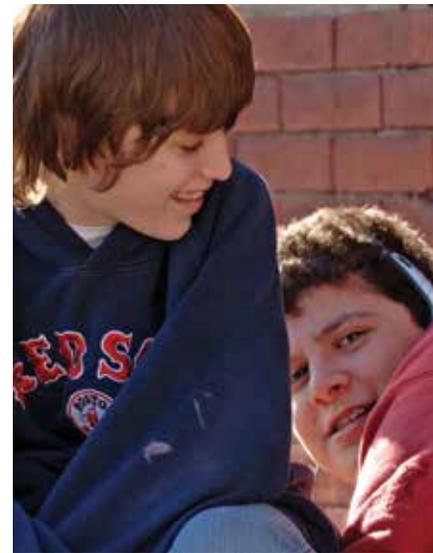


Dearborn Elementary/Middle School
Dearborn High School
Dearborn Summer Program

Dearborn Academy

A Program of Schools for Children



care | support | success

Why Dearborn. Why Now.

Founded in 1949, **Dearborn Academy** is a leading special education program in Massachusetts. From the beginning, Dearborn has pioneered specialized instruction for students with language-based learning disabilities like Dyslexia. Today, it maintains this proud tradition of serving those students as well as students with internalizing behaviors, which may result from learning challenges and/or anxiety, depression and other mental health disorders.

With our commitment to student-centered learning, we ensure that each student's program is as unique as they are. We serve up to 55 students in grades 3-8 and up to 65 students in grades 9-12—from over 40 communities. Approximately 50 students also attend our summer program. *Dearborn Academy provides unprecedented learning for unconventional learners.*

As a caring, cohesive community, Dearborn is proud of our:

Personalized Academic Program

- Small, structured classes with a low student:staff ratio
- College and career preparation; career and transitional support services
- Foundational skill building, including proven reading and literacy programs
- 100% of seniors meet MCAS high school graduation requirement
- Related services, including occupational therapy and speech and language

Experiential Learning Opportunities

- Art, music and jewelry classes
- Carpentry and metal shop
- Team-building skills development through a competitive basketball team and crew club

Emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning within a Therapeutic Milieu

- Social-emotional curriculum integrated throughout the day
- Comprehensive therapeutic services
- Explicit instruction focused on teaching coping and social skills, reinforced by milieu counselors
- Caregiver support groups
- Licensed clinicians spend time coaching students to practice skills in the classrooms and milieu
- A full-time nurse
- A psychiatrist providing weekly on-site psychopharmacological assessment, consultation and treatment

Strong, Inclusive School Community

- Weekly community-building circles
- Active Student Council and Gay-Straight Alliance
- Mentoring opportunities
- Community-building traditions including:
 - A Halloween celebration and Thanksgiving family-style meal
 - March Madness week activities, Field Day and student vs. staff basketball games
 - High School Prom, Color Day and more

Dearborn Academy

is one of New England's leading state-approved, therapeutic day schools for students in grades 3-12 who need specialized help learning new skills to overcome challenges that result from learning and emotional difficulties.

The students we serve at Dearborn may have experienced years of frustration in educational settings but have great potential for success. They come to us with learning difficulties, including nonverbal, language-based, attentional and reading disabilities. Some experience issues with planning and organization. In addition, they may have emotional challenges, including anxiety, depression or other mood disorders—all of which can contribute to a student falling behind academically.

At Dearborn Academy, we understand students' needs—emotional and academic—and respect each student's individuality. With highly personalized expert support and care, our students learn to manage and even overcome their difficulties.

Dearborn's team of educators, clinicians and specialists helps students rebuild their interest in learning and discover a new direction. We want each of our students to experience firsthand the transforming power of education in a caring community.

Licensed clinicians spend time coaching students to practice skills and strategies in the classrooms and social environments that they learned in their one-on-one counseling sessions.

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"Our daughter came to Dearborn reading well below grade level. She was frustrated and angry and even though she was only a fourth grader, she'd already given up on school. Dearborn's specialists took the time to carefully diagnose her disabilities and worked with her intensively. By the end of the first term, she'd made great strides. And by the end of the year, our fourth grader was reading at a sixth-grade level. The transformation was amazing. She's looking forward now to returning to her old school."

Dearborn parents Jane S. and Dan P.



Dearborn Elementary/Middle School

serves up to 55 students in grades 3-8. Our academic program begins with the premise that a strong foundation in language arts and mathematics is essential for meaningful progress. Instruction is interactive and designed to challenge students at their individual skill levels. Dearborn's teachers, clinicians and milieu counselors place special emphasis on helping students develop effective self-awareness, self-regulation, communication and social skills.

