



KIPP:NEWARK
LIFE ACADEMY

- P** 973.705.3206
- W** www.kippnj.org/schools/kipp-life-academy
- A** 103 Bragaw Ave Newark, NJ 07112

OPENED 2014
LEADER Charlene Dixon
HOURS 7:45AM-3:30PM (M, Tu, Th, F)
 7:45AM-12:30PM (W)



KIPP New Jersey's fourth elementary school educates students in grades K-4 in Newark's South Ward.

ABOUT KIPP LIFE ACADEMY

KIPP Life Academy opened in 2014 and is our network's fourth elementary school. KIPP Life Academy offers an empowering educational program designed to equip scholars with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to choose how they will change the world.

ABOUT KIPP NEWARK

KIPP Newark schools are part of the nationally recognized "Knowledge Is Power Program" non-profit network of college preparatory, public charter schools educating elementary, middle, and high school students. In 2002, KIPP Newark first opened its doors in Newark's South Ward as a single class

of 80 fifth graders and has since grown to teach over 5,266 students in grades K-12 in Newark. Our goal is to enroll 7,800 students across 15 schools in Newark. Eighty-six percent of KIPP Newark students currently qualify for free or reduced meals.

KIPP Newark alumni earn college degrees at more than three times the national average for students from low-income families. By offering highly effective educators with strong bonds to families, more time in school learning, services that support a variety of student needs, and a culture focused on achievement, our students are on the path to and through college.

"I really want our scholars to see their full potential. They know that I'm there for them. They know that I love what I do."
 -KIPP LIFE ACADEMY TEACHER

92.7%
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

8%
QUALIFY FOR SPED SERVICES

90%
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

2%
LATINX STUDENTS

8%
MULTIRACIAL STUDENTS

534
OF STUDENTS

K-4
GRADES



WHAT MAKES KIPP LIFE ACADEMY UNIQUE?

SCIENCE, ARTS, AND TECHNOLOGY

All students will receive consistent programming in science (a core class), technology, and arts that inspires them to think critically and grow as leaders in their classrooms, their communities, and the world. At Life, we do not simply ask students what they want be when they get older, we challenge them to discover the problems they want to solve.

EXCELLENT TEACHERS

We model a love for continuous growth and consistently invest in student learning through academic choice and a collaborative approach. Teachers engage in weekly professional development, observations, and coaching sessions. We prioritize the cultivation of literacy

skills and love of reading and knowledge. Every educator is invested and actively involved in realizing our goal to ensure all scholars are excellent readers, speakers, and writers.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Our school works directly with families to support the success of every child. We build community with our families throughout the year and provide opportunities for families to vote on decisions that impact school priorities. Most importantly, we engage families as partners in their child's education. We are also committed to working with the Newark community and prioritize sourcing local vendors and inviting community leaders to our events.



HOW ARE STUDENTS PROGRESSING?

TRACKING PROGRESS

Our classrooms use the highly-reviewed iReady platform to track math progress and the Lexia program to benchmark progress in foundational skills for reading. Student reading progress is also evaluated through quarterly Fountas and Pinnell testing. These tools allow teachers to hone in on areas of strength and growth for each student, in order to inspire continuous improvement and a personalized approach to instruction.

PROGRESS REPORTING

We collect hundreds of data points on each of our students throughout the year, and send them to families weekly to keep them informed of their students' progress. 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.

VALUES



EXCELLENCE



JOY



LOVE



OPTIMISM



TEAMWORK

MEET CHARLENE DIXON, SCHOOL LEADER

*Charlene Dixon began her career in education in 2011 as a Teacher for America Corps Member in Newark, New Jersey, where she taught at North Star Academy Charter School. She joined KIPP Newark as a founding lead kindergarten teacher in 2013, rising to become a grade level chair at **KIPP Seek Academy**. After two years as a Dean of Primary School Instruction at Foundation Academies in Trenton, New Jersey, Charlene returned to KIPP Newark in 2018 and worked as an instructional coach, assistant principal and principal-in-residence at **KIPP Life Academy**. She became the principal of KIPP Life Academy in March of 2021. Charlene holds a bachelor's degree in public service from Rutgers University Newark, a teacher certification from Relay Graduate School of Education and is currently pursuing her master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Montclair State University. Charlene believes deeply in the power of literacy education to transform the lives of students and their families. When she isn't working, she enjoys spending time with three children, reading, and creating amazing memories with her family.*