

Raise Your Sights

Seaport Academy

Flagship Wharf, 197 8th St.

Charlestown, MA 02129

T: 617-241-3871

E: info@seaportacademy.org

www.seaportacademy.org



SEAPORT ACADEMY

For Boys, Grades 8-12
Charlestown, Massachusetts



www.seaportacademy.org



Raise your sights.

Where do you want to go? What does the future hold? And who will help you get there?

People don't all learn the same way. What works for one person doesn't necessarily work for others, and some students struggle with the structure and expectations of their schools.

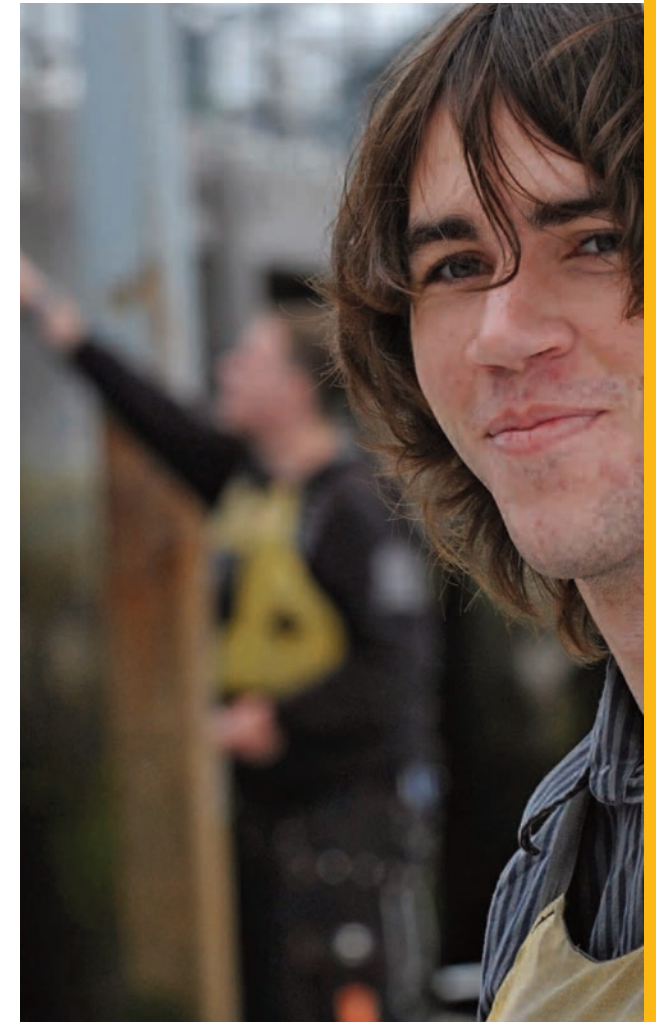
Imagine a school where learning follows a different tack, where you work alongside teachers undertaking unique challenges and projects, where learning is *doing*—meaningful, useful, practical doing that expands your knowledge and abilities. Imagine a school where learning happens one-on-one, where teachers recognize your efforts, understand what you need to succeed and help you reach your goals.

Raise your sights. Imagine your future. Imagine what can happen when you have the chance to get out from behind the desk and into your community—into the world where you have opportunities to make a difference.

AT SEAPORT ACADEMY, we

believe that all students can learn and be successful. We approach every student as a unique individual and support him in fully developing his academic, cognitive, social and emotional potential. Most students learn better when they are respected for who they are and when they're encouraged in their aspirations.

We believe the best learning is alive, joyful and relevant. We strive to help our students rediscover what it means to enjoy learning and to grow—personally and academically. And by aligning our curriculum to the goals of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and setting clear and ambitious expectations, we give students the best opportunity to meet the Commonwealth's graduation requirements and to advance successfully to college or careers.





A lobster is not a worksheet.