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Dearborn Elementary/Middle School Director Pam Sweeney

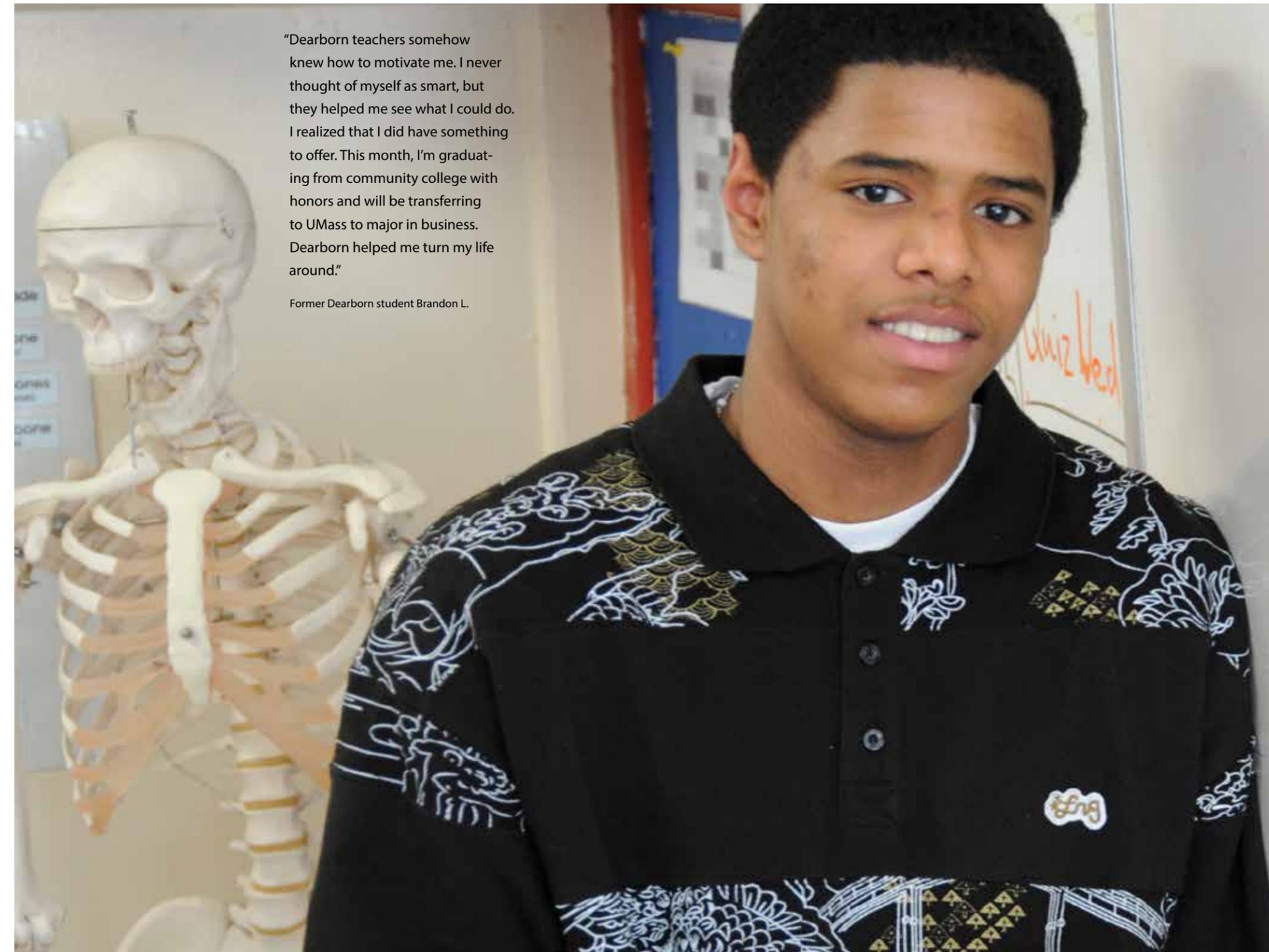


Dearborn High School serves up to 65 students. Our high school is known for its strong academic program, MCAS preparation, and exceptional college, career and vocational preparation. Learning specialists offer one-on-one and small group support to assist students in improving their academic skills, while clinical staff members work with students on social-emotional goals and future planning. Our aim is to help each student graduate from high school and achieve a successful transition into adulthood.

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Dearborn High School Director Sheilah Gauch



“Dearborn teachers somehow knew how to motivate me. I never thought of myself as smart, but they helped me see what I could do. I realized that I did have something to offer. This month, I’m graduating from community college with honors and will be transferring to UMass to major in business. Dearborn helped me turn my life around.”

Former Dearborn student Brandon L.

Educating the Whole Student

An Integrated Approach

At Dearborn Academy, we employ a **whole student** approach to education that combines academic instruction and therapeutic services in a tightly integrated system of support. Our comprehensive array of services is delivered by staff teams with expertise in a variety of specialties.

Our **Education Team** develops and implements innovative academic programming and customizes instruction for individual students.

Licensed on-site **clinicians** provide weekly individual counseling and deliver a wide range of therapeutic interventions, including group and family counseling. Our clinicians spend time coaching students to practice skills and strategies in the classrooms and social environments that they learned in their one-on-one counseling sessions.

