



**FUTURES
ACADEMY**

FUTURES ACADEMY

Middleborough High School

71 East Grove Street

Middleborough, MA 02346

508 947 6181



Futures Academy: Alternative High School

Accountability, Integrity and Resiliency

Table of Contents

Program Overview.....	4
Program Graduation Requirements.....	5
Program Admission Contract.....	6
Program Course Map.....	7
Program Example Schedule.....	8
Program Expectations	9
Program Attendance Policy.....	10
Attendance Contract	11
Transportation & Primary Person	12
School To Work Model	13
Program Incentives.....	14
Permission Slip for Early Release	15
Internet Contract.....	16
Sexual Harassment Contract	17

Dear Future's Academy Community,

I am extremely humbled and grateful to be the Director of the Alternative Program here in Middleborough. As an alumni of Middleborough High School, and a former resident of Middleborough, I have a passion for making this school and this community the best it can be. I have watched the Futures Program grow over the years and I am ecstatic to be the leader of this team. Watching this program give countless opportunities to my own friends, family members, and members of my community has driven my passion to continue the incredible journey that was started over 20 years ago.

The goal of Futures Academy has always been to provide an alternative pathway to our students in order to ensure their success post graduation. I have the pleasure of working with an extremely talented team of teachers who have provided endless opportunities, support, and education throughout their years in the program. I am excited and honored to continue to build upon this experience with my fellow staff members in the Academy.

I believe in a community of students and staff who show personal development through communication, hard work, and turning even difficult moments into learning opportunities. I fully believe that Future's Academy provides that environment and affords students those opportunities. It is my goal that every student feels they have a place of support and belonging and they are afforded the opportunity to be successful in the High School setting.

I look forward to starting this journey with you and helping all students in their path to success. With accountability, integrity, and resiliency, we will be successful.

Sincerely,



Lacey Foley
Coordinator of Alternative Pathways

Futures Program Overview

The Futures Academy is an Alternative High School designed for both general education and special education students who are academically focused and motivated to overcome the challenges that have hindered their success in the mainstream setting. The Futures Academy consists of three years of academic coursework fulfilling The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's core requirements for graduation. All students are prepared and required to sit for the MCAS test in ELA, Mathematics, and Biology. During the school year, all Futures students have the opportunity to participate in a unique school-to-work model curriculum to prepare them for success post high school graduation. Academy graduates receive a Middleborough High School Diploma to set them on a path of attending a two year college, select four year college, trade school, workforce or enlist in the military.

Futures Program staff is committed to providing a safe and structured environment in which students have access to the many supports necessary to accomplish academic achievement, develop appropriate social skills, and learn adaptive coping mechanisms. Staff are committed to providing an individual, supportive atmosphere that recognizes a variety of learning styles, as well as emotional and adjustment difficulties. The staff promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect and positive behavior that allows each student to learn in a safe environment and become a productive member of the school community and society.

Futures students attend school on a daily basis during the first two years of the Futures Program. School starts each day at 8:05 am and concludes at 1:50 pm. Classes are approximately 60 minutes in length. The daily schedule includes 4-5 instructional periods and one school meeting period, along with lunch and wellness. Third year students will have the length of their day determined by courses needed for graduation, however third year students in good academic standing usually have their day completed by 12:00 pm so they may continue their day in the workforce. Third year students will have the opportunity to complete an internship or work study to contribute to their graduation requirement within the Futures Program.

In the program, students work with a school adjustment counselor to identify aspects of their life, both academically and socially that have previously challenged their success and work to develop new skills in order to be successful in the classroom, work and in life.

Students are referred and accepted into the Futures Program through a recommendation form and nomination committee. Passing grades and credits from previous schools and programs will be transferred with the student into the Futures Program. Courses and credits within the Futures Program are transferable to the Community Evening School as Community Evening School credits are transferable to the Futures Program.

