



# The Foote School





JONATHAN WILSON  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
BUILDING



# Welcome to Foote



Foote School is the kind of place that is best experienced in person, but for now let me paint you a picture of a typical day here.

Students arrive by foot, bicycle, skateboard, school bus and car.

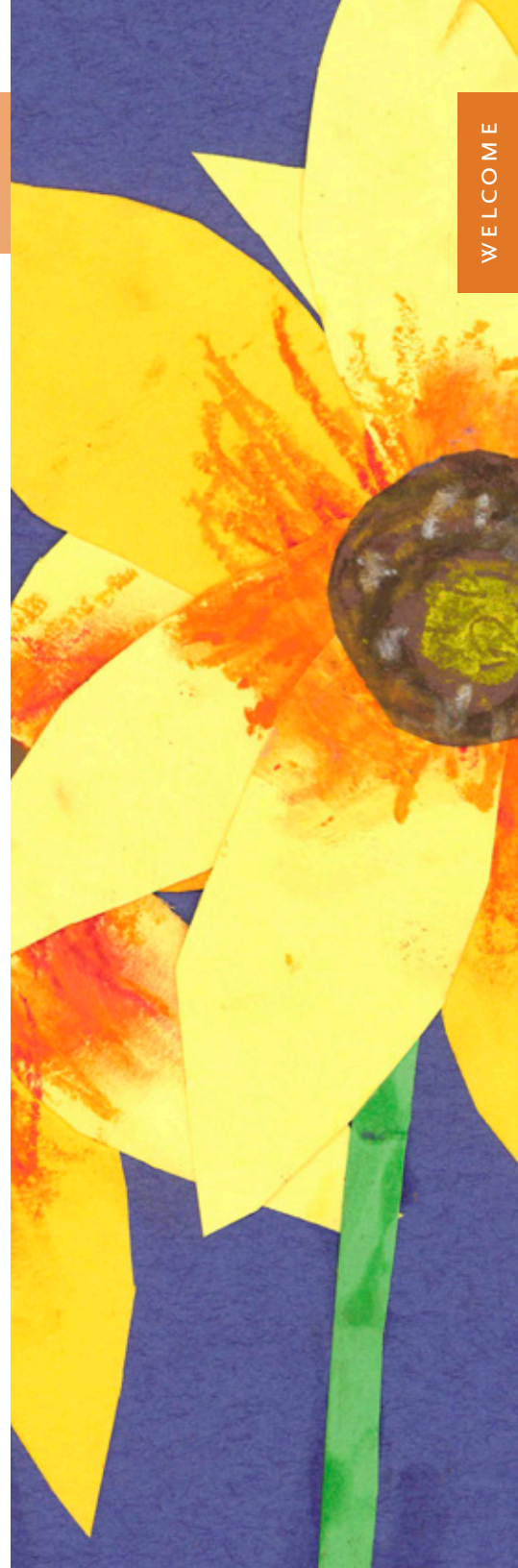
In Kindergarten, a teacher crouches to eye level and listens intently as a child explains how Julia—a “persona doll” used to teach children about kindness—can be a good friend.

In the art studio, second graders are putting the finishing touches on colorful hot air balloons made from plaster and reed baskets they wove themselves. Across campus, eighth graders are discussing race and justice as part of their reading of Bryan Stevenson’s book *Just Mercy*. Ninth graders, meanwhile, are waist-deep in New Haven Harbor testing water samples for pollutants as part of their field biology class.

Foote School is a vibrant and joyful community, powered by curiosity, creativity, collaboration, empathy and resilience. Our students learn by doing from passionate teachers who are deeply invested in their success.

Come to any Foote reunion and you’ll hear alumni of all ages, from 24 to 84, share how their Foote years were the most formative of their education because of teachers who believed in them. I invite you to explore our school further and I hope to greet you in person soon.

