

ESPERANZA ACADEMY

Imagine a school where learning and growth happen in a community centered in justice and joy. A place where girls feel emboldened to bring their full identities into the classroom, find their voice, and embrace their brilliance. A space where students are challenged to redefine what is expected of them and create a roadmap to their dream lives through emotional well-being and academic excellence. Esperanza is this place.

OUR MODEL ANSWERS THE CALL FOR ANTI-RACIST EDUCATION WITH STEM

We are a **tuition-free** independent all-girls middle school in Lawrence, Massachusetts dedicated to moving children out of the generational poverty cycle and into fulfilling futures through education.

WE ARE ADVANCING EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND ACCESS THROUGH STEM $+ \%$



We believe igniting a spark in our students for STEM fields will build a better world for all of us!

**WOMEN HOLD
24%
OF STEM JOBS** **ONLY
5% ARE
WOMEN
OF COLOR**

Although there has been a significant advancement in STEM education for girls, women still hold only 24% of STEM jobs in the U.S. and only 5% are women of color.

Beginning in high school, many girls begin to self-select out of higher-level math, science, and computer classes, but at Esperanza we help our students see themselves as engineers, doctors, scientists and researchers.



THE RESEARCH IS CLEAR



Studies show that math scores fell across the country in 2022. Experts estimate it may take students five years to catch up to where they would have been if not for the pandemic.

Falling behind in middle school math has ripple effects for the future. Students who don't place into geometry can't take calculus before graduation and are already behind their peers when they start college. Students who fail Algebra are less likely to graduate high school on time or attend a four-year college.

Math proficiency predicts future earnings more than any other subject. Success in middle school math sets students up for rewarding careers in STEM.

BLACK + BROWN
CHILDREN FACE
FALSE
BELIEFS THAT THEY ARE
NOT GOOD
AT MATH

{ **ESPECIALLY**
GIRLS }

ESPERANZA SERVES

64 + 224

STUDENTS

ALUMNI

100%
GRADUATE

HIGH SCHOOL

ENROLL IN
75%
COLLEGE



100% **GIRLS**
OF COLOR

Esperanza Academy is committed to creating an affirming school culture that interrupts bias and primes students with positive associations about who they are and can be in the world.

We counter the systemic, institutional, and social barriers inherited by our students.



Transformative Justice actively disrupts the school-to-prison pipeline through restorative justice techniques.



Culture of STEM integrates math and science learning across the school to change the narrative of "who's good" at these subjects.



Music Therapy counters the negative neurological and emotional effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences.



Community Wealth centers the values, beliefs, and traditions of the local community in the everyday experiences of our students.



Graduate Support is a 12-year commitment to place each student in high school and support them as first-generation college students.



CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY THROUGH HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION IS WHAT WE DO

Research indicates that middle school is where girls decide whether they belong in STEM.

It takes a substantial commitment to ensure our team has the personnel and material resources to create a future-defining STEM program.

Esperanza's 2023 Destination Imagination team took first place in their first-ever regional competition with a masterful showing in the Engineering Challenge. The team used ingenuity, imagination, and everyday materials to design and build a rollercoaster that could move a golf ball, far and fast, through a track full of twists and turns. As they worked together to plan, test, and complete their roller coaster, they also practiced how to listen, communicate, and collaborate.

