

WFWP USA: HerStory Podcast Episode 12: Elizabeth Deshotel Raising Hearts and Minds

Katarina Connery
August 15, 2025



"I find that teaching is a parental role. You're almost like a second parent...some kids needed more mother and some kids needed more father...It was an extension of my parenting, my mothering instinct for my own children came into the classroom."

In this episode of the HerStory Podcast, host Adia Lancaster sits down with Elizabeth Deshotel, an accomplished educator, administrator, and devoted mother and grandmother, to explore her inspiring journey of faith, family, and leadership. Elizabeth shares her early life growing up in a Roman Catholic family and her search for meaning as a young adult, culminating in a profound spiritual experience at the age of 22 that transformed her life. She reflects on how this encounter with God shaped her personal path, leading her to embrace parenting, education, and service to others as

central elements of her life mission.

Elizabeth dives into her professional journey, discussing her long career as a teacher and principal, where she combined her mothering instincts with educational expertise to nurture students both academically and emotionally. She emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive classroom environment, respecting boundaries, and investing in each child individually. Elizabeth also shares her perspective on feminine leadership, explaining how empathy, compassion, and collaboration with men in professional settings have been essential in her roles. Her approach highlights the balance between care and firmness, as well as the significance of grounding her work in faith and a sense of higher purpose.

Beyond her professional life, Elizabeth reflects on the joys and challenges of raising five children and now guiding seven grandchildren, describing grandparenting as a "whole other world" filled with love and fulfillment. She offers heartfelt advice to young women today, encouraging them to seek God's guidance in life decisions, including the choice to become a parent, and to recognize the profound joy that can come from nurturing others. Elizabeth's story underscores the transformative power of faith, intuition, and living a life rooted in love, service, and God-centered purpose, offering listeners both inspiration and practical wisdom for their own journeys.

Learn more about New Hope School here: www.newhopeschoolnj.com

Learn more about the Bridgeport Hope School here: www.bridgeporthopeschool.org





New Hope School

822 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013

Your Child's Bright Future Begins At New Hope School

New Hope School, located in Clifton, NJ, serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade. As a private elementary and middle school, we are dedicated to fostering academic excellence and the development of strong character. Our approach is rooted in teaching God-centered values, personal integrity, service to others, and harmony within the family—principles that contribute to peace in the world. As a parent, the choices you make for your child now will have a profound effect on their future development and success. Make the right choice for your child at New Hope School.

[Explore Our Programs](#)[Book a School Tour](#)[Read a Review](#)

What makes us special?