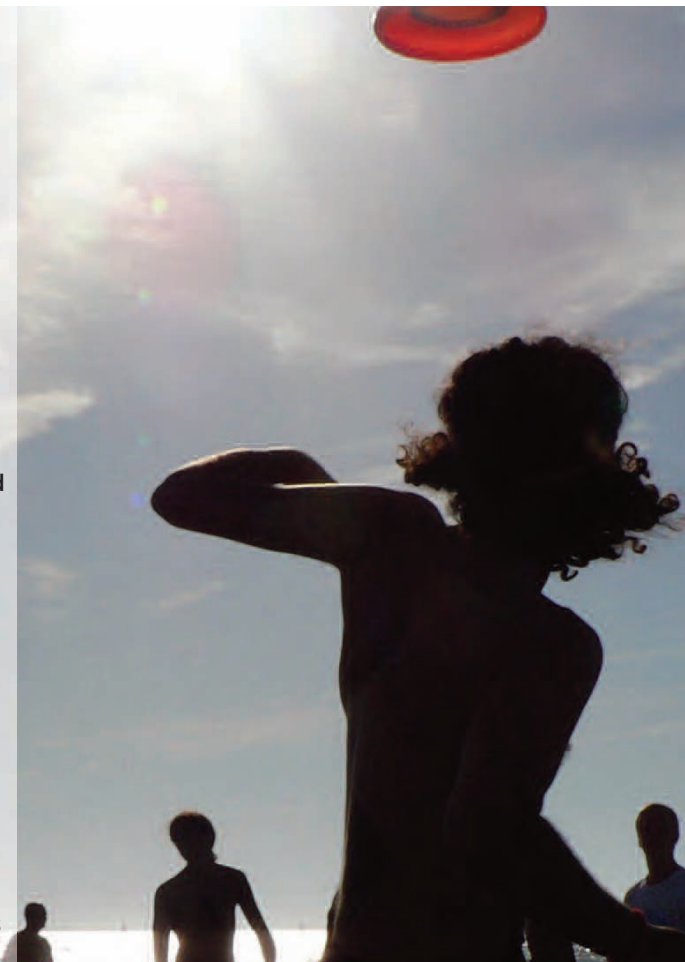
At Seaport, you learn by doing, by experiencing, by trying. You learn with your hands, your eyes and your heart just as surely as you learn with your mind.

Seaport students build bikes and chairs, experiment with aquaculture, care for homeless pets and deliver supplies to local assistance programs. You'll keep accounts, too, and write stories and publish them in a school magazine. And all the time, even when you aren't noticing it, math happens, literacy happens. You build knowledge, confidence and skills. You'll make great friends. You'll figure things out. You might go about it in a different way, but at Seaport, you'll go far.

SEAPORT ACADEMY might be

one of the only high schools in the state where we share classroom space with lobsters and flounders. Our aquaculture program, funded by outside grants, gives our students opportunities to learn biology and marine science through many hands-on projects and experiments.

- Seaport's unique **Learning Institutes**, offered twice a year, are intensive week-long educational experiences. During the week, students research a topic in depth and then present their findings or create an event. Some of the subjects our students have tackled include forensics, the life of a Civil War soldier, boating safety and wilderness survival. Special events have included a poetry slam and a student-produced living history exhibition.
- For a small school, Seaport offers a great deal of variety. In addition to core courses in English, math, history and science, Seaport students participate in boating and fishing, woodworking, bike shop, video production, culinary arts, fine arts, music, photography, creative writing, film, graphic design, fitness and conditioning, ice hockey, sailing, archaeology and more, as courses often reflect students' interests. Visiting musicians and teachers add to the diversity of Seaport's course selections.



When it comes to learning, small works better for us.

Seaport is small—very small. No more than 28 guys and about a dozen amazing teachers and counselors.

The school's small size is key to its big sense of community. At Seaport, school feels a lot like a family. You'll quickly notice that no one slips through the cracks. If you're having a bad day, we'll notice. If you put in the extra effort, it will be recognized and appreciated. If you need some extra help, you'll get it. You'll get to know everyone well, and the friendships you develop when you work together on projects, shoot hoops or go fishing are strong and often life-changing.

