necessary for success in a demanding, college-preparatory high school program. Beyond its rigorous academic offerings, AF Hartford Academy Middle is deeply committed to character development. Students in Grades 5-8 receive explicit instruction in embodying the REACH values: Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship, and Hard Work. Furthermore, the educational experience extends beyond regular school hours. After classes, students can participate in a wide array of activities, including sports teams, music, and arts opportunities, as well as various 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: 323 | Opening Date: Fall 2012 | Board Chairperson: Erwin Hurst, Sr. – [ethurst@gmail.com](mailto:ethurst@gmail.com)**

[Achievement First Hartford High School](#) located in Hartford, is a public charter high school. It operates in close collaboration with Achievement First Amistad High School in New Haven, the inaugural high school within the Achievement First network of high-performing public charter schools. Additionally, it shares insights and practices with Achievement First Brooklyn High School, which commenced operations in Brooklyn, NY, in 2009. One of the invaluable lessons drawn from the experience of Achievement First Amistad High School, established in 2006, is the critical importance of urban high schools dedicated to the explicit mission of closing the opportunity gap. Achievement First Hartford High School is committed to ensuring that students receive a consistent blend of academic rigor and character development, ultimately equipping them to navigate the path to college, career, and beyond.

### Jumoke Academy Charter School, Inc.

Dr. Troy Monroe, CEO/Superintendent  
250 Blue Hills Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 527-0575  
Email: [monroet@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:monroet@jumokeacademy.org)

**Executive Assistant to Dr. Monroe | Natalie Best [bestn@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:bestn@jumokeacademy.org)**

**Chief Academic Dean | Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall [gordonhall@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:gordonhall@jumokeacademy.org)**

**Grades: PK–8 | Enrollment: 618 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Samuel S. Gray, Jr. - [sgray@bgca.org](mailto:sgray@bgca.org)**

[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: 409 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Samuel S. Gray, Jr. – [sgray@bgca.org](mailto:sgray@bgca.org)**

[Jumoke Academy's](#) mission is to prepare children to compete in the global marketplace by achieving high academic and social excellence. Scholars 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 exposing all children to a world language, technology, science, and arts literacy.

TED Elementary School's PreK program is accredited by the National Association for the education of Young Children (NAEYC).

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

Kashay Green, Principal  
339 Blue Hills Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112  
Telephone: (860) 904-7831, ext. 831  
Email: [greenk@jumokeacademy.org](mailto:greenk@jumokeacademy.org)

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 139 | Opening Date: 2010 | Board Chairperson: Samuel S. Gray, Jr. - [sgray@bgca.org](mailto:sgray@bgca.org)**

Nicknamed "[JAH-SMaRT" 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!

Scholars at JAH-SMaRT participate in the Amazon Future Engineers program and a rigorous academic program in language arts, math, science, and social studies. In addition to these subjects, scholars receive character development classes about how to navigate the transition to middle school life. Scholars also receive exposure to different career options in math and 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**

Bobby Gibson, Principal

875 Asylum Avenue

Hartford, CT 06105

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

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

**Grades: 5–8 | Enrollment: 70 | Opening Date: Fall 2012 | Board Chairperson: Samuel S. Gray, Jr. - [sgray@bgca.org](mailto:sgray@bgca.org)**

[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 and multimedia 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**

Sally Dastoli, Executive Director 579  
West Middle Turnpike  
Manchester, CT 06040  
Email: [sdastoli@odysseyschool.org](mailto:sdastoli@odysseyschool.org)  
Telephone: (860) 645-1234 ext. 156

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

Telephone (860) 645-1234 ext.147

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

Telephone (860) 645-1234 ext.165

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 410 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Miriam Lewis - [mlewis@odysseyschool.org](mailto:mlewis@odysseyschool.org)**

[Odyssey Community School](#) (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 Elementary School | Amistad Middle School