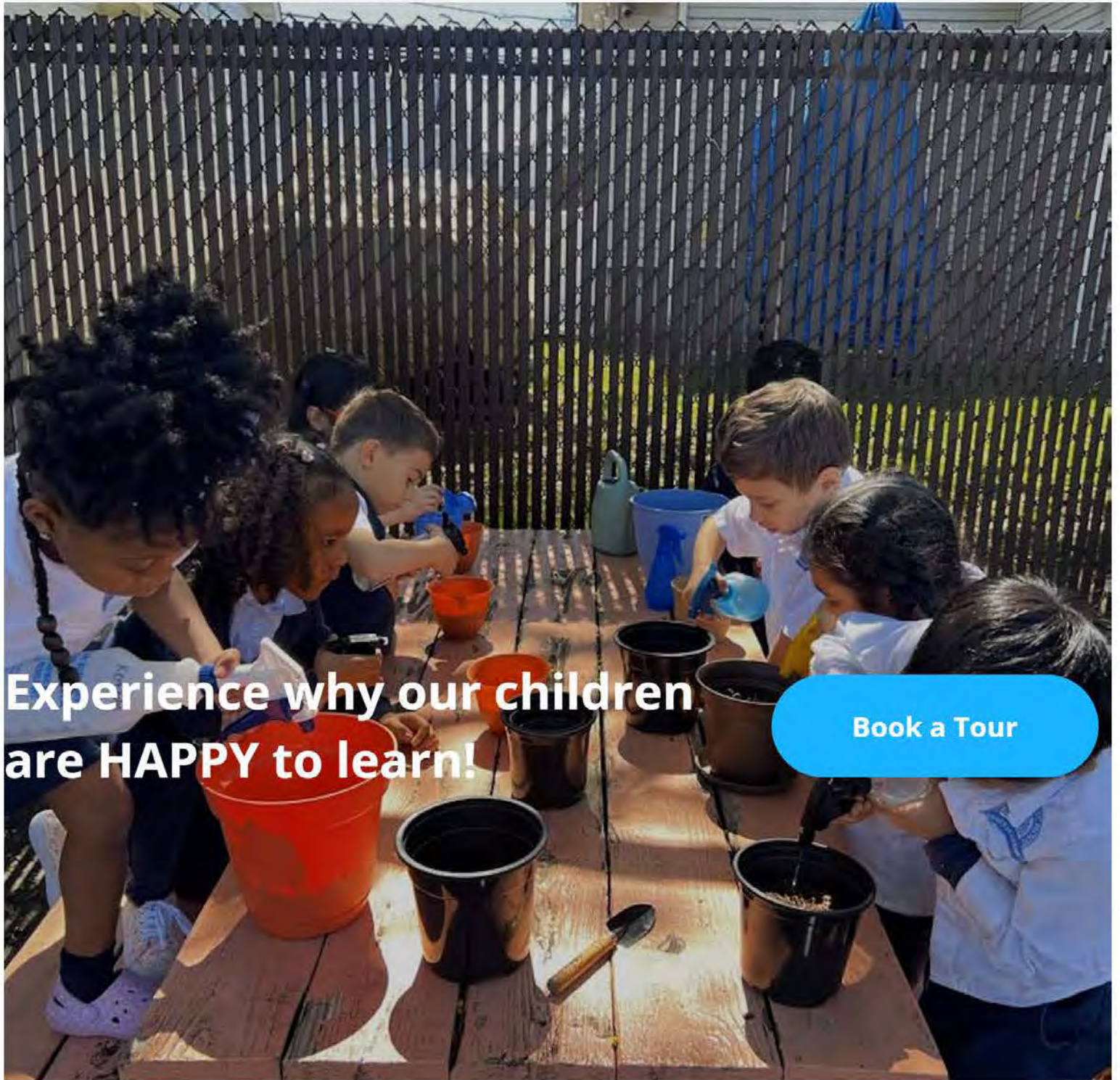
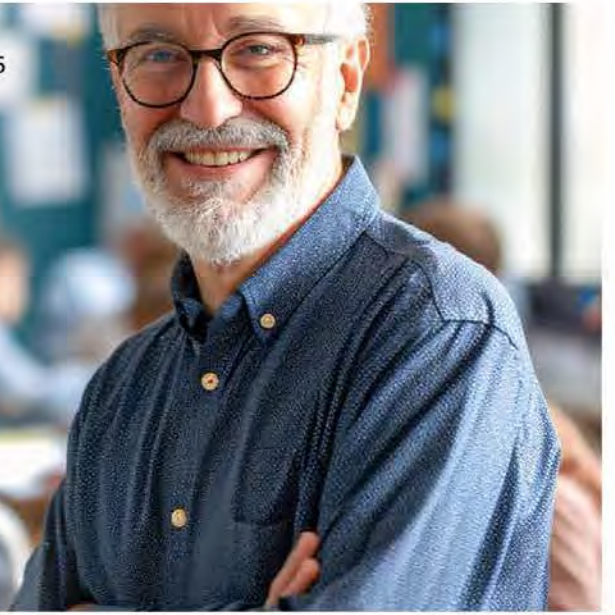
New Hope School is situated in a vibrant, multicultural community.

New Hope School is situated in a vibrant, multicultural community where over 80 languages are spoken in local homes. Our school proudly reflects this diversity, with families representing more than 25 countries from around the world.

We offer:

- An international student body
- High academic standards
- Small class sizes for personalized attention
- A strong emphasis on character building and social development
- A safe and secure learning environment
- Clean, bright, and spacious facilities
- Active parent involvement
- A comprehensive Core Knowledge curriculum
- After-school care and extracurricular clubs
- Affordable tuition rates

At New Hope School, we are committed to fostering academic excellence, cultural appreciation, and personal growth in every student.



Experience why our children
are **HAPPY** to learn!

[Book a Tour](#)

Our Mission

New Hope School is committed to the high standards of academic excellence and independent character development by teaching God-centered universal values and services to others as the basis for personal integrity, harmony in the family, and peace in the world.



Admissions

New Hope School is now accepting applications.

We know it's not easy to select the right school for your child. Our 3-step admissions process makes it easier!

1. Submit an Inquiry Form, Schedule a School Tour (In-person) or an Information Session (virtually)
2. Complete Tour or Information Session
3. Follow-up Interview, Submit Enrollment Package

Parent Testimonials

"Many occasions have enabled me to meet and interact with the faculty and staff, who are responsible for the education and shaping of our most precious and cherished children. Articulate, accomplished, dedicated and energetic are only a few of the adjectives that best describe the teachers of New Hope School. This school has stood the test of time for 20 years. I am sure that all parents and guardians are most appreciative of New Hope School's ability to continually inspire its students to excel in their endeavors to obtain a sound foundation for their further education."