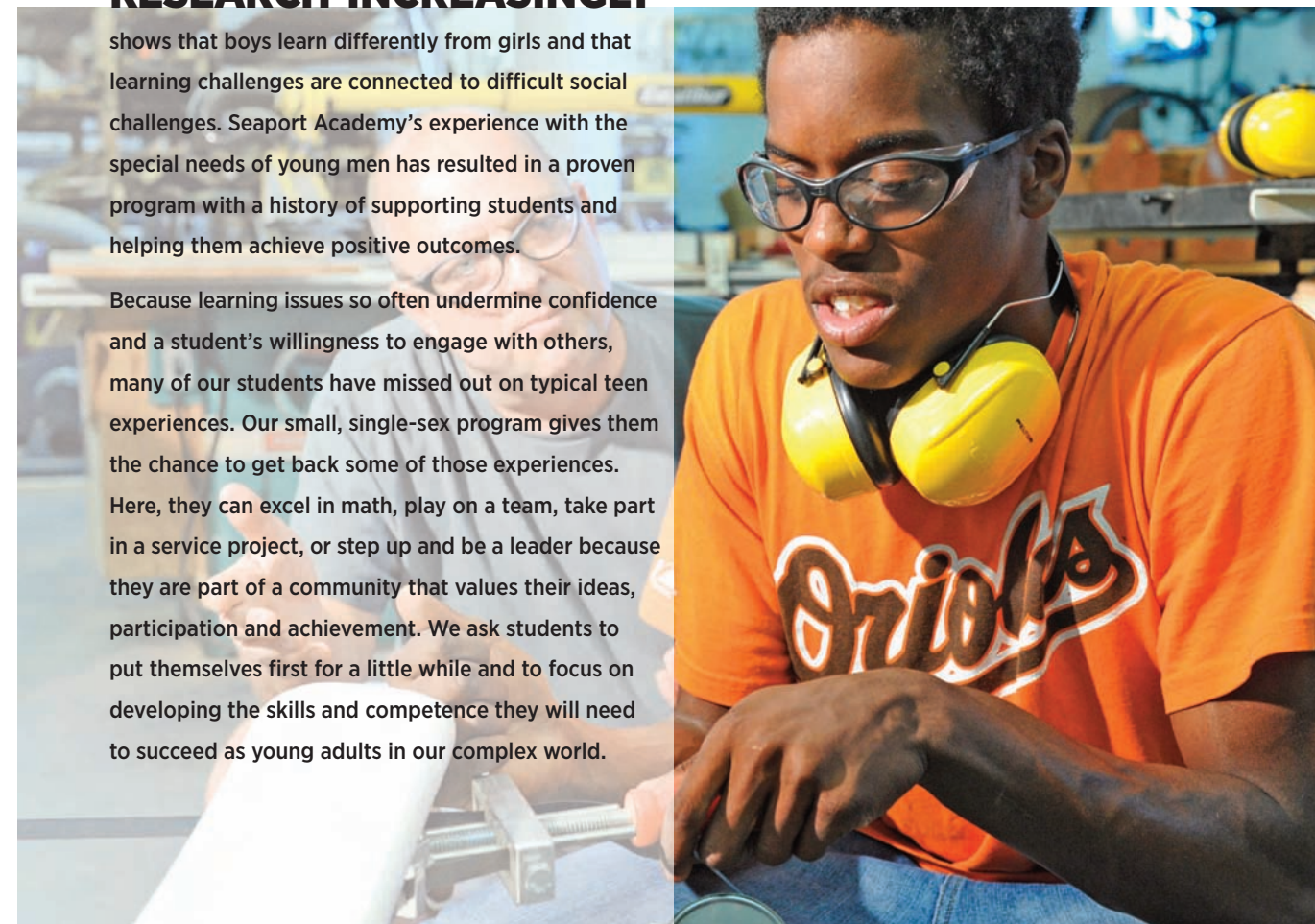
Trust. Respect. Friendship. Integrity. These are not always easy to achieve, but at Seaport, these are the things this community values.



RESEARCH INCREASINGLY

shows that boys learn differently from girls and that learning challenges are connected to difficult social challenges. Seaport Academy's experience with the special needs of young men has resulted in a proven program with a history of supporting students and helping them achieve positive outcomes.

Because learning issues so often undermine confidence and a student's willingness to engage with others, many of our students have missed out on typical teen experiences. Our small, single-sex program gives them the chance to get back some of those experiences. Here, they can excel in math, play on a team, take part in a service project, or step up and be a leader because they are part of a community that values their ideas, participation and achievement. We ask students to put themselves first for a little while and to focus on developing the skills and competence they will need to succeed as young adults in our complex world.





