# **Greenleaf Academy**

58 Chadwick Street Bradford, Massachusetts

Principal: John DePolo, M.Ed., M.Psy

2023/2024



## **Exceptional Educational Staff-Jessica Wright**





## **Exceptional Educational Staff - Oscar Mendoza**







## **Success Story #1**

Greenleaf Academy
11th Grader





### Success Story # 2

#### 2nd Greenleaf Academy, 11th Grader

- Struggled to make progress in prior schools.
- Resisted academic efforts and resisted connecting with peers.
- He was most resistant to writing and engaging socially.
- Attendance was also a significant issue for him.

#### 2nd year with the Greenleaf Academy:

- Started to connect with our staff, and his attendance greatly improved from his prior school.
- Eventually gave up the resistance to the writing process and was proud of his accomplishments. He started to attend our daily morning meetings.
- He became involved in hiking trips and golf, which he looked forward to.
- "I have seen a drastic reduction in his anxiety. A good example I can give is in reference to MCAS testing, Alex not only reminded me of MCAS testing but was ready and prepared to go to school on time without prompting."



## Three Major Components of the Greenleaf

- Consistent Academic Expectations "Keys to Literacy"
- Both Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension Strategies presented in all the Core Subjects.
- School-Wide Vocabulary-building approach to support the overall reading and writing process.
- High expectations of engagement! Educational team approach! We still meet every morning and afternoon to maintain ongoing staff communication.



## **The Mediation Meeting Process**

### 2. Healthy Conflict Resolution - Social/Emotional Support

- Supports healthy communication with our students.
- A way to support positive relationships and maintain a more healthy school environment.
- Reduces the need to suspend students.
- Helps students to take responsibility and empathize with others. (Student to Student/Staff to Student).
- An important life skill/Improves time on learning.
- A Key Component of Restorative Justice.
- This skill is very empowering to both Students and Staff.



### **CULINARY PROGRAM**

#### 3. Culinary preparation skills

- Strong Vocational Component.
- Meals that our Students look forward too.
- Many Students find work in local Restaurants.
- Our students truly take pride in helping to produce and serve our meals.





## **Community Experiences**







## **Weekly Hiking Experiences**





## **Other Community Experiences**

- Project Adventure HS Team/Individual Challenges
- Swimming/Ice Skating/Golf
- Yearly Santa Parade Float Art Class
- Yearly Canoe Trip Ipswich River
- We support our students exposure to the greater community through these activities
- This year we added music lessons to what we offer our students.



## Trauma Informed Learning Experience

- Daily Student Run Morning Meetings Supports Communication/Sense of Community
- Mediation Meeting Process/Weekly SEL Groups
- Teaching Self Management Skills-Managing Healthy Emotion
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy/Individualized Counseling
- Mindfulness Exercises/Sensory Room Support
- Individualized Treatment Planning
- Ongoing Staff Communication Before and After School
- Relationship Based/Consistent Engaging Lessons and Expectations...The Foundation of all Effective Schools



### **Academic Results**







## **Canoe Trip**





## **Quote: Helping Children Succeed**

When kids feel a sense of belonging at school, when they receive the right kind of messages from an adult who believes they can succeed and who is attending to them with some degree of compassion and respect, they are then more likely to show up to class, to persevere longer at difficult tasks, and to deal more resiliently with the countless small-scale setbacks and frustrations that make up the typical student's school day

-Paul Tough

