

THE BREWSTER MODEL



OUR PROMISE

At Brewster, we believe that no two students approach learning in the same way. Great minds do not all think alike! Therefore, a school must be nimble and willing to work to meet the needs of each individual student. Many schools talk about a student-centered approach. But what does that mean in practice? Students today live in a world dominated by technology with all its attendant benefits and unintended consequences. Students today live in a world where it is just as easy to communicate and work with people halfway around the world as it is with a neighbor down the street. Students today live in a world where multiple forms of media shape their thinking for good or ill. And finally, students today live in a world where the only constant is rapid change: societal, economic, and environmental. We believe that educating the whole child means preparing them to live and thrive in this world. But our most important core belief is a constant: Students have and always will be diverse learners with unique capabilities. Not surprisingly, we differ from schools who look for students who only fit a certain academic profile. A commitment to welcoming students with varying capabilities sets us apart from other elite schools.

Our promise is that each student will receive the right level of support when they need it, and an appropriate level of challenge when they are ready for it. Students transform at Brewster through an intellectually diverse and academically challenging environment without standardization. We are an elite school without the elitism!

As a result, Brewster graduates emerge with a strong sense of self and a deepened commitment to others. They have the capacity to thrive broadly in the college environment and beyond with passion, purpose, and talent.

Our promise to students will extend to a global network of schools, all of which will be part of a movement to expand a truly unique learning model—the way education should be.

THE COMPONENTS OF THE BREWSTER MODEL

A team approach

We believe in a shared responsibility for every student's success. Everyone learns and teaches as a team. Academic teams are responsible for the educational experience of a small group of students. They operate as a school-within-a-school, encompassing all disciplines so that students receive a truly personalized education from a team of educators that works to the betterment of all. A compelling by-product of this approach is that subjects are not taught in a vacuum, as the teachers create the connective tissue from class to class to give context to a student's understanding.

A Bold History

Brewster's history is one of innovation, where education evolves to fit the needs of today's students to tomorrow's world. Prior to 1830, no state had a public school system in the modern sense, especially in the rural areas where educational opportunities competed with the demand that children work on the farm, often as a matter of survival.

But in 1820, forward-thinking residents in the small American lakeside town of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire recognized the critical role that education plays in creating vibrant communities and had the wisdom to build a school. Community members pooled resources, ideas, and goals to create a center of learning that would serve rural students throughout the region. Students arrived on foot or by horse and eventually by train each day from the surrounding towns to study at the Wolfeboro & Tuftonboro Academy.

In 1887, a graduate of the Wolfeboro & Tuftonboro Academy named John Brewster made a transformative gift that would set the course for a school that was truly different. His gratitude led him to give back to his community. His only stipulation was that "no restriction shall be placed upon any person desiring to attend and receive instruction from [the school] on account of his or her age, sex, or color, provided only he or she is of good moral character." In honor of John's generosity, the school was renamed Brewster Academy.

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A tradition centered on the student, not the institution

We help all students understand their potential and empower them to achieve it by being inclusive of everyone's unique talent. Under The Brewster Model, students of varying abilities are not separated into different sections. Rather, we embrace the positive impact that comes with having diverse learners in the same classroom, teaching and learning from one another. Further, at Brewster, learning is not static. Rigor can be adjusted in real time to allow for greater support or greater challenge as students grow and evolve.

A vanguard approach to teacher training

Because of the highly personalized approach required by The Brewster Model, even experienced teachers are not likely to arrive on campus with the skills necessary to jump into the curriculum. All new faculty members attend a four-week training program designed to prepare them to teach according to best practices established by the Model.

A complete approach to a complete education

The Brewster Model includes a social and emotional learning curriculum designed to build the skills and qualities that matter in life—curiosity, character, collaboration, and confidence. We were the first boarding school in North America to recognize the value and the need to teach emotional intelligence. Our curriculum addresses the unique challenges modern adolescents face at each grade level, starting with an exploration of the self and moving into how each student fits within a broader community. Through our recognition system, students are taught that they can do their best without having to best one another.

A global outlook

Brewster is a reflection of the world today—diverse, collaborative, creative, and challenging. Students with a global outlook are best prepared to share their gifts with the world and live lives of purpose. The Brewster Model encourages cultural exploration embedded within the curriculum and through the diverse student body that we enroll. Students can also elect a trimester immersion program at one of Brewster's international campuses. Studying abroad helps students build cross-cultural understanding and develop independence, self-confidence, tolerance, and awareness.

A balanced approach to technology

Thoughtful integration and access to technology allows students and teachers to collaborate seamlessly to enhance the Model's personalized approach. While we were among the first schools to use and encourage our students to use technology effectively, we recognize the ubiquitous role that technology has played in our students' lives since birth. Whether it's working with our students in creative robotics programs or helping them recognize the limits and downside consequences of technology, we are ever seeking ways to find the right balance between technological innovation and added value to our programs.

A Bold History continued

By 1964, Brewster had become an independent boarding school as well as the local community school. In that year the town of Wolfboro opened a new public school that would offer a range of vocational courses in addition to core subjects to serve the changing needs of the local population. Brewster Academy faced a critical moment in its history as most of its population transferred to the new, free Kingswood Regional High School. Trustees made the bold decision to open the Academy's doors to a wider audience and it became fully private. Brewster would maintain its commitment to local students who wished to attend, but would grow to become an internationally renowned boarding/day school.

In 1992, Brewster Academy embarked on another landmark initiative and developed a particular approach to learning known as The Brewster Model. The Brewster Model has six key components, none of which could succeed in a vacuum, and all of which work in harmony within a community built upon an ethos of unconditional positive regard for others.

Today, we have embraced a bold vision: an approach to learning with the exponential power to transform education, communities, and the lives of students in our care. Brewster is committed to scaling our influence and expertise on a global scale, to shape the broader landscape of education.

Together with partners around the world, we will dramatically expand the communities and students who can benefit from the expertise we have built over decades of intense development and experience.

Our mission: To prepare diverse thinkers for lives of purpose

Our commitment to personalization, high standards, community, and bringing out the potential in each student epitomizes the way education should be.