Aléwa Cooper, *Head of School*



# About Foote



## GRADES

K-5

LOWER  
SCHOOL

6-9

MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

## ENROLLMENT

435

STUDENTS

39%

STUDENTS OF  
COLOR

25%

OF STUDENTS  
RECEIVE  
FINANCIAL AID

28

CITIES AND TOWNS  
WHERE OUR  
FAMILIES LIVE

19

LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN IN  
HOMES OF  
FOOTE FAMILIES



## FACULTY

71

HEAD AND  
ASSOCIATE  
TEACHERS

70%

HAVE ADVANCED  
DEGREES

## CLASS SIZE

7:1

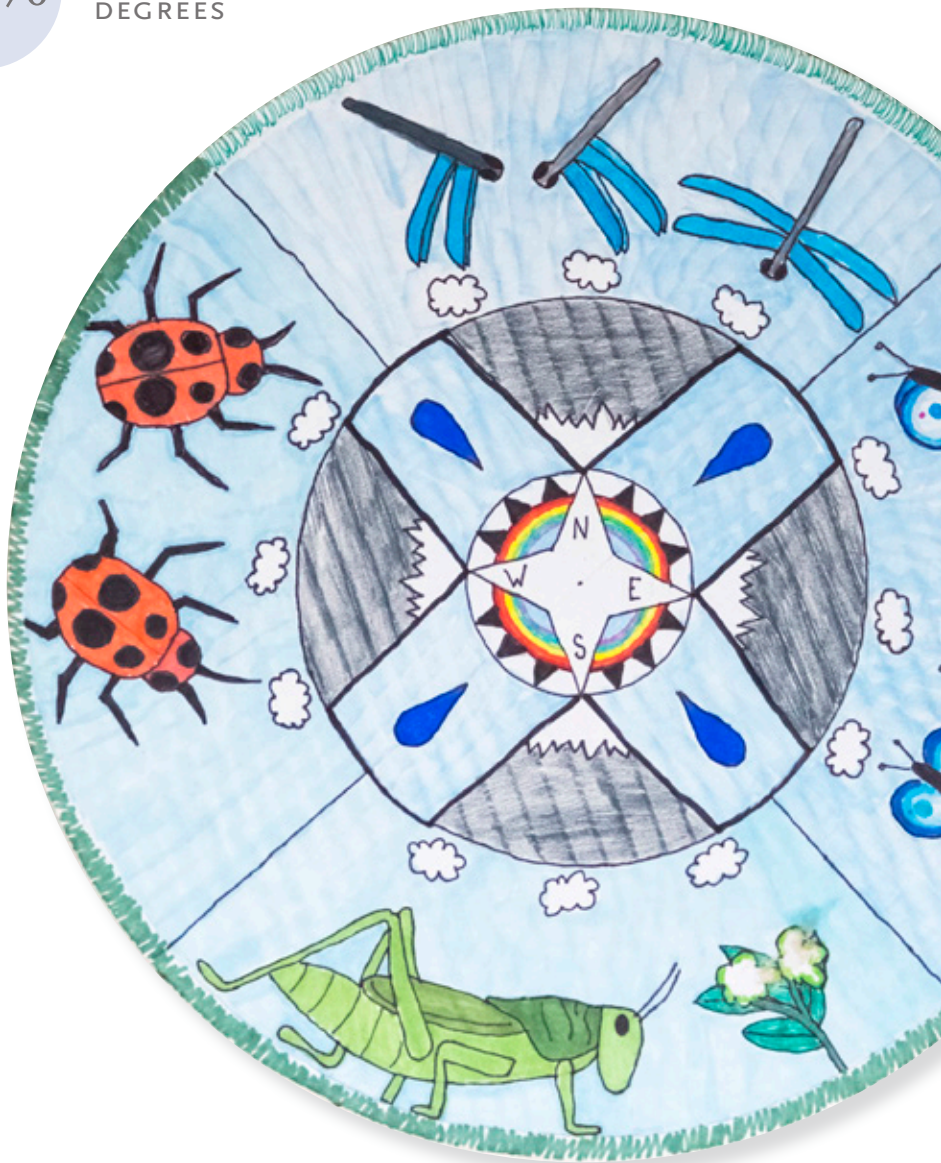
STUDENT-TEACHER  
RATIO

## CAMPUS

18

ACRES

- 11 classroom buildings
- 5 art and music classrooms
- 2 playgrounds
- 48K print volumes in the library
- black box theater
- gymnasium
- outdoor adventure course
- community garden
- 2 regulation-size athletic fields
- mud kitchen



# *The Foote School*

## Campus Map ► New Haven, CT



423

CARROTS & POTATOES  
HARVESTED FROM  
FOOTE'S GARDEN

622

GRAPHIC NOVELS  
AMONG THE  
LIBRARY'S  
COLLECTION

80

GALLONS OF SAP COLLECTED  
FROM FOOTE TREES FOR  
OUR MAPLE SUGARING UNIT





22

SOLAR PANELS POWER THE  
JONATHAN MILIKOWSKY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
BUILDING

70%

OF STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATE IN  
AFTER SCHOOL  
PROGRAM

10

SPORTS OFFERED  
AT FOOTE

An abstract painting of a strawberry, featuring a large, textured red seed pod at the top and several thick, vertical orange and green stripes below it, all set against a green background.

