

The New LIFE School



Educating Each Child—In Time to Make a Difference

The New LIFE School is a non-public special education school that is an alternate placement for students who struggle to succeed in a typical school setting. This 12-month school offers a therapeutic environment that is tailored to fit the needs of each individual student. The Common Core Learning Standards are followed in English and Math and the NYS Learning Standards are followed in all other subjects.

Our task as a therapeutic school is to create a supportive learning community with a team of trained professionals, a robust wrap-around enrichment program, and flexible academic tracks that will help children begin the healing process, build self-confidence, establish positive self-image, and prepare for life after high school.

Graduation Options. New Life School has many strategies for earning a high school diploma. All students have access to both the Regents Diploma and a local diploma. In addition, we offer two Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) tracks: Barbering and Culinary Arts. Students may also earn a Skills and Achievement certificate. These opportunities give students more options, more exposure to the world of work, and more avenues to success.

A Therapeutic Non-Public Special Education School in The Bronx, NY

700%

Increase in students passing their regent exams over the past 5 years leading to higher graduation rates.

Trauma-Informed Care

The New LIFE school leaders address psychosocial issues that stand in the way of learning through a professional development initiative focused on trauma-informed care.

After-School Enrichment

Martial arts and cross country teams build physical and mental strength, allow opportunities to set and achieve personal goals, develop perseverance and discipline, and increase confidence and accountability.

Career Development

Students pursue Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Credential through two career development options: Culinary Arts and Barbering.

Coalition Partnership

As proud members of the NYS Coalition of 853 Schools, New LIFE is dedicated to improving the opportunities and outcomes for students enrolled in therapeutic school environment. The Coalition works on behalf of students - from those with emotional/behavioral issues to those with developmental challenges - by advocating, assisting and representing the schools which support and educate them.

New Leadership Team

Dr. Matthew Tucker, Executive Director/Principal

Dr. Tucker completed his doctoral research on school safety, is a NY State Certified School administrator, General Education teacher, and Special Education teacher. His plan for increasing graduation rates and reducing school suspensions has been the school's turnaround driver.



Simone Parris, MS.Ed., Assistant Principal

With a background in guidance and admissions, Ms. Parris works closely with students through behavioral and academic challenges. Her hands-on approach builds a culture of trust among teachers, staff, parents, and students.



Nationally Certified School Psychologist, Kristie Velazquez

Ms. Velazquez's experience is in working with children struggling with behavioral issues. She builds creative behavior plans, employs Applied Behavior Analysis, and delivers social-skills counseling, anger management, and school refusal plans. Ms. Velazquez is certified to administer cognitive tests, academic tests and social and emotional assessments including; the WISC and the WIAT.



Ayodele Saromi, Admissions Director

Teacher, mentor, and community health advocate, Mr. Ayo has served as enrollment coordinator, comprehensive care manager, athletic coach/behavioral therapist supervisor, and attendance teacher. Mr. Ayo uses his background in science and health administration to foster an interest in martial arts, improve socialization skills and eat healthy foods to improve their quality of life.



A Story of School Turnaround

The past five years have seen a remarkable turnaround at The New LIFE School initiated by a new leadership team with a commitment to improve school policies, and introduce key therapeutic programs.

A Culture of Academic Success. Using evidence-based reading instruction, New LIFE teachers see notable improvements in ELA scores at every level, building a culture of achievement. This is reinforced by new discipline techniques spearheaded by the new leadership team which have led to an 80% reduction in school suspensions. Therapeutic specialists help students cope with crises, socio-emotional issues, and violence so that they remain in the learning environment. Our data team helps teachers meet each student where they are in their academic journey. Finally, New LIFE partners with the NYPD to train students on safe police interactions, conflict resolution, and gun violence victimization.

Wrap-Around Support. As part of the network of programs with Lutheran Social Services of New York, New LIFE School benefits from countless health systems, family support, and legal expertise. Programs include Health Homes, Head Start, Immigration Legal Program, Preventive Care for families struggling with substance abuse, Foster Care program, and Our Sisters' Place for pregnant and parenting teens.

Alternative Assessment. Our new School Psychologist is able to administer the WISC and WIAT assessments and frequently can re-evaluate long-held beliefs about a student's previously diagnosed limitations. The assessments open new doors for learning and psychosocial development.

Individualization. New LIFE offers well-structured curricula with individualized academic schedules. Hallmarks of our success are the small classroom environment

College Ready

New LIFE Alumnae attend these colleges:

- Bronx Community College
- Buffalo State University
- Manhattan College
- Manhattan Community College
- Mercy College
- Syracuse University