



the **ACADEMY**
ELEMENTARY - HEMPSTEAD
CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

At the Lower Elementary School, our instructional and socio-emotional learning program creates an educational environment that supports literacy development and fosters academic success.

Our schools focus on building strong foundational literacy skills to promote successful learning outcomes across core subjects, including reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, all aligned with the New York State Next Generation Standards. We implement a structured foundational literacy program based on principles from the science of reading. As a result, our students receive explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing to become proficient readers. In addition to core subjects, our students regularly participate in physical education and are exposed to the arts, music, STEM, and Readers Theater.

Our instructional program is tailored to provide targeted small-group instruction that meets the diverse learning needs of all students, including English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Our scholars begin each day engaging in social-emotional learning (SEL) activities that help them build critical life skills to make socially and emotionally responsible decisions as they navigate life's everyday challenges.

STEM: Our K-8 STEM program is designed to cultivate curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Grounded in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), it immerses students in science and engineering practices, fostering confidence and creativity through inquiry-based learning and real-world application.

Students build a strong foundation in scientific concepts and skills through increasing rigor and hands-on projects each year. The program prepares them for our high school CTE/STEM pathway, equipping them with career-ready skills and a passion for innovation.

Our curriculum is regularly updated to align with the latest STEM education standards at state, federal, and international levels.

PERFORMING ARTS

- **General Music:** Focuses on singing, movement, and exploring classroom instruments like recorders and hand percussion. The program develops basic musical literacy and rhythmic skills through engaging group activities and aligns with New York State Arts Standards for early learners.
- **Visual Arts:** Introduces basic artistic techniques, including drawing, painting, and crafting. Students build creativity, motor skills, and understanding of fundamental art concepts such as color, shape, and texture.

ATHLETICS

The Athletics Department at The Academy Charter School proudly leads the way as the first charter school in Nassau and Suffolk County to gain membership in the prestigious New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). This recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence in sports and the development of our student-athletes. Starting in the third grade, our intramural athletics program introduces students to competitive sports, fostering teamwork, skill-building, and a love for physical activity. This foundational program is designed to prepare students for more advanced competitive play as they transition into our middle school athletics program beginning in 7th grade.

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With state-of-the-art facilities, a passionate and professional coaching staff, and a supportive environment, we ensure our young athletes are equipped for success both on and off the field. As members of both Section VIII and Section XI, the Academy Charter School Athletics Department continues to set a high standard for charter school athletics across New York State.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Counseling Department: The Elementary School Counseling Department is dedicated to fostering the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students. Our team of skilled counselors is committed to empowering students to overcome challenges, make informed decisions, and thrive both academically and personally.

We offer a range of supportive services and access to valuable resources to create a nurturing environment that promotes learning and development. Recognizing the importance of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), we have integrated a comprehensive SEL program across all elementary grades. Utilizing the Responsive Classroom approach and the Second Step curriculum, we help students develop essential social skills and emotional intelligence.

Our counselors work collaboratively with teachers, families, and community partners to ensure effective communication and support for every child. In line with a holistic approach, our school social workers play a vital role in connecting students with necessary resources and services, focusing on enhancing academic performance and promoting positive behavioral outcomes.

The Counseling Department also emphasizes the importance of parent engagement, offering workshops and training to equip families with knowledge about child development and social-emotional well-being.

ENL/ELL Program: The Academy's ENL/ELL program consists of both the stand-alone for language and push-in models with the primary goal of language acquisition related to reading, speaking, listening, and writing domains. NYS certified teachers provide group intervention services for ELLs depending on their NYSESLAT or NYSITELL proficiency levels with the goal of the students commanding the English language which is shown by a passing score on the NYSELAT or English Regents assessments.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students who have been evaluated by their home district and identified as a student with a disability will receive an INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP) from the district. All IEPs MUST BE presented to the school and screened by the Director of Student Support Services PRIOR to acceptance to determine if the services recommended on the student's IEP can be provided at the Academy.

Related service providers are hired consultants provided through the student's home district. They are expected to work under the supervision of the Director of Student Services and are expected to provide high quality instruction/services through effective best practices such as teacher collaboration, teacher articulation and progress monitoring. In our inclusion classes, there are two teachers (a general education and a special education teacher) who collaborate regularly to provide effective high quality through the implementation of effective best instructional practices.

The Academy Elementary School - Hempstead: Grades K-2
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Phone: (516) 408-2200
Dr. Kimberly Hunter, Principal



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3RD - 5TH GRADE

At the Upper Elementary School, scholars strive to attain academic excellence by engaging in rigorous instruction in core subjects, including reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, all aligned with the New York State Next Generation Standards. Instructions in reading and mathematics are prioritized and customized to provide targeted small-group instructions that cater to diverse learning needs. A blended learning approach has been adopted by the school to allow for personalized instructions that adapt to the changing needs of each student. Our afterschool and Saturday programs offer extended opportunities for academic intervention to ensure mastery of core skills. These initiatives work together to create an educational environment that assists students to meet and exceed the expected benchmarks for success.

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PERFORMING ARTS

• **General Music (Grade 3):**

Students continue vocal development and begin learning music notation. They are introduced to recorders and other classroom instruments.

• **Instrumental Music (Grades 4-5):**

Students explore wind, brass, and percussion instruments, focusing on foundational playing techniques and music reading. Performance opportunities, such as recitals and school events, help build stage confidence.

• **Visual Arts:**

Students engage in intermediate-level art projects, including drawing, painting, and sculpting. The program encourages personal expression and introduces foundational portfolio practices.

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The Academy Elementary School - Hempstead: Grades 3-5

Address: 159 A. North St. Hempstead, NY 11550

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Ms. Madonna Liberus, Principal



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