After one year in the mainstream high school setting, a referral to the program can be made. It is essential that both the student and parent/guardian review the program expectations and guidelines and agree on entry into the program with the Program Coordinator. It is expected that every student in the Futures Program will adhere to all of the policies, procedures, rules and regulations as outlined in the Futures Program Handbook.. After one Semester in Future's Academy - all students and guardians will meet with the Coordinator of Alternative Pathways to determine effectiveness within the program and evaluate placement.

Futures Program Graduation Requirements

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Courses</u>
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Electives	7
Wellness	4

120+ credits as outlined on the Futures Course map on the following page

MCAS

All students will need to sit for the ELA, Math, and Science MCAS test.
Those who do not pass, will need to show competency in the core subjects individually.

Attendance

Students are allotted 13 absences per Semester before credit denial.
See Attendance Policy for specific breakdown of student's attendance conditions.

Internship

All third year students (Seniors) who have an internship or a work study program must successfully complete it in order to fulfill their graduation requirement.

****Program graduates receive a Middleborough High School Diploma with which they can attend select four year colleges, any two year college, trade school, military enlistment or workforce****

Futures Program Admission Contract

I, _____, have decided that I would like to enroll in the Futures Academy. In order to do so, I agree to the following conditions:

- I will show respect for myself, students, and staff in the Futures Program.
- I will try my best to achieve academic and personal success.
- I will ask for help when needed.
- I will carry my Futures Accountability Sheet with me while in the program.
- I will comply with the rules of the Futures Academy and the Futures Program Handbook.
- I will work with counseling and Futures Program staff to process negative behaviors, and contract as necessary to protect my safety, and the safety of those around me.
- I understand that I must attend school on a regular basis in order to pass my classes and failure to attend school can result in loss of credit. In addition, I also have read and understand the attendance policy of the Futures Program.
- If I can't make it to school I will call the Futures Program at (508) 947-6181 or text (774) 766-7519 to explain my absence.
- If I am going to be late or required to leave early, I will communicate with the Futures Program Coordinator.
- I agree to participate in the program and work towards graduation requirements which include a work-study/internship program.
- I understand that if I consistently fail to meet these conditions, I will be removed from the Futures Program.

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date_____

Parent E-mail Address_____ Phone_____

Director of Alternative Pathways _____ Date_____

Program Course Map

1. 120 - 160 Credits
2. Display competency in English, Math, and Biology MCAS
3. Core Requirements
 - a. 4 years of English
 - b. 3-4 years of Math
 - c. 3-4 years of Sciences
 - d. 3 years of Social Studies
 - e. 4 years of PE/Wellness
 - f. 3 years of Electives
 - g. Work/Work Study

Year 1:	Year 2:	Year 3:
English II	English III	English IV
Geometry	Algebra II	Personal Finance
U.S. History I	U.S. History II	Current Events
Biology II	Integrated Science	Forensics
Gym/Wellness	Gym/Wellness	Gym/Wellness
Credit Recovery/Electives	Credit Recovery/Electives	Work/Work Study

Before entering into the Futures Program, prospective students will need to have attended the following mainstream classes:

Biology I
 English I
 Algebra I
 World History

Futures Program Example Schedule

Periods	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Arrival 7:30-8:05	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival
Wellness 8:05-8:30	<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>
Block 1 8:30-9:30	Biology	English	Math
Period 2 9:30-10:30	US History I	Math	US History II
Period 3: 10:30-11:30	English	History	English
Lunch 11:30-11:50	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
Period 4: 11:50-12:50	Elective	Science	Work Study/Internship
Period 5: 12:50-1:50	Geometry	Elective	Work Study/Internship

Future Ready Expectations and Skills

1. Respect the program and be a part of the Future's Family.
2. Daily attendance is expected for all students.
3. Show up on time and be in the building by 8:05 am.
4. *Cell phone use/ear buds are limited within the program. Repeat offenses of misuse will be dealt with according to our cell phone policy contract.*
5. If you are going to be absent from school it is the responsibility of **the student** (not the parent) to call the program at 508-947-6181 or text 774-766-7519 and state your absence by 8:30am. Failure to do so will result in inability to buy back the absence for that day.
6. Don't plea bargain or try to negotiate with staff upon an unfavorable decision.
7. Take consequences with good grace and look to bounce back from negative experiences.
8. Students will not use racial slurs or offensive language of any kind.
9. Zero tolerance for drug use of any kind within the program. Students may be subject to searches if there is suspicion of drug or tobacco use in the school building.