Small school. Big classroom.

Seaport is a school, but it's also a place. It's Charlestown, one of Boston's oldest and most interesting neighborhoods. It's Old Ironsides and the Navy Yard and Bunker Hill. It's the city of Boston. On some days, when we're out fishing or studying tides and currents, it's the Harbor, the ocean—and beyond.

Learning is a lot more interesting when it happens outside a typical classroom, and when you are engaged in the world and the community around you. Your community is filled with opportunities to expand your skills and knowledge. The best kinds of learning happen when you are hooked in to the world outside—when you can connect what you *know* with what you can *do*. Being out in the world is a chance to learn by exploring, engaging and putting important skills and experience into action.

FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL

is not the end—at Seaport, we think of it as a beginning. We'll celebrate our students' graduations and share our pride in their accomplishments, but what we're really celebrating is the future.

To help students make this important transition to adulthood, Seaport offers extra support services, such as college and career counseling. We assist them in their college selection process and work with them as they navigate the admissions interviews, take their tests, apply for financial aid and write essays. For students who plan to work, we offer employment counseling and workshops in job-hunting skills and career exploration. Along the way, work-study experiences, community service and internships give Seaport students a taste for life in a real workplace and the expectations of a job.

As students consider college, a career in the military, vocational programs, or their first jobs, we will work with them to help them develop decision-making strategies and research skills that can last a lifetime.



About Seaport Academy

Overview

- Founded in 1999.
- Serving young men, grades 8-12, with nonverbal learning challenges.
- Located on the waterfront in Charlestown, MA, Seaport is a collaborative, flexible community that supports the needs and aspirations of its students.
- State-approved Ch.766 special education program. Licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- 28 students.
- 1/2.5 adult/student ratio.
- Average class size: 5-7.
- Outstanding, experienced team of teachers and counselors.

Approach

- Highly personalized teaching is integrated with learning supports and psychotherapy. Group and individual counseling and family therapy are part of our program.
- Project-based, experiential curriculum that develops academic and interpersonal abilities.

Program

- Special focus on communication, personal organization, social skills and relationship-building.
- Conforms to Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, recognizing the need for students to relate learning to real-world applications.
- Interdisciplinary and project-based teaching rooted in core academic subjects, complemented by a variety of required and elective activities.
- Maritime and historical themes, urban studies and community service infuse the program and connect students to the community.
- “Seaport Institutes,” a unique program involving students in extended interdisciplinary projects and presentations.
- College courses at Bunker Hill Community College.
- New technology initiative helps students integrate learning and web-based communication and research tools.
- Summer program (“Fifth Term”) with opportunities for extended projects, independent study, experiential learning, field trips, work study and recreation.
- Work-study, college-prep and career-planning opportunities for every student.

Activities

- Fully integrated service-learning program.
- Competitive, interscholastic basketball team, fitness, strength training, skating, sailing and a physical education program that encourages healthy activity.
- Outdoor adventures, social events and school trips.
- Afternoon electives and clubs such as student council, school paper, chess, literary magazine and computers.
- Active parent organization.

Outcomes

- 100% MCAS pass rate by graduation.
- Extensive, highly personalized transition program supports students entering careers or choosing higher education.

Admission

Seaport Academy is a Chapter 766 school so for most students the admissions process officially begins when Seaport Academy receives a referral from the student’s school system.

Seaport also accepts private-pay students if space is available. Please call us for more details.

Admission to Seaport is a team decision made by the student, parents, hometown school, Seaport staff and other service providers all working together. We carefully consider every student who is referred to us by his school system. We know choosing a Chapter 766 school can be a trying experience for families, too—please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you through this process.

We also welcome visits from educators and professionals interested in learning more about Seaport Academy and are happy to organize a visit to our school.

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Head of School: Alex Tsonas

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Seaport Academy is owned and operated by Schools for Children, Inc., a Massachusetts nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that creates and sustains great schools and educational services that meet the diverse needs of Massachusetts students.

