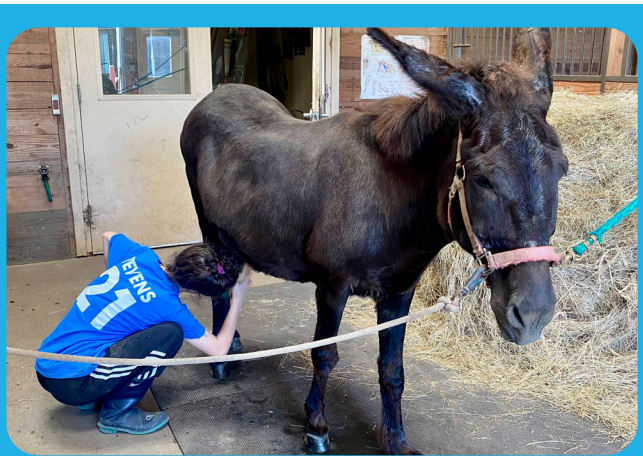


"Trauma as a child left me troubled and struggling in the typical school environment. Coming here definitely changed me for the better and has shaped my life experience as an adult out in the real world." -Demetrious, Former Sweetser Student



Experiential Learning at our Special Purpose Private School

Designed for students with behavioral, emotional and/or learning disabilities who are experiencing difficulty learning in a traditional classroom, our one-of-a-kind Experiential Learning program offers them the opportunity to develop the academic, social, and behavior skills necessary to reach their goals. Our staff collaborates with school districts and classroom teachers to meet Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals in math, reading, writing, and science using specially designed instruction and project-based learning.





Our low student-teacher ratio ensures students receive individual support. We use a variety of hands-on teaching methods and behavioral support techniques. Students blossom under the guidance of instructors, who demonstrate skills and then allow students to try for themselves.

Students benefit from seeing a project through from start to finish. These positive experiences not only help students with their current educational goals, but also promote good work habits and collaborative skills applicable throughout their lifetime.

Referral Contact & Program Details

207.294.4949
school@sweetser.org

Scan code for more program details!

Our Experiential Learning Programs



Farm Science

At Ricker Farm on our Saco Campus, the Farm Science classroom exposes students to in-depth activities such as maple sugaring; seed to harvest growing; canning and preserving fruits and vegetables; sales and marketing; career preparation; merchandising; customer service skills; and pro-social activities.

The program also uses a greenhouse and cold frame environment, along with the outdoors, to offer students the opportunity to learn basic operations.

Engine Technology

Students in our Engine Technology classroom gain fundamental, hands-on experience working with tools