# *Curiosity*

Learning at Foote always starts with a question. Why do people dance? How can we *read* pictures? How does stress affect the body? Can people who see the world differently share it? What are the pros and cons of transmitting information via technology? How can a self-portrait show something about our identity?

Questions are the launching pad from which all learning at Foote takes flight. Our teachers help to develop students' natural sense of wonder into a lifelong love of learning by encouraging questions that lead to exciting discoveries. We follow an inquiry-based approach that puts teachers in the role of facilitator, guiding students to acquire knowledge for themselves rather than presenting it to them.

Learning spaces on our 18-acre campus are thoughtfully designed to ignite students' curiosity about themselves and the wider world around them.

“Curiosity isn’t just a word we talk about. It’s something you can see. Helping students harness their curiosity turns ‘work’ into something everyone is eager to engage in.”

**Jim Adams**

*Grade 5 Teacher*



## CURRICULUM CLOSE-UP

As an introduction to biology, sixth graders make close observations and gather data to make detailed plant drawings in Foote's community garden. Language classes make frequent use of the community garden too, creating field guides to learn and practice new vocabulary.



# *Creativity*

Students at Foote are encouraged to imagine, to question and to think creatively in everything they do. It begins in Kindergarten with unstructured play that develops creativity and executive function and continues as students explore new avenues of self-expression and find their voices.

Creativity takes many forms at Foote: a first grader's self-portrait; a third grader's imaginary continent and the creatures that inhabit it; a seventh grader's innovative solution to a complex algebra problem; a ninth grader's original spoken-word poetry. We see creativity as an essential 21st-century skill, one that correlates to an increased ability to find new solutions to old problems and leads to greater happiness in work and in life.







“The arts at Foote are not a glorified recess, not simply playtime, where otherwise rigorous standards and high expectations are suspended. Rather they are another important, even indispensable, way of interacting with and knowing the world as one’s community.”

**Nancy Berliner and Alan Plattus**

*Past Parents*

## THE ARTS

Students take visual art, drama and music classes in every grade.

- *In visual art* students examine the works of a diverse range of artists and acquire tools and techniques to create expressive works with skill and joy.
- *Our drama program* develops creativity and confidence by giving students opportunities to act on stage, learn public speaking, write plays and operate the lights, soundboard and props in our black box theater.
- *In music class* and ensembles, students experience the pleasure of singing and dancing while learning to read music and to play recorder, handbells, steel pans, Orff instruments and world drums.

## LIBRARY

Foote's library is the heart of the school and a place where students develop their joy of reading and foundational research skills. The library features an unparalleled 48,000 print volumes, as well as audiobooks, periodicals and digital resources. Our three full-time librarians get to know every student's interests and develop an uncanny ability to find just the right books to keep them reading voraciously.

At weekly library class, younger students are read stories and taught to look for visual clues, develop listening skills and make connections between the books they read and the world around them. Older students study literary genres and use the library to conduct research and evaluate sources. The library is open before and after school hours, and families are always welcome.







“Foote is where my love of reading and of art was born and grew. I’m now editorial director of picture books at Abrams Books in New York City and I’m forever thankful for my experience. It made me want to share Foote’s passion for learning and creativity through the books that we publish.”

**Emma Ledbetter '03**

*Foote Alumna*



# Collaboration

Collaboration is how Foote students shape and expand their ideas, and how they learn to negotiate friendships and differences. Whether in musical ensembles, dramatic productions, the science lab or the outdoor adventure course, students find out that success depends upon working together, with everyone contributing their best effort.

Students are thoughtfully grouped in classrooms and for small-group work to encourage diversity of thought. Our grades are the perfect size for this kind of collaboration—small enough for students to form trusting bonds and large enough to have a different mix of classmates every year. Over their years at Foote, students gain confidence from their individual contributions and benefit from exposure to teachers and peers with a range of approaches to problem-solving.

“Collaboration helps children figure out how to work with other people, how to step up or step back, how to agree or disagree, how to find common ground.”

