



KIPP:NEWARK
LIFE ACADEMY

KIPP:NEWARK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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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 offers an empowering educational program designed to equip scholars with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to choose how they will change the world. Teachers at Life focus on making their classrooms inclusive, engaging and supportive for every child.

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, 80 fifth graders walked

through the doors of our first middle school in Newark, New Jersey. KIPP Newark has since grown to teach 6,321 students in grades K-12 across 12 schools in Newark. Ninety 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 compared to their peers. 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, career, and beyond.

"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

90.2%

ELIGIBLE
FOR FREE OR
REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

7.5%

QUALIFY FOR
SPED SERVICES

85%

AFRICAN AMERICAN
STUDENTS

3%

LATINX STUDENTS

11%

MULTIRACIAL STUDENTS

482

OF STUDENTS

K-4

GRADES



WHAT MAKES KIPP LIFE ACADEMY UNIQUE?

SCIENCE, ARTS, AND TECHNOLOGY

All students 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 to 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. At events like our annual Juneteenth celebration, we bring together local nonprofits and vendors to celebrate alongside our school community.



HOW ARE STUDENTS PROGRESSING?

OUR CURRICULUM

Our elementary schools implement curriculum literacy programs that support reading engagement and growth. In grades K-2, we offer the highly-ranked Magnetic Reading Foundations. Students in grades 3-4 are offered a program called Phonics for Reading to build foundational skills. Our math curriculum utilizes the Illustrative Math program, which empowers students to build on what they know about math to infer solutions to problems and represent their thinking in multiple ways.

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. To track student reading proficiency and growth, we use iReady ELA and mCLASS DIBELS assessments. Teachers have custom-built dashboards to make this data actionable on a daily and weekly basis. We collect data points on each of our students and families are frequently updated on student progress.

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.