

# **KIPP Seek Academy**

KIPP Seek Academy is our network's third elementary school, located in Newark's south ward. Seek provides kids with a college-prep education and opportunities to participate in after-school activities.

## ABOUT KIPP SEEK ACADEMY

Seek currently serves scholars in grades K-2 and will add 100+ students each year until the school is fully grown to grades K-4. Seek scholars partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Newark for afterschool activites, take care of a community garden and learn about being the change in weekly values lessons.

#### ABOUT KIPP NEW JERSEY

KIPP New Jersey's schools are part of the nationally recognized "Knowledge Is Power Program" network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public schools dedicated to preparing students in under-served communities for success in college and in life. We opened our doors in 2002 and will continue to grow to reach 15 schools in Newark and Camden. By offering outstanding educators, more time in school learning and a culture focused on achievement, 92% of our high school seniors have matriculated to college proving that demographics don't define destiny.



#### KIPP SEEK ACADEMY

100 Aldine Street Newark, NJ 07112

973-481-7583

#### WEBSITE:

www.kippnj.org/schools/seek-academy

#### SCHOOL LEADER:

Toni O'Sullivan

# OPENED:

2013

#### **HOURS:**

7:30AM-4:00PM (M, Tu, Th, F) 7:30AM-1:30PM (W)

330

K-2

87%

87% AFRICAN AMERICAN, 7% LATINO



QUALIFY FOR SPED SERVICES



ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

#### WHAT MAKES SEEK ACADEMY UNIOUE?

#### PART OF THE TEAM AND FAMILY

Founded by a former SPARK Academy teacher, KIPP Seek Academy is able to benefit from the best practices learned at the five KIPP New Jersey schools before it. Being part of the team and family also literally means more opportunities for siblings to enroll in schools across our network.

# SUPPORT FROM KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE

Our journey together starts with a visit to each child's home before orientation, and continues through their education through elementary school, middle school, and high school. Every student that finishes middle school with us gets an alumni advisor and a KIPP Through College team to support their progress to and through college, or whatever is best for them.

#### **CO-TEACHING**

In some classrooms, students have two teachers, sometimes more, dedicated to helping them learn. In this co-teaching model, they will pull small groups for guided reading and intervention, pull individual students for reading assessments, and sometimes both teach full-group instruction. When you have two teachers in the room, every student receives the support they need.

# **VALUES**













Care

Норе

Achieve N

Never Give Up

Give

Earn

## **IMPACT**

#### PROGRESS REPORTING

Students are tested throughout the year to make sure they are learning, so we don't just rely on state tests to know if they are on track. Teachers have custom-built dashboards to make this data actionable on a daily and weekly basis. We collect hundreds of data points on each of our students

throughout the year, and send them to parents weekly to keep them informed of their students' progress. Twice a year, we use the nationally-normed MAP test to measure our progress against the nation.

#### **RESULTS**

Our students take the MAP test in the

winter and spring to measure their progress on a nationally-normed scale. Our elementary students typically finish elementary school around the 70th percentile in math nationally and the 60th percentile in reading, after starting closer to the 25th percentile. They start fifth grade well ahead of other fifth graders in Newark.

# ABOUT TONI O'SULLIVAN, SCHOOL LEADER

Before founding KIPP Seek Academy, Toni O'Sullivan was the grade level chair of the founding second grade team at KIPP SPARK Academy, one of KIPP's highest performing elementary schools. In 2009, she taught third grade as a founding teacher at Newark Educators' Community Charter School, Newark's first charter school founded by faculty of Bank Street College of Education. Previously she researched the nature of the achievement gap in the United Kingdom, as well as best practices in education, at Teach First, a nonprofit organization committed to addressing educational disadvantage in challenging schools. Ms. O'Sullivan earned her MA in Education Leadership and Management at Seton Hall University, BA in History and a BS in Human Development from SUNY Binghamton, and taught second grade at Fifteenth Avenue School in Newark, NJ as a Teach for America corps member.

