



October 2014

Program Description and Highlights

The New School of Montpelier is a year round program approved by the Agency of Education for students with Learning Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Speech or Language Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Multiple Disabilities, and/or Emotional Disturbance.

Our target population is students ages 6-22, from the greater central Vermont region, who face significant physical, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral challenges that cannot be appropriately addressed in their public schools. The schools we serve have typically exhausted their local resources while striving to meet each student's individualized needs. We team with local districts to identify the goals each student's team has targeted. The NSM prides itself on the strong communication with schools and families.

Mission: The New School of Montpelier believes that all students deserve to experience success and belonging in their school and to experience success academically and behaviorally. Students experience success academically, socially, and in their personal development through instruction and clinical support, tailored to their individual needs, and through being engaged, in an educational community, where they feel a strong sense of safety and belonging. This is achieved in partnership with sending schools, parents, and community mental health.

Our Program: NSM provides a welcoming environment that is safe and therapeutic, where effective educational programs and clinical support take place. We have a dedicated team of educators, related service providers, clinical staff, behavior interventionists and paraeducators who demonstrate successful implementation of student programs. Clinically, we follow principles of behavioral science, trauma informed care, and strategic self regulation. Academically, we provide a robust educational curriculum, aligned with the Common Core, with instructional practices tailored to the students and their assigned cohort group.

We begin the student's NSM program by engaging him or her in areas of success and accomplishment and building on that foundation to address academic, clinical, and transition goals.

Our Facilities: The New School campus on the Vermont College hill is currently made up of three spaces. There are two buildings on West Street where the Radio Flyers, Transition Pod, and Administration are housed. "Across the Green" on College Street, is the Bridge Pod, located in Alumni Hall. We are a short distance to



downtown Montpelier and the community integration activities that offers. We also actively use the College green for physical education and other small and large group activities.

Student Programs: Student programs are structured, predictable and success oriented. Students may work toward a diploma from their sending school or from NSM. NSM is also able to follow the sending school's curriculum to prepare students for transition back to their home school. New students arrive periodically over the year. Students are grouped into learning Pods. Every year we adjust our groupings to adapt to changes in enrollment. Some students return to public schools or other independent schools, and some graduate or move to new districts.

The Radio Flyers pod serves elementary and middle school students. This group milieu promotes increasing socialization and self-regulation. Work is individualized based on the needs of the students and the goals of the IEP team. Literacy instruction includes Fountas and Pinnell, exposure to literature as well as targeted instruction to address reading and written language foundations. Math instruction includes general curriculum as well as targeted instruction.. Most students have two literacy and two math blocks in a school day. In addition, students learn science and social studies, work on social skills/relationship building through a variety of means, including physical activity, art, and music.

The **Bridge Pod** is for students who need an emphasis on communication, functional math,-literacy, life skills, social communication and community based learning. This pod includes many students with AAC devices and the program focuses on building these skills as well as their levels of independence in self-care and vocational options. In addition NSM has a variety of alternative curriculum, and vocational options for students.

The **Transition Pod** focuses on students who work on high school, or adapted high school curriculum, in all core subject areas. Vocational, transition and community based learning experiences are woven into the program and tailored to student needs and transition plans. Students also have opportunities to learn life skills, social skills and to develop personal fitness plans.

For information about openings, referrals, or other questions, call Diane Baker or Jeanne Aseltine at 802 223-0647.