

## Science (Allison Muir)

The study of Science at The New School is about curiosity and discovery. Science is not solely content, but a process of intrigue, asking questions and striving to answer them through methodical tests. At The New School students perform hands on labs—both individually designed and prescribed—to collect data and make meaning of it. Students are empowered to make evidence-based decisions to inform healthy life choices, communicate effectively, and positively engage in their community, at home and at large.

Science at The New School is project-based, offering courses like the Chemistry of Cooking, Marine Biology of Coastal Maine, and Physics of Motion. This allows students to be hands on—cooking rock candy and learning about supersaturated solutions, exploring local tide pools and dissecting marine organisms, or even riding a bike to actually experience  $\text{force} = \text{mass} \times \text{acceleration}$ .

Our science classes are student-centered; they are dreamed-up by the student body, designed to facilitate specific learning targets, all while having enough flexibility for students to chase their own curiosity.

Our science classes are deliberate in drawing meaningful connections to both the real world and a teenager's life. To do this, we partner with local organizations to better understand and contribute to authentic tasks. We study neuroscience and research how life choices on love or drugs affect the brain. We assess our school's energy consumption while studying alternative energy and creating our own cell phone charging solar panels.

These classes seek to instill a sense of interconnectedness with the natural world and foster environmental stewardship; this emphasis on place-based learning uses the local landscape as our very own classroom.

Our studies recognize that scientific inquiry is an ever-changing, ongoing process. Students will open their minds to current events, newly published journal articles, and incoming data to expand knowledge of the universe around us. We strive to help students find and follow their spark in being life-long learners.