**Deb Riding**

*Middle School Humanities Teacher*





## CURRICULUM CLOSE-UP

The third-grade archeology unit requires students to work together as scientists, historians and detectives to solve a puzzle about artifacts found on a farm in rural New York. How did they get there? And what do they tell us about what the site used to be? Over several weeks, the students work in teams to grid a real dig site; observe, measure and sketch the artifacts; and make and defend their hypotheses. “It’s very hands-on and collaborative,” says Grade 3 teacher Amanda Diffley. “It’s one of the first times they are changing their hypotheses along the way in light of new evidence.”



# *Empathy*

At Foote, we follow the RULER approach developed by Yale University to teach emotional intelligence, empowering students from a young age to recognize, understand, label, express and regulate their emotions. Our teachers help students discover themselves not only as scholars and thinkers but as citizens and human beings. Students develop empathy by exploring concepts of personal identity and equity through literature, field trips, guest speakers, class discussions, music and more.

Our teachers create inclusive classrooms where children feel accepted for who they are and feel safe to take risks that stretch them intellectually. Service learning projects are undertaken in every grade, connecting students to greater New Haven and empowering them to become change makers in their communities.

“Foote has taught me that being different can be the best part about me. I grew up at Foote. It was a loving community and one that accepted me for who I am and who I want to be.”

**Gemma Raymond '14**

*Foote Alumna*





## EQUITY & INCLUSION

We value the diversity of our community – ethnicity, religion, gender identity, family structure and economic situation – as the strength of our school. We know that students learn best when exposed to diverse people and points of view. Our teachers create inclusive classrooms that foster respect for differences, break down stereotypes and support each student’s individual identity, providing all students with a sense of belonging.

Foote offers affinity groups to students and to parents as a way to build connections and community around common experiences.



## UNITY PROJECT

The entire school participated in the “Unity Project” to learn about personal and group identity. Every student and teacher took a turn wrapping yarn around metal poles labeled with identifiers such as “I am multilingual” or “Someone in my family has a disability.” The completed web served as a powerful symbol and teaching tool that illustrated a key theme of Foote’s curriculum: that everyone’s identity is seen and valued, and together we are a beautiful work of art.











# Resilience

Setbacks are a natural part of life, and how children react to them greatly influences how they view themselves and approach new challenges. Foote students are taught to view mistakes as steps on the path to greater knowledge. They are encouraged to take positive risks to push themselves academically, physically and emotionally.

From the fifth grade overnight trip to Skungamaug River to the “sludge test” in eighth grade chemistry, our curriculum presents students with problems not easily solved and tasks not quickly completed. Students learn to see failures as temporary and to adopt a growth mindset that views success as something achieved through hard work, rather than innate ability alone.

“My daughter learned to read late. But her teachers worked tirelessly with her until she was an avid reader. I credit Foote with giving her the skills and a belief in the possibility of her success.”

**Melissa Matthes**

*Past Parent*







# *After Foote*

Foote graduates routinely describe their years on Loomis Place as the most formative of their lives. The number-one reason: outstanding teachers who believed in their potential. Students leave Foote with a deep skill set as proficient language learners, confident self-advocates and innovative problem-solvers. They also graduate with the confidence that comes from having succeeded in a challenging academic program and having contributed to a close-knit community that valued them as individuals.

Every Foote family has access to personalized secondary school counseling, ensuring the best possible next step, whether that's another independent school or public school. Our graduates enjoy academic success and high engagement with student life in high school and college. They go on to fulfilling careers as scientists, community leaders, playwrights, restaurateurs, journalists, computer engineers, athletes, judges and more.

Foote graduates come back to visit—whether young alums home from college, or classmates celebrating their 65th reunion—sharing lasting memories and lifelong friendships.

“We could tell when a teacher really cared, and that’s what encouraged us to go that extra mile.”

**John Harbinson '13**

*Foote Alumnus*





## FOOTE ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Caitlin Cahow '00** is a former U.S. Women's Hockey player and a prominent advocate for LGBTQ rights and was chosen to serve on President Obama's delegation to the 2014 Olympics in Russia.

**Ron Coleman '04** is a middle school math teacher and the founder of New Haven Counts, a nonprofit that provides math mentorship and entrepreneurship opportunities for city youth.

**Allyx Schiavone '85** is executive director of Friends Center for Children and the co-founder of New Haven Children's Ideal Learning District, which is leading a citywide effort to provide high-quality early education to all 14,800 children ages 0 to 8 in New Haven.

**Bun Lai '84** is the chef/owner of Miya's Sushi in New Haven and an internationally recognized leader in the sustainable seafood movement.

**Ari Friedlaender '89** is a leading ecologist who helped develop tagging technology to better understand the behaviors of whales and other marine mammals.