Clinicians consult closely with the milieu counselors and speech and language pathologists who coach students throughout the day to develop social skills and increase their window of tolerance.

Finally, our partnership with the **Cambridge Health Alliance** gives our students, families and staff access to high-quality psychiatric and psychopharmacological support and interventions, consultation and medication management.

Underlying these diverse components is a true team approach that brings together many resources to develop the whole person. Our commitment to teamwork extends beyond our own walls to our collaborative engagement with families, school systems, employers and other professionals. Dearborn Academy's teachers, clinicians, specialists and other staff work in partnership with each student's school system to define goals and create a plan for success. In many cases, these plans will include a successful return to public school.





Dearborn Academy Learning Center Focus on Literacy

Difficulties in spoken, written and pragmatic language can hinder a student's ability to engage in the learning process. Dearborn's Learning Center provides one-on-one and small group support for students who need assistance with reading, writing and mathematics. We also offer diagnostic testing in the areas of language arts, mathematics, language and pragmatics to determine appropriate interventions.

At Dearborn we use the **Wilson Reading System** to teach emergent readers and students with language-based learning disabilities. Students receive specialized instruction in concrete comprehension strategies that are then applied in the classroom. Learning Center special educators, reading specialists, and speech and language pathologists use a multisensory approach including visuals, graphic organizers, and metacognitive strategies that engage students in taking an active role in their learning.

Dearborn Academy Program Highlights

Dearborn Shop, Visual and Performing Arts Learning by Doing

Dearborn offers outstanding shop, visual and performing arts programs. Music; jewelry, metal and wood shops; and art classrooms are furnished with state-of-the-art equipment.

Shop and art projects are designed to nurture self-esteem and give students in all grades the opportunity to improve critical sequencing, planning, motor and organizational skills—and to learn new ways of expressing their ideas. The shop curriculum ensures that all students gain experience in the hands-on design, planning and construction of a variety of highly-motivating projects, many of which are commissioned or sold to the public.

For some students Dearborn's vocational shop programs offer inspiration for post-graduate careers.

College and Career Services Planning for Life after Dearborn

Dearborn Academy is committed to preparing every student for life after Dearborn. During junior and senior years, Dearborn's respected College and Career Services Program helps students develop specific goals through an individualized plan that includes both college counseling and career planning support. College counseling includes help with college selection, standardized test preparation, and assistance with applications and interviews. Career planning includes career education field trips, hearing from speakers from varied career fields, internships, classes and other school-to-work activities.

Students work one-on-one with a licensed guidance counselor to identify options best suited to their strengths, interests and learning styles. Through personal assessment and college and career exploration, Dearborn offers students a chance to gain maturity and confidence, and develop the skills needed for success. Graduates leave Dearborn with a realistic roadmap for the future.



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Dearborn Academy Summer Program Six Weeks of Support, Learning and Adventure

Dearborn Academy Summer Program serves children and adolescents in grades 3-12. Designed for children with emotional and learning difficulties, and open to students who attend schools other than Dearborn, our program offers an enriching and exciting summer experience. It helps students maintain and consolidate skills acquired during the academic year.

Students enjoy a variety of experiences aimed at improving academic and decision-making skills and self-esteem. The day includes an academic component, counseling and an activity period. Each week students enjoy field trips to local points of interest.



Dearborn Academy Admissions

Dearborn Academy is a Chapter 766 therapeutic day school approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We carefully consider every student who is referred to us by their school system.

The admissions process officially begins when Dearborn receives a referral from the student's public school district. We review the referral packet to determine if Dearborn's programming is a good fit for the student. If there is potential for a match, we will schedule an admissions interview. Following the interview, we may also offer a visiting day so that the student has the opportunity to experience Dearborn firsthand. We notify families and school systems of our decision as soon after the interview as possible so that they can move forward quickly with school placement decisions.

Although most students come to us through referrals by their districts, we are also able to enroll students on a paid-tuition basis. Please call us to learn more about private enrollment.

For more information regarding Dearborn Academy and our admissions process, please visit our website at www.dearbornacademy.org, or contact us directly. We also welcome visits from educators and professionals who work with students with special needs and may wish to gain additional information about our programs.

Dearborn Academy

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Dearborn Academy Head of School Rebecca Altepeter

Dearborn Academy Professional Advisory Council

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*Clinician, Teacher and Researcher
Developer, groundbreaking methods for improving
language and learning*

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Harvard Medical School*

Howard Rossman, Ph.D.
*Clinical Psychologist and former Director of
Dearborn Academy*

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*Interim Clinical Director, Trauma Center,
Justice Resource Institute*

Richard Weissbourd, Ph.D.
*Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education
and Kennedy School of Government
Founder, ReadBoston and WriteBoston*

Dearborn Academy is owned and operated by Schools for Children, a nonprofit committed to creating and sustaining unique, high-quality schools and educational services and meeting the needs of a wide range of students and families. For more information, please visit www.schoolsforchildreninc.org.



Dearborn Academy

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