## NEW HAVEN

### Amistad Academy - Elementary School

Lauren Raimondi, Principal

130 Edgewood Avenue

New Haven, CT 06511

Telephone: (203) 772-7000

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

**Grades: K-4 | Enrollment: 470 | Opening Date: Fall 2006 | Board Chairperson: Lorraine Gibbons - [lgibbons@shehancenter.org](mailto:lgibbons@shehancenter.org)**

[Amistad Academy Elementary](#) opened in New Haven in 2006, as a long-anticipated expansion of the flagship Amistad Academy Middle School. During the inaugural year of the elementary school, a remarkable transformation occurred: at the start, only 4 percent of kindergarten students were reading at or above their grade level, but by the year's end, an impressive 99 percent had achieved this milestone. The key to the remarkable success of Amistad Academy Elementary lies in its foundation of a vibrant school culture characterized by values such as sharing, caring, hard work, reflection, and enjoyment of the learning process. Each morning, the music teacher leads "Morning Motivation" with an engaging chant, asking, "Are you going to have fun today?" Furthermore, a culture of mutual support and growth thrives among the educators, with regular collegial observations and a continuous exchange of best practices.

### Amistad Academy - Middle School

Jasmine Watts, Principal

130 Edgewood Avenue

New Haven, CT 06511

Telephone: (203) 772-7000

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

**Grades: 5-8 | Enrollment: 375 | Opening Date: Fall 1999 | Board Chairperson: Lorraine Gibbons - [lgibbons@shehancenter.org](mailto:lgibbons@shehancenter.org)**

[Amistad Academy Middle](#), the flagship institution of Achievement First, was established in New Haven in 1999, and marked its 20th year of operation in 2019. This renowned school gained significant recognition when it was featured in the PBS documentary titled "Closing the Achievement Gap" in 2004. It also earned the distinction of being named Connecticut's 2006 Title I Distinguished School due to achieving the most substantial performance gains among all middle schools in the state. The school has a strong sense of community, illustrated by its weekly "Morning Circle" gatherings. During these sessions, students receive recognition from both teachers and peers for their academic accomplishments and exemplary character traits. Additionally, "Town Meetings" occur every six weeks, fostering school spirit through music, skits, cheers, and awards. Amistad Academy Middle School also boasts a robust after-school enrichment program known as "Encore!" This program provides students with daily instruction in various areas, including theater, karate, dance, orchestra, volleyball, step team, graphic design, and other arts and athletic activities.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Amistad Academy High School

## NEW HAVEN

### Amistad Academy – High School

AJ Lowe, Principal  
580 Dixwell Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: (203) 772-1092  
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**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 666 | Opening Date: Fall 2006 | Board Chairperson: Lorraine Gibbons - [lgibbons@shehancenter.org](mailto:lgibbons@shehancenter.org)**

**Achievement First [Amistad High School](#)** is a college and career preparatory public charter school in New Haven, Connecticut. We provide a life-altering education that prepares students for the opportunities and responsibilities they will face in college and beyond. The school was founded in 2006 based on one innovative premise: close the opportunity gap by providing a prep-school-quality education to urban students. Achievement First Amistad High combines rigorous courses and high expectations with a host of support services more common at affluent and private high schools, including SAT prep, intensive college counseling, tutoring and explicit character education. Achievement First Amistad High is recognized as a national model of education reform, proving what is truly possible when urban students receive a world-class education. In the classrooms at Achievement First Amistad High, all students are prepared to take responsibility for their own learning. As students' progress from grade 9 to 12, instruction shifts from a teacher-directed approach to student-led exchanges of ideas. Outside of class, students grow as athletes, volunteers, leaders and responsible community members through participation in the school's extracurricular, athletic and arts programs.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Booker T. Washington Academy

