



POLARIS

LEARNING LABS



HOW WE SUPPORT ALL STUDENTS

The commitment to honoring and developing each person's gifts is at the core of our mission at New Garden Friends School. In celebration of our 50th anniversary, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the Polaris Learning Labs at NGFS. The concept of Learning Labs was conceived to ensure that each student in our inclusive community is provided with the intellectual, social, and emotional skills they need to take their next steps with confidence and compassion.

At NGFS, our concern for students' social and emotional wellness and growth does not take a back seat to academic endeavors. We are committed to healthy, balanced, and developmentally appropriate levels of support and challenge.

Learning Labs are staffed by our learning specialists. The Labs will encompass executive functioning skills, support, and enrichment.

INCLUDED IN OUR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

LEVEL 1

All NGFS students have access to the following Level 1 services:

- Faculty members implement strategies to support students' executive functioning and study skills throughout the year.
- Intervention or enrichment support from faculty and/or Learning Specialists in small group settings, as needed.
- Plans for student support and extension based on strengths and/or challenges; these will be created by faculty members in collaboration with the Learning Specialist as needed.
- Access to recommended providers for privately paid tutoring when further support is suggested.
- Accommodations for students with demonstrated need or ability with or without up-to-date psychoeducational testing.



LEVEL 2 SERVICES FOR MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS

The intentional cultivation of
critical executive functioning skills

- Planning
- Organization
- Attention
- Time Management
- Task Initiation
- Metacognition
- Self-regulation
- Chunking long-term assignments into manageable steps
- Perseverance
- Flexibility/ Resiliency
- Reading Strategies
- Note-Taking Strategies
- Test Prep
- Synthesizing Information
- Responsive Writing
- Making Connections
- Self-advocacy



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Enrollment in Skills for Academic Success

Specific instruction at a crucial time

This daily class is constructed and customized to fit the learning needs of its participants. For some students, success in Middle School will depend on dedicated instruction and oversight in the areas of planning, organizing, making decisions, paying attention, regulating behavior, solving problems, evaluating choices, and completing tasks. These skills and behaviors are parts of executive functioning or the cognitive processes occurring in the frontal lobe area of the brain that oversees these higher-order competencies. Some students need regular guidance as they develop these skills and move toward greater independence. Learning to navigate anxiety and/or the social and organizational challenges of Middle School builds resilience and paves the way for educational success.

**CONTACT YOUR DIVISION HEAD FOR INFORMATION ABOUT LEVEL 2 FEES;
FEES CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE NGFS WEBSITE**



LEVEL 2 SERVICES

UPPER SCHOOL

Enrollment in Academic Coaching Seminar

Building the competencies and self-advocacy skills needed for college and beyond

When Upper School students struggle with anxiety and/or executive functioning skills, their enthusiasm for learning can fade quickly. High school is a critical time for students to understand how they learn, develop coping skills, and increase their ability to self-advocate. With the right support, students can develop the skills they need to plan, prioritize, and follow through on their assignments. In this daily class, students receive the individual attention they need to limit procrastination, manage their time, stay organized, initiate and complete tasks, and break longer-term assignments into manageable portions. We have found that when the management of assignments is handled at school, students develop increased discipline and have a better attitude addressing their challenges in productive ways.

LEVEL 3 SUPPORT AND INSTRUCTION

Families of students already receiving accommodations and individual instruction who are experiencing acute challenges in their educational journey may request participation in the one-on-one learning options available with Level 3 support. Level 3 support is designed to be short-term interventions, not lasting more than a school year, to aid students in either integrating into the full NGFS program or to ensure that students continue to progress as families consider educational opportunities for the future. The individualized nature of this program allows for one-on-one teaching and support as identified by the Educational Specialist Team and approved by the Division Head. Due to the resource commitment necessary for Level 3 support enrollment in this program is extremely limited.



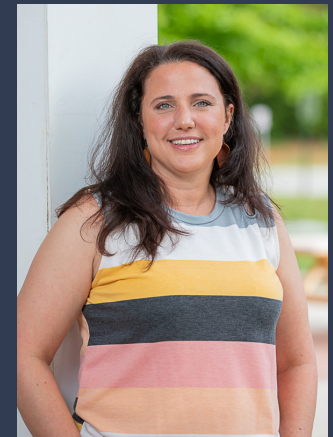
ADDITIONAL SKILLS SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES LEVEL 2 & 3

Students may be eligible for enrollment in additional academic or social skills programming, academic enrichment, or independent study courses. Our division heads can provide more information.

LEARNING SPECIALISTS



Cheri Durham
Middle School
Learning
Specialist



Lauren Dean
Upper School
Learning
Specialist

NEW GARDEN FRIENDS SCHOOL SEEKS TO BE AN INCLUSIVE, INNOVATIVE
EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY GUIDED BY QUAKER BELIEFS AND COMMITTED
TO HONORING AND DEVELOPING EACH PERSON'S GIFTS.



New Garden
FRIENDS SCHOOL