“Foote teachers trust students to make the right decisions. At other schools, our children were made to line up and walk with their hands by their sides in silence. At Foote, the children are released from class and allowed the freedom to move and socialize and make their own choices.”

**Jennifer Milano**

*Parent*









# Admissions Process

We hope this booklet has given you a sense of the joyful and vibrant learning community that is Foote School. We are eager to meet your family and to begin the admissions process. Here are your next steps:

## VISIT

Check our website at [www.footeschool.org/visit](http://www.footeschool.org/visit) for additional opportunities to learn more about Foote through a virtual parent tour and connections with admissions staff, teachers, our Head of School and parent ambassadors. We encourage families to learn more about our mission and philosophy, our community, our curriculum and our program.

## APPLY FOR ADMISSION

Admissions season begins at the start of the school year for entry into Foote the following fall. Applications must be completed by February 1 for consideration by the March notification date, although we have rolling admissions beyond that date as space is available. Please inquire at [www.footeschool.org/inquire](http://www.footeschool.org/inquire).

## APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID (IF APPLICABLE)

Foote School has a strong commitment to economic diversity. Our aim is to provide a Foote education to qualified students who might not otherwise be able to meet the cost of tuition. Visit [www.footeschool.org/financialaid](http://www.footeschool.org/financialaid) to learn more about the financial aid process at Foote. Each year, approximately 25 percent of our students receive some level of need-based financial aid, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to nearly full tuition. Aid is awarded on a family's demonstrated need and the

availability of funds. Applications for financial aid are reviewed in the strictest confidence by a small committee. All financial aid documents are due by February 15; notification of awards is sent with admissions decisions in March.

## DIRECTIONS

Take I-91 to Willow Street (Exit 6). At end of ramp, turn right. Proceed all the way to end at Whitney Avenue. Turn right onto Whitney Avenue. Take second left onto Highland Street. Take third left onto Loomis Place. The Foote School occupies the block on the right. Park on the school side of Loomis and follow signs to main office in the middle of the block.

## MORE INFORMATION

Find more detailed information about our admissions process and a full schedule of events at [www.footeschool.org/admissions](http://www.footeschool.org/admissions).







## MORE ABOUT FOOTE

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Families may enroll their children in Foote's After School Program Monday through Friday, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. for an additional fee. More information and fee structure at [www.footeschool.org/after-school](http://www.footeschool.org/after-school).

### VACATION PROGRAM

A full-day vacation program is offered to families during most school vacation days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. More information at [www.footeschool.org/vacation-program](http://www.footeschool.org/vacation-program).

### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation by school bus is offered by New Haven Public Schools at no cost for Foote students who live in New Haven. Foote contracts buses to transport students from Woodbridge, Branford, Guilford, Madison, Milford and Fairfield for an additional fee. More information at [www.footeschool.org/transportation](http://www.footeschool.org/transportation).

### LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Learning Support Program has dedicated faculty members who provide specific skill instruction to students who need targeted academic support. More information at [www.footeschool.org/learning-support](http://www.footeschool.org/learning-support).

### CELEBRATIONS

Foote celebrates many special events and traditions that connect to our curriculum, build community and provide lasting memories for families. These include the Halloween Parade & Fair, Grandparents Day, Field Day and May Day. More information at [www.footeschool.org/celebrations](http://www.footeschool.org/celebrations).

### FIELD TRIPS

Classes take trips to the seashore, orchards, parks and rivers as well as museums, plays and performances, businesses and other places of interest. More information at [www.footeschool.org/field-trips](http://www.footeschool.org/field-trips).

### SUMMER PROGRAM

Foote offers a summer program that is open to Foote students and the greater community, including the Summer Adventures camp and our renowned Summer Theater Program. More information at [www.footeschool.org/summer](http://www.footeschool.org/summer).

### HORIZONS AT FOOTE

Foote's summer enrichment program offers a tuition-free, six-week program to New Haven Public School students in Grades K–8. More information at [www.footeschool.org/horizons](http://www.footeschool.org/horizons).



“Sending our children to Foote was one of the best decisions we made as parents. We saw a true joy of learning and a school that lived its motto: *Gladly will I learn and gladly teach.*”

Michael and  
Mislal Lake

Past Parents









# The Foote School

50 Loomis Place  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

[www.footeschool.org](http://www.footeschool.org)  
(203) 777-3464

CURIOSITY

CREATIVITY

COLLABORATION

EMPATHY

RESILIENCE