## NEW HAVEN

### **Booker T. Washington Academy**

Adam Rosenberg, Middle School Principal  
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New Haven, CT 06511  
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**Elementary School Principal | Charlene Antoine** [charlene.antoine@btwanewhaven.org](mailto:charlene.antoine@btwanewhaven.org)

### **Middle School Principal | Adam Rosenberg**

306 Circular Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514  
Middle School Telephone – (203) 230-0071

**Grades: K–8 | Enrollment: 404 | Opening Date: Fall 2014 | Board Chairperson: Rev. 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 High School

## NEW HAVEN

### Common Ground High School

Genevive Walker, Executive Director, x1216  
New Haven Ecology Project  
358 Springside Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515  
Telephone: (203) 389-4333 x1216  
Email: [genevive.walker@nhep.com](mailto:genevive.walker@nhep.com)

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

**High School Director | Monique Frasier**  
[monique.frasier@commongroundct.org](mailto:monique.frasier@commongroundct.org) Telephone: (203) 389-4333 x1203

**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 221 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Alexis Smith – [alexis.smith@nhep.com](mailto:alexis.smith@nhep.com)**

[Common Ground High School](#) 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 its campus-20 acres of wetland, farm and forest at the base of West Rock State Park - and the city of New Haven to engage students and provide challenging, relevant learning experiences.

Common Ground mission is to serve as a center for learning and leadership, inviting people of all ages and identities to connect to their urban environment, build community, grow to their full potential and contribute to a just and sustainable world.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Elm City Montessori School | Highville Charter School

## NEW HAVEN

### Elm City College Preparatory-Elementary School

Serena Johnson, Principal

407 James Street

New Haven, CT 06513

Telephone: (203) 772-7010

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

**Grades: K-4 | Enrollment: 323 | Opening Date: Fall 2004 | Board Chairperson: Dick Ferguson - [dickferguson2000@aol.com](mailto:dickferguson2000@aol.com)**

[Elm City College Preparatory Elementary](#) which opened its doors in New Haven in 2004, marked a significant milestone as the first Achievement First school to introduce an elementary program. Even years after its establishment, the school maintains a steadfast focus on its elementary reading curriculum. Central to this curriculum is a dedicated three-hour reading block, considered a cornerstone of the educational approach. This block revolves around a phonics-based literacy program and the creation of text-rich classrooms. Through immersion in the world of sounds and words, students quickly acquire a strong foundation for more advanced reading. At Elm City College Preparatory Elementary, educators employ creative methods to foster and acknowledge hard work among students. These initiatives include taking students on field trips to local bookstores and organizing "Funtastic Friday" celebrations, adding an element of excitement to the learning experience.

### Elm City College Preparatory-Middle School

Tanesha Forman, Principal

403 James Street

New Haven, CT 06513

Telephone: (203) 772-5332

Email: [tanashaforman@achievementfirst.org](mailto:tanashaforman@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, a significant milestone was reached at [Elm City College Preparatory Middle School](#). It marked the first instance in the network where fifth graders transitioned from an Achievement First elementary school to an Achievement First middle school. This shift was as noteworthy, as historically, incoming fifth graders had typically lagged by two years in terms of grade-level proficiency. However, many of these students now found themselves not only catching up but also surpassing their grade-level expectations by more than a full year. Elm City College Preparatory Middle takes pride in cultivating a particularly nurturing yet demanding culture. Here, respect, teamwork, and unwavering dedication to hard work serve as the gold standard.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Haven | Elm City Montessori School | Highville Charter School

## NEW HAVEN

\*LOCAL CHARTER

### Elm City Montessori School

Julia Webb, Principal

495 Blake Street

New Haven, CT 06515

Telephone: (475) 220-4100

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

**Director of Finance and Operations | Florisca Carter** [florisca.carter@elmcitymontessori.org](mailto:florisca.carter@elmcitymontessori.org)

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 312 | 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

Che Dawson, Principal

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**Principal's Assistant | Elizabeth Fernandez** [efernandez@highvillecharter.com](mailto:efernandez@highvillecharter.com)

