



**The Seacoast Charter School is a publicly funded elementary and middle school, uniquely focused on experiencing education through the arts. The school was founded in 2004 serving 8 children in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Over the past 18 years, we've grown to serve more than 300 children in grades Pre-K – 8. We acknowledge that every day provides us the opportunity to learn, and as we evolve, our focus is not only to provide a nurturing environment for our children, but also grow the connections with the local communities we serve.**

## **MISSION**

The mission of the Seacoast Charter School is to provide excellence in core academics and the arts while cultivating the individual qualities and strengths of each child. At the Seacoast Charter School, arts and academics go hand in hand. We believe that the arts bring us joy, and when we feel joy, we learn more deeply and effectively. Through a robust and varied arts program, our students learn to look closely, listen carefully, respond thoughtfully and work collaboratively. Opportunities for creative expression and independent thinking are an integral part of our rigorous academic program. The combination of challenging intellectual and artistic endeavors develops our students' hearts and minds and enables them to live more fully in the world.

## **ARTS INTEGRATION**

The arts are the foundation of everyday life at Seacoast Charter School. By supporting an arts-integrated approach to teaching, a central and recurring focus on the arts, students are empowered to learn traditional school subjects in an enlightened manner. Our primary focus is on the process by which students learn and grow, while fostering a culture that emphasizes responsibility and self-awareness. At the Seacoast Charter School, we immerse our students in a culture where individual voices are respected and creativity flourishes.

## **ABOUT NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Charter schools offer students, families, and teachers a fresh option as compared to traditional public or private schools. In New Hampshire, charter schools are funded by the state, but at a rate significantly lower on a per student basis compared to traditional public schools. In exchange for limited funding, charter schools are given the freedom to create unique missions or "charters" that embody the values of the school. Seacoast Charter School passionately believes that the power of the arts, the love and support of the community, and the ability to attract and retain the best educators in the area overcome these funding challenges.

At Seacoast Charter school, we not only embrace family involvement, but we rely on it. Children, families, school, and community join to form an interdependent system. We value and utilize the tremendous resources available to our students through our parents and the greater community. We support and encourage a strong connection between learning at home and at school, which positively impacts our students' attitudes and achievements.



## FAQ's

**What time does school start?** 8:30 AM (drop off between 8:00-8:25)

**What time does school end?** 3:00 PM (pick up by 3:15)

**Which district's calendar do you follow?** We create our own, but we schedule vacations for the same weeks as the rest of the New Hampshire schools.

**Do you have a Special Education Department?** Yes. We have four special education teachers on staff. As a public school, we accept students with IEP's, as long as we can properly meet their needs. IEP services are contracted through the student's home district. Services are coordinated by our special education coordinator and each student's case manager. We also have a school counselor.

**Which curriculum do you follow?** Since we are a New Hampshire approved public school, we do have to follow the standards set forth by the state. However, we do not have a set curriculum that we follow. Teachers are given the freedom to create something that works best for their teaching style as well as their students' learning style.

**Are all of your teachers certified?** No. New Hampshire Charter Schools are only required to have 50 percent of their teachers certified. However, the majority of our teachers are certified, and more than 50% have a Master's Degree in Education.

**Do students take standardized tests?** Yes. Since we are a New Hampshire approved public school, students take state tests here just as they would at a traditional New Hampshire public school.

**Are all grades multi-age?** Grades 1-8 are multi-age. Pre-K & Kindergarten are not.

**How diverse is SCS?** We are a public school, so our demographics look like most schools in the area. Our students come from different socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds, and as the area becomes more diverse, our school will naturally reflect that.

**Does my child have to play an instrument?** Yes. Starting in 3rd grade, students are required to play a stringed instrument. They may choose between the violin, viola & the cello. Starting in middle school (7th grade) they're able to choose from a music or art elective that's being offered at that time.

**Do you have a school nurse?** No. All staff members are CPR certified.

**Do you offer hot lunch?** Yes. The Dover School District makes, packages, and delivers our lunches on a daily basis. Students order lunches ahead of time.

**Do you offer any sports programs?** No. However, many students participate in sports programs at their town schools.

**Do you offer after school programs?** Yes. We offer after school enrichment classes in different sessions throughout the year. We also offer a daily aftercare program until 6:00p for working parents.

**Do you offer a before care program?** Yes. Before care is daily and begins at 7:00a.

**Do you have a playground?** We have a natural playground throughout campus and an outdoor classroom and nature trail. We have equipment for traditional sports such as soccer, basketball, dodgeball, hopscotch, jump rope, and a gaga pit.