"Still, like air, I rise." - Maya Angelou

Any student in Future's Academy is subject to removal from the program based on the following accounts:

1. Student has missed 10 consecutive days of school and refused to participate in a re-engagement meeting.
2. Student has not made academic or behavioral progress over the course of the school year.
3. Student is identified by administration as having more complex needs than the program can allow.

Any student removed from the program will have a meeting to determine next educational steps in the mainstream or night school setting.

Attendance Policy

Tardiness:

If students are late for class from **0 - 5 minutes** they will be marked **tardy**.
If students are late for class **more than 5 minutes** they will be marked **absent** for the class;
Students can still get points for assignments completed during the class time.

Absences:

Semester long courses:

- Students are allotted **11 unexcused** absences per semester long course
- Upon the 12 unexcused absence student will **lose credit for the class**

When a student exceeds allotted absences:

Students have the opportunity to 'buy back' excessive absences when they exceed their allotted absences. A student can attend each academic block and follow classroom expectations for 4 days in a row, they will have an absence 'removed' from their log.

What constitutes an excused absence?

- Doctor's notes made available to staff within **5 days of absence** (exceptions for school vacations and extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis)
- If a student is sent home by the school nurse due to illness or injury
- If a student has to appear in court
- If a student is suspended from school
- If a student is seeking placement for mental health support
- Other emergencies that may arise that are of Mrs. Foley's discretion

Absent Notifications:

When a student reaches 7 absences in a semester, a letter will be sent home and the student will be required to have a meeting with the program coordinator to create an attendance plan and review the attendance contract.

When a student reaches 10 absences the student, program coordinator and guardian will meet to discuss ways to help the student be successful in their attendance.

Futures Attendance Contract

Student: _____

Date: _____

Attendance is a large part of the success of students in Futures Academy. All students are expected to have regular attendance and exceed no more than: **11 absences per Semester.**

1. Student will attend Futures Academy daily from: 8:05 am - 1:50pm
2. If a student is going to be late or absent, they will call or text the Futures Program *each day* of their tardiness or absence.
3. Students are responsible for calling work or youthworks placement if they are incapable of attending a scheduled work day.
4. Students will only leave the program before 1:50pm if they are scheduled to work or have prior permission from the Coordinator of Alternative Education.
5. All students will sign in/sign out using the sign out sheet to leave the building.
6. If a student is in danger of loss of credit: Student will receive a letter to have a Loss of Credit Hearing to determine status of class.
7. Mrs. Foley and the Futures Program staff will provide opportunities for student check-in to obtain up-to-date status on attendance and related credits.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Director of Alternative Pathways Signature: _____

Lacey Foley

Accountability

Students are accountable for their actions in Futures Academy. All students are required to carry an Accountability Sheet throughout the week. Their sheet allows for them to earn an Attendance Buy-Back and be responsible for their actions throughout the week.

If a student gains all their signatures by following expectations and completing their academic work - they will receive an automatic attendance buy back for that week and be eligible for Student of The Week and Fun Friday activities.

If a student received all three of the allotted phone strikes or discipline strikes, they will be unable to gain their buy back and will be required to turn in their cell phone device to the Director and forfeit their participation in Fun Friday.

Students Accountability Sheet data will be tracked throughout the year and contribute to their academic success and privileges within the program.

If a student refuses to participate and carry their sheet, they will automatically turn in their electronic devices and not participate in Futures Academy privileged activities.

