

NFS 2016 Strategic Plan Draft
March 9, 2016

Vision Statement

Challenging our students to cultivate a better world.

Mission Statement

Newtown Friends School provides a dynamic curriculum through which students learn to think critically, collaborate peacefully, communicate effectively, and lead with character and compassion. Rooted in Quaker values, the rigorous education at Newtown Friends School instills the confidence and conviction to succeed in a changing world.

Curriculum and Program:

Goal:

NFS students will graduate as passionate lifelong learners, empowered by our contemporary curriculum and our Quaker traditions to lead their world with confidence and compassion.

Strategies:

1. Nurture critical thinking through interdisciplinary learning experiences that require students to embrace and solve meaningful problems with resilience.
2. Design learner-centered classroom interiors that better facilitate our collaborative and creative curriculum.
3. Support students and teachers to use technology as a powerful tool for learning.
4. Strengthen excellence in the instruction of science through content area literacy.
5. Improve opportunities for differentiation in learning mathematics.
6. Cultivate the music and art programs.
7. Continue our curriculum review process to ensure that all disciplines are updated regularly.

Enrollment:

Goal:

Align programmatic and marketing activities to increase enrollment over the next several years so that we may continue to attract and retain a diverse community of talented learners.

Strategies:

1. Continue to maintain retention levels at 90% or above.
2. Assess, prioritize and implement resources to meet enrollment goals.
3. Create tailored messages to key audiences and identify the most direct and efficient means to deliver such information.
4. Enhance the market's understanding of the long-standing Quaker school tradition of academic excellence and character education.

Philanthropy:

Goal:

Broaden our culture of giving to ensure the financial sustainability of Newtown Friends School to support the school's mission and programs.

Strategies:

1. Strengthen relationships with alumni, parents, grandparents, alumni parents, and friends through engagement in the life of the school.
2. Increase contributions at all levels to the Annual Fund through continuing education about the importance of participation and the cultivation of leadership gift support.
3. Continue a successful major gifts program to provide resources in support of prioritized capital projects identified in the campus master plan.
4. Strengthen our planned giving program to provide for the long-term financial health of the school through gifts to the endowment.
5. Provide purposeful opportunities for volunteers to give of their time and resources to Newtown Friends School.
6. Develop the School Committee's ownership of philanthropy in support of Newtown Friends School.

Financial Management:

Goal:

Achieve and maintain a balanced budget that enables the school to meet short term financial goals and long term sustainability.

Strategies:

1. Strengthen policies that promote careful oversight and financial monitoring.
2. Reduce the pressure on tuition by refining the financial aid processes and procedures in order to maximize the utility of budgeted financial aid dollars.
3. Develop an appropriate cash reserve fund to meet the present and future needs of the school.
4. Enhance the management of investments to maximize growth and return on the school's endowment.
5. Explore, where appropriate, mutually beneficial sharing of resources with local Quaker schools.
6. Create a campus master plan that includes a prioritized improvements list.

Environmental Stewardship:

Goal:

To foster and strengthen a commitment to environmental stewardship at the programmatic, community, and facility levels.

Strategies:

1. Enhance (or broaden) environmental awareness in the NFS community.
2. Achieve LEED Certification for Existing Building: Operations and Maintenance
3. Significantly reduce the amount of energy used by the school.
4. Ensure that the Campus Master Plan is consistent with our environmental stewardship goals.
5. Initiate steps to become a 'zero waste to landfill' institution.
6. Initiate steps to become a carbon neutral institution.

Quakerism:

Goal:

We work to make Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship (SPICES) tools that give our students the social, academic, spiritual and emotional preparation to navigate an unpredictable, changing world. NFS seeks to embody the tradition and amplify the contribution of Friends education as we prepare our students to lead lives that make a difference

Strategies:

1. Develop best practices within the Quaker Life and Outreach Committees to guide the NFS educational experience.
2. Encourage and enrich intentional dialogue about diversity in all aspects of student life to reinforce the Quaker tenet, "There is that of God in everyone."
3. Ensure new students are brought into the NFS ethos and comprehensively oriented so they know and are known among faculty, staff, and peers.
4. Fortify and deepen NFS's relationship with Newtown Monthly Meeting and other Friends organizations to create pathways of enrichment and positive exchange.
5. Collaborate and share knowledge and experience with other Quaker schools and organizations.