ESPERANZA
8th Graders
ACHIEVED
154%



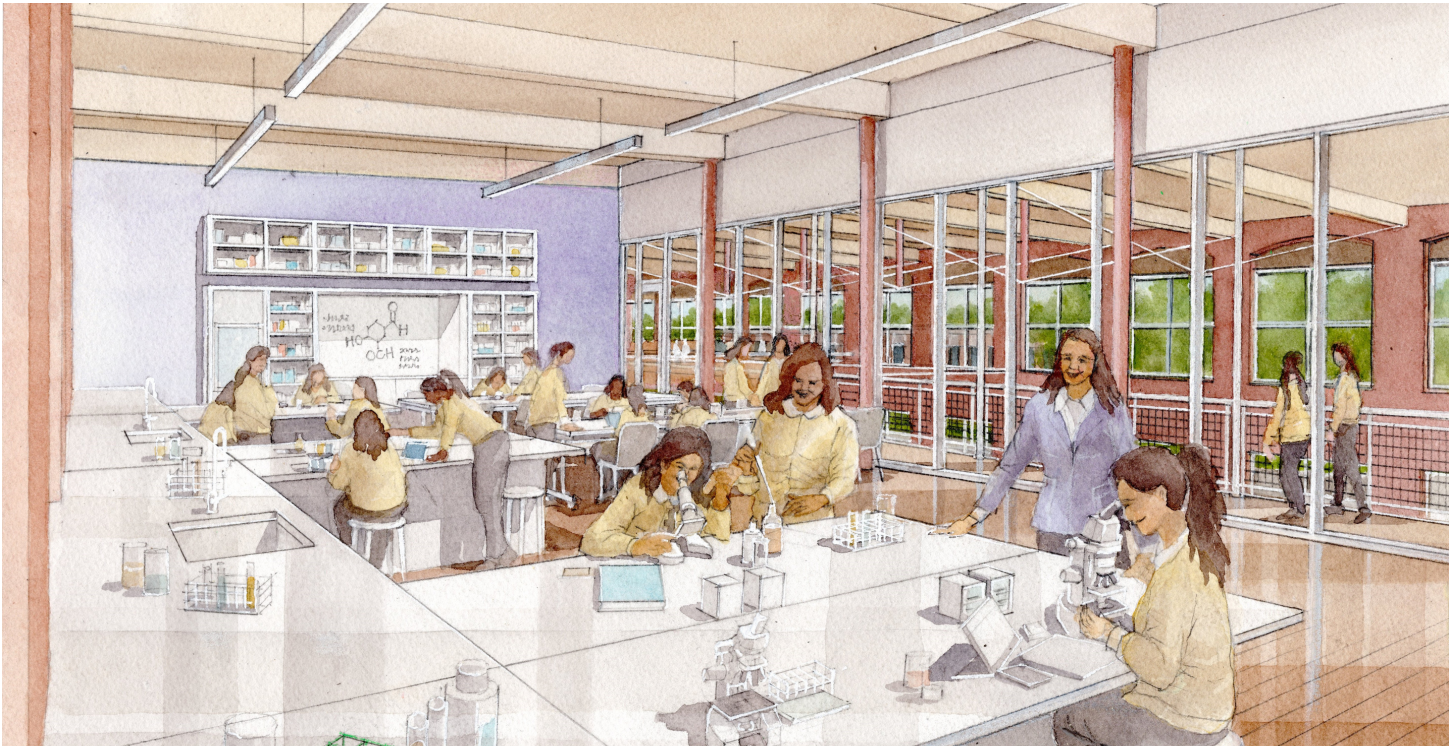
STEM FIELDS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE RADICALLY MORE INCLUSIVE OF BLACK AND BROWN WOMEN WITHOUT INTENTIONAL INVESTMENT.

As young women of color and first-generation students, Esperanza Academy graduates are statistically less likely to pursue STEM careers, obtain leadership positions, and receive equitable pay.

We are unapologetically disrupting these statistics with a comprehensive set of strategies.

- We are building a "culture of math" making a school-wide effort to emphasize fun, and engaging aspects of science and math.
- We are implementing Illustrative Math so that students develop their conceptual understanding through real-world problem-solving.
- We are helping caregivers take an active role in their child's learning with fun family engagement opportunities.
- We are using a variety of formative assessments to address learning needs and integrate classroom instruction and intervention.
- We are adopting OpenSciEd, which uses the Next Generation Science Standards, so that students become joyful doers of science.
- We are hiring more teachers and investing in their professional development.
- We are investing in additional STEM activities for our after-school and summer programs to close experiential and educational gaps.

We want to show the world what's possible when you invest in STEM education for girls.



Imagine a seventh grader adding mechanical body parts and an electric motor to a recycled can and winning first place in a robotics competition. Or that moment when a math lesson illuminates an exciting real-life career possibility to solve a problem for our society.

We are creating the ideal space for our students to realize their hopes and dreams.

To better accommodate our current and future programs, Esperanza's Board of Trustees has announced a comprehensive campaign to fund a new building, provide operating support during the transition, and enhance long-term sustainability with an endowment.

A new facility will help our students discover who they can become, build confidence through experience, and create opportunities to increase extended-day and extended-year programming with an emphasis on STEM.

Esperanza's STEM Center will offer our girls:

- A makerspace for tinkering and engineering
- Curriculum resources for topics like coding, circuits, and 3D modeling
- Laboratory space for experiments

We rely 100% on philanthropy to meet our program goals. We've established a committed and engaged community of donors who share our values and commitment to zero-cost high-quality education for our underserved community. Together, we will realize our vision to break the cycle of generational poverty!