Grandmother of New Hope Graduate

"Now in high school, I have been in all of the highest possible levels of classes I can have. Even in these classes, I have felt as though I have just been reviewing content I have already learned in New Hope School. The school has given me a tool box (of sorts) and helped me build a sturdy foundation for the rest of my years of school, and I am very grateful for that. Additionally, there is little to no peer pressure to do bad things at New Hope School, which is amazing because children are very impressionable during their middle school years. This is because New Hope School has an excellent moral standard, and I believe that attending the school from a young age really creates almost a sixth sense of morality. There are no blurred lines when it comes to morality in New Hope School, which is good because it ingrains a sense of right and wrong into children. This is very important for impressionable middle school students to have in their lives."

New Hope Graduate

"In my 8 years at New Hope I always felt happy to come back after the summer because I wanted to accomplish more. Each year I wanted to do better than the year before. When I reflect on my time here I remember the pressure I felt getting my science fair projects done and having to talk about them in front of the whole school. I was always so relieved to be finished, but also I would feel very proud of what I had accomplished."

New Hope Graduate

About Us



New Hope School welcomes students regardless of race, gender, national and ethnic origin, and is non-discriminatory in all of its policies.

Quick Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Admissions](#)

Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments that you would like to share with us, please feel free to reach out to us directly.

822 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013

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office@newhopeschoolnj.com





BRIDGEPORT **HOPE** SCHOOL

Serving **K-8th** grades since 1996.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2 | Half-day

MAY 26 | Memorial Day - School Closed

MAY 29 | Field Trip - Lake Compounce

JUN 13 | Last Day of School

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bridgeport Hope School is a K-8th grade private elementary and middle school located in Bridgeport, CT. We

are dedicated to “Academic Excellence and the Cultivation of Heart and Character in a Caring Community.”

AT A GLANCE

HIGHLIGHTS OF BRIDGEPORT HOPE SCHOOL

Our student consistently surpass national averages in math, reading, and vocabulary.

K-8TH GRADE
PRIVATE SCHOOL

SMALL CLASSES
IN A CLOSE-KNIT
ENVIRONMENT

MUSIC, ART,
FOREIGN
LANGUAGE,
MUSICAL THEATER

CHARACTER
EDUCATION,
FIELD TRIPS, CLUBS
AND SPORTS

FREE BUSING
AVAILABLE TO
BRIDGEPORT
RESIDENTS

AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAM

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

HANABETA DESHOTEL, M.ED.

“Are you one of the many parents seeking an optimal individualized school experience for your child? With its small class sizes, rigorous curriculum, and wide array of art and music instruction, Bridgeport Hope School may be just the place to provide that superlative experience for your child. The staff and I are committed to actualize our mission statement every day.”



WHAT PARENTS LIKE ABOUT BHS

SOME SHARING TESTIMONIES WHY STUDENTS AND PARENTS LIKE BHS.

The program itself is very
enriching and since my son

We really appreciate their small
classrooms and family-like
atmosphere. Their mixed grades
can study with children both

started here some four years ago,
I have seen growth in him and
he's developed and matured.

where student can stay,
older and younger than them and share their
knowledge or get extra time with a topic is
a plus. If they need to, they get extra time to
work at their own pace.



VISIT OUR SCHOOL

Welcome to meet and greet at our school.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Tour the school
- Take a diagnostic test
- Experience a shadow day
- Find out if we are a good fit for you!

LEARN HOW TO APPLY



REQUEST INFO PACKET



APPLY FOR ADMISSION

WHAT WE DO NOW!

FACEBOOK HIGHLIGHTS FROM
BRIDGEPORT HOPE SCHOOL



Bridgeport Hope School
about 2 months ago



We've officially wrapped up another successful and joyful year
at Bridgeport Hope School. 🌟

Congratulations to our 8th-grade graduates who are
commencing from BHS today! You've grown into thoughtful,



Donate & Tuition Payment

capable young leaders, and we are so proud of everything you've accomplished. As you move on to your next chapter, know that your Bridgeport Hope family is cheering you on every step of the way.

Our students gave amazing performances during our year-end celebration. Kindergarten t... See more



CALENDAR

See our schedule for the upcoming school year.

2024-2025 CALENDAR



BHS Slideshow 21/22 - "These Small Hours"



BHS Slideshow 18/19 - "Loosen Up"



BHS Slideshow 17/18 - "Remember My Name"



BHS Slideshow 16/17 - "Best Friend"



[GALLERY](#)

[CORE KNOWLEDGE](#)

[SAXON MATH](#)

[WSRRT](#)

BRIDGEPORT HOPE SCHOOL, 283 LAFAYETTE ST, BRIDGEPORT, CT,
06604 (203) 576-6773 CONTACT@BRIDGEPORTHOPESCHOOL.ORG



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