



New Hope Academy
1900 AA Street, Greeley, CO 80631
Grades: k-12
Director: Albert Arguello

Established in 2005, New Hope Academy is the only Hope Online Learning Center in the Greeley area. Albert Arguello, who first joined the Learning Center as a mentor in 2005, now serves as Director and oversees the operation that benefits the area's underserved children. The Hope Online student population at New Hope Academy is representative of the population Hope Online is dedicated to serve: at least 59% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. It is 81% Hispanic, 14% White, 4% African-American and 2% American Indian or Alaska Native.

Nearly 70% of the 110 students who attend Hope Online at New Hope Academy are considered at-risk due to economic standards. "Growing up in today's society is not easy for middle and high school students—there are a lot of negative influences around every corner, kids fail to understand that their choices now affect their future. New Hope Academy provides a safe, supportive environment that offers guidance to abstain from bad choices, giving our students the tools they need to succeed in school and life," says Mr. Arguello.

The Hope Online students at New Hope Academy face a variety of challenges primarily caused by an inadequate academic foundation. While progress is initially slow because students lack the fundamental skills necessary to learn, Mr. Arguello has noticed substantial growth in the students' achievement over the past two years. He credits Hope Online's curriculum and the individual learning plans as the critical contributors to student progress. "With individualized learning plans and lessons specifically assigned by their highly qualified Hope Online teacher, students are able to work at their own pace, and therefore succeed academically. With traditional lesson plans lacking this flexibility, some students understand the subject matter and become bored, while others fail to grasp the concepts before the class moves on. Hope Online students progress individually without the peer pressure to wait or to keep up."

Mr. Arguello recalls a 5th grader who, at his previous school, failed to develop academically and socially. "Struggling with a speech impediment, this student was routinely teased and lacked confidence. At New Hope Academy, he has broken out of his shell and turned things around. Because of his tremendous academic progress, he has many friends, is a talented football player, and carries himself with remarkable confidence." Another student came to New Hope Academy extremely shy; he feared going to school and when he did go, his father attended with him for a few hours. "Because of the individual attention and new environment, this 6th grader is succeeding academically, has integrated socially and now participates with a dance group. His progress is a testament to the success of Hope Online and New Hope Academy," affirms Mr. Arguello.

New Hope Academy's staff is comprised of experienced educators who genuinely care about the futures of Greeley's children. According to Mr. Arguello, "MJ Geiser, our Hope Online teacher, and New Hope Academy mentors are dedicated, patient, and supportive professionals; they enjoy coming to work every day, and it shows. Everyone affiliated with the Learning Center is committed to achieving our mission: to successfully cultivate education, friendship, and loyalty in our students."

Learning Center Administration

Albert Arguello - Director

After working as a Learning Center mentor for two years, Albert Arguello now serves as the Director of New Hope Academy. For more than 10 years, Mr. Arguello has worked with at-risk children in Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado. He has led national and international educational missions for high school students. As a counselor to youth in juvenile detention centers, he understands the importance of education and responsible choices; he promotes his convictions daily to students. Mr. Arguello received a Diploma of Ministerial Arts and a certification of Christian Education in Ministry from Trinity Life Bible College in Sacramento, California.

Paul Bernal - Lead Mentor

Paul Bernal is the mentor for the 8th grade class at New Hope Academy. While working with a predominantly at-risk student population can be challenging, Mr. Bernal consistently demonstrates excellent student management and communication skills. With his dedication and patience, Mr. Bernal supports the students in their academic and social pursuits. Mr. Bernal received an Associates degree in Graphic Technology from Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado.

Hope Online Teacher

Mary Jane Geiser – Hope Online Teacher

Mary Jane (MJ) Geiser is a talented teacher with a Colorado Teacher License whose passion for working with children is demonstrated by her volunteer service with the Special Olympics. After many years in the technology industry, Mrs. Geiser followed her heart and began a teaching career. Mrs. Geiser received a Certificate of Technical Writing from Regis University in Denver CO, an Associate of Science in Computer Science from Aims Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Northern Colorado, both in Greeley, CO.