Dates: _____

Student Accountability Sheet

Student: _____

Attendance Buy Back					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Advisory					
Block 1					
Block 2					
Block 3					
Block 4					
Block 5					

Leaving the Classroom				
Date	Block	Destination	Time Out	Time In

Disciplinary			
Date	Time	Incident	Teacher

Phone Strikes	

Transportation

Futures Academy is happy to offer transportation to students that have been accepted into the program. Students are able to access the following options:

- *Future's Academy Bus*: Each morning students who require transportation will be waiting outside their homes at the end of their driveways for the Futures Academy Bus. Each student will be given an approximate arrival time for the bus. Students are expected to text or call in their absences before bus arrival time.
- *Middleborough Public Schools Bus*: Students have the capability to use the Middleborough High School bus route and arrive at the program early by 7:20am. Students will have access to the Future's common area spaces until school begins.
- *Drop off*: Students can be dropped off by a parent, guardian or sibling at any time that allows them to be in the program by 8:00am.

At the end of the day, Students can access the Middleborough Public Schools bus route at the 1:50 pm dismissal. Students are also welcome to walk home or be picked up by a parent, guardian or caregiver.

Students whose days end before 1:50 pm will be required to manage their own transportation.

Drug and Substance Free Program

Futures Academy is a tobacco and THC free program. A THC- and tobacco-free program promotes a healthier learning environment where students can focus, thrive, and make positive choices for their futures. By prioritizing wellness and prevention, Futures fosters lifelong habits that support academic success and overall well-being. Students in possession of THC or Tobacco will have consequences in accordance with the Middleborough High School and Futures handbook.

School to Work Model

Futures Academy is a school-to-work model program. The goal of Futures is to equip students with the skills to be successful in the workforce post high school graduation. Students will be given the opportunity to access work for credit during the school day. Students will work for credit and those in good academic standing can leave the school day early to gain working hours. Students in their final year of the program will be given a responsibility of partial day attendance with the expectation of 20+ hours per week. In some cases, students may access a full-time internship of 35+ hours if academics allow.

Students will be graded based on the completion of their Work-Based Learning Plans and Signal Success curriculum. Students who access the YouthWorks Program are responsible for filling out timesheets and turning them in bi-weekly. If a student does not fill out the timesheets, they may not be paid appropriately.

Students must always get approval from the Director to participate in work study during school hours.

All students will have the opportunity to access YouthWork or a Work study program for school credit.

Students with poor attendance and/or academics will forfeit their work experience until they are in improved academic standing and attendance status.

Futures Academy Guest Speaker Series

Students will participate in a monthly guest speaker series. Guest speakers are imperative to the development of competent workplace participants. Every month a Guest speaker comes in and speaks to students about one of the key aspects of success in workplace life: Time Management, Dedication, Skill and Hardwork.

We utilize local Middleborough business owners and entrepreneurs to come and speak to our students, answer questions and talk about how educational struggles are often what leads to successful leadership.

Futures Program Incentives

Students in good academic standing with less than 8 absences.

The Futures Program uses an honor system to keep track of students' overall progress. The students who are consistently meeting program expectations, in good academic standing and with regular attendance will be afforded privileges within the program.

- *Student is eligible to attend the YMCA and other outside field trips*
 - *Student will receive opportunities for independent breaks*
 - *Student is eligible for a Student-of-the-Week*
 - *Eligibility is determined by attendance, work completion, leadership skills and attitude.*
 - *Student can have access to the school store items*
 - *Student can have access to Futures kitchen amenities*
 - *Student can have access to Small Group Room amenities*
 - *Early release on Friday at 12:30pm with signed permission slips (no phone calls home).*
- Students need to be present for the entire week.**

Students with excessive absences and failing marks:

- *Student will be responsible for filling out a 'Buy back' form to address attendance issues.*
- *Student will not have access to the school store items, until they are above 59.0% in each class.*
- *Student will be on 'pass restriction' and lose the opportunity to do independent walk breaks until they have above a 59.0% and less than 11 absences.*
- *Student will be required to stay until 1:50pm on Friday's to complete course recovery or makeup work.*

School Store

The Futures Academy School store is managed by the students of the program. Items in the school store are for sale to all Futures Academy students in good academic and attendance standings.

