



**P** 973.481.7583  
**W** [www.kippnj.org/schools/seek-academy](http://www.kippnj.org/schools/seek-academy)  
**A** 33 Maple Avenue, Newark, NJ 07112

**OPENED** 2013  
**LEADER** Valerie Arroyo  
**HOURS** 7:45AM-3:30PM (M, Tu, Th, F)  
7:45AM-12:30PM (W)



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

**ABOUT KIPP SEEK ACADEMY**

Seek currently educates scholars in grades K-4. Our students partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Newark for afterschool activities, take care of a community garden and learn about ‘being the change’ and community service in weekly values lessons.

**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.

*“If you give kids hope and you show them what they can achieve, then you have productive citizens and it changes the world to be a better place to live in.”*

*-KIPP SEEK ACADEMY PARENT*



**94.1%**  
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

**12.4%**  
QUALIFY FOR SPED SERVICES

**90%**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

**3%**  
LATINX STUDENTS

**7%**  
MULTIRACIAL STUDENTS

**545**  
# OF STUDENTS

**K-4**  
GRADES

# WHAT MAKES KIPP SEEK ACADEMY UNIQUE?

## PART OF THE TEAM AND FAMILY

Founded by a former KIPP SPARK Academy teacher, KIPP Seek Academy benefits 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.



# 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



CARE



HOPE



ACHIEVE



NEVER GIVE UP



GIVE



EARN

## MEET VALERIE ARROYO, SCHOOL LEADER

Valerie Arroyo is a graduate of Long Island University and holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her educational career began in 2006, where she taught self-contained middle school students in Brooklyn, New York. In 2014, Ms. Arroyo joined the KIPP family as a proud founding teacher at **KIPP Life Academy**. Ms. Arroyo received the Teamwork award in 2019, for her continued dedication for teaching and leading at many of our KIPP elementary schools including; THRIVE, Pathways, and our extended school year program. In 2017, she transitioned to **KIPP Seek Academy** as the Assistant Principal of Special Education before being named as the succeeding school leader in 2020. Building a school environments that are inclusive, takes pride in rigorous learning, while leveraging the internal and external community is the legacy that drives her work. She is excited to continue serving the Newark community and building partnerships that impact change beyond our school walls.