**Director of Business Operations | Ebony West** [ewest@highvillecharter.com](mailto:ewest@highvillecharter.com)

**Grades: PK-12 | Enrollment: 499 | Opening Date: Fall 1998 | Board Chairperson: Linda Baylor - [lbaylor@highvillecharter.com](mailto:lbaylor@highvillecharter.com)**

Located in the heart of Newhallville, [Highville Charter School](#) provides Greater New Haven and its surrounding towns a caring community with strong parent involvement. Highville prepares and instills a desire for all learners to confidently use technology, think globally and develop into globally conscious citizens. Students will gain the confidence necessary to chart their course through an ever-changing society and utilize their global knowledge to make informed decisions. Such a globally conscious citizen will be values-oriented, wellness conscious, career directed, competent in communications and problem-solving, skillful in creative and critical thinking, culturally sophisticated, and acutely aware of global interdependence.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

New London | Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication

## NEW LONDON

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

Dr. Nicholas Spera, Executive Director  
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**Executive Assistant** | Mildred Rivera [mrivera@isaacschool.org](mailto:mrivera@isaacschool.org)  
**Assistant Principal** | Mercedes Alger [malger@isaacschool.org](mailto:malger@isaacschool.org)  
**Principal** | Tanya Collins [tcollins@isaacschool.org](mailto:tcollins@isaacschool.org)

**Grades: 4, 6–8 | Enrollment: 328 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Richard Muckle - [rmuckle@isaacschool.org](mailto:rmuckle@isaacschool.org)**

[Interdistrict School for Arts & Communication \(ISAAC\)](#), 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

Debby Allard, Executive Director  
68 Thermos Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360  
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Email: [deba@idcs.org](mailto:deba@idcs.org)

Assistant Director | [Jen Spangle jens@idcs.org](mailto:jens@idcs.org)

**Grades: PK–8 | Enrollment: 364 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Allie Martin – [alliem@idcs](mailto:alliem@idcs)**

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  
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Email: [mnittoly@sbscharter.org](mailto:mnittoly@sbscharter.org)

Assistant Director | [Mary Newbery 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. 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  
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**Principal | Tristan Fields** [Tfields@stamfordexcellence.org](mailto:Tfields@stamfordexcellence.org)

**Director of Operations/Finance | Monica Rios** [mrrios@stamfordexcellence.org](mailto:mrrios@stamfordexcellence.org)

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 543 | Opening Date: Fall 2015 | Board Chairperson: Debra Logan-Rabb - [Therabbs@hotmail.com](mailto:Therabbs@hotmail.com)**

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

**Principal | Dr. Jeanine Pocoski, Ed.D.** [jpocoski@brasscitycharter.org](mailto:jpocoski@brasscitycharter.org)

**Coordinator, Upper School | Kristin White** [kwhite@brasscitycharter.org](mailto:kwhite@brasscitycharter.org)

**Grades: PK-8 | Enrollment: 401 | 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 a highly relational school. We celebrate a dedicated staff who believe deeply in the potential of each child, small class size, a structure that is highly supportive of teachers and their development, and community involvement. Parents are expected to play a significant role in their child's education.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

Winsted | Explorations Charter School

## WINSTED

### Explorations Charter School

Jill Johnson, Principal  
The Brian J. O'Neil Building  
71 Spencer Street  
Winsted, CT 06098  
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**Assistant Principal | Joseph White** [joseph@explorationscs.com](mailto:joseph@explorationscs.com)

**Assistant Principal | Bill Hallam** [bill@explorationscs.com](mailto:bill@explorationscs.com)

**Grades: 9–12 | Enrollment: 77 | Opening Date: Fall 1997 | Board Chairperson: Robert Peterson –** [spiah2012@gmail.com](mailto:spiah2012@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 importantly, 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 individuals who will make a positive contribution to society.