The School Store can only be accessed before the start of Block One and during Lunch time. No student is permitted to buy items from the school store during classroom instruction time.

Items purchased from the school store can be used in the kitchen area during lunch time only.

Cell Phone/Technology Contract

Re: Middleboro High School Handbook 2022-2023 pg. 71-72

During the school day while in classrooms; cell phones and any other electronic devices or accessories (ipad, tablet, headphones, earbuds, airpods etc) use is prohibited.

Use of technology within the classroom setting is at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

The expectation of the Futures Program is that all students will have cellphones and airpods off and away (unseen) during classroom time but have the opportunity to utilize technology during lunch or break time within the program.

If a student is found to be using a cellphone/airpods during class time and refuses to put technology away (in a pocket, backpack or on the teachers desk) the following will occur:

1st Offense	The student will pass in the phone to the Alternative Education Coordinator's office and pick it up at the end of the scheduled school day.
2nd Offense	The student will pass in the phone to the Alternative Education Coordinator's office and pick it up at the end of the school day. The student will also stay from 1:50 pm - 2:30pm to do work missed in the class with unauthorized cell phone usage.
3rd Offense	The student will pass in the phone to the Alternative Education Coordinator's office. The student's parent/guardian will be required to pick up the cellphone at the end of the student's scheduled school day or before 3:00pm.

If a student refuses to pass in a phone, the student may be asked to leave the program for the remainder of the day and lose class credit.

Parents/Guardians are asked to conform to this policy and support the program with its expectations.

By signing this contract, students agree to abide by the cell phone policy.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Administrator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Internet Contract

Re: Middleboro High School Handbook 2015-2016 pg. 25-26

Internet and Network Acceptable Use Policy (see attachment) pg.33

"Access to the Middleborough Public Schools' Internet service is a privilege, not a right. The Middleborough Public Schools Administration reserves the right to deny, revoke or suspend specific user privileges and/or to take other disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion (students), or dismissal (staff) for violation of this policy. This district administration will advise appropriate law enforcement agencies of illegal activities conducted through the Middleborough Public Schools' Internet service, including harassment and threats. The district administration also will cooperate fully with the local, state and/or federal officials in any investigation related to any."

Consequences may include:

- After School Detention
- Confiscation of electronic device
- Parent pickup of device
- Out of school suspension
- Legal proceeding – felony charges

I understand the information regarding the Internet Contract and the consequences described above.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Administrator Signature _____ Date _____

Sexual Harassment Contract

Re: Middleboro High School Handbook 2025-2026 pg. 75-76

"Consist with M. G. L. Chapter 76, Section 5, the Middleborough School District also affirms the commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or sexual orientation."

Sexual Harassment:

"In its simplest expression, sexual harassment is unwelcome verbal or non-verbal actions or physical contact of sexual nature that impacts on the conditions of the school environment."

Example #1 Making negative or offensive comments, jokes, innuendoes, or suggestions about another person's gender or sexuality.

Example #2 Continuing to ask a person to socialize when that person has verbally indicated no interest in such activities.

Consequences may include:

- An informal investigation
- 1-10 day suspension and/or expulsion
- Notification to Police Department
- Formal complaint filed with The Office of Civil Rights
- Legal proceedings

I understand the above information and the consequences described above.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Administrator Signature _____ Date _____

Signature Page:

Transportation: Yes/No

Address: _____

Student Phone Number: _____

Media in the School

There are frequent occasions when students are photographed or videotaped during school activities and recognition ceremonies. Regardless of your response herein, your child's image may appear within the school for classroom projects, hallways postings, in-school presentations, newsletter, yearbooks and other in school media. Please note and sign below:

___ I do **NOT** want my child's image or name used on the website, in newsletters or on the local cable channel.

___ I give permission for my child's image or name to be used as stated above.

Student name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Program Sign-In:

I agree to adhere to the program expectations as outlined in this handbook and will do my best to follow the rules and regulations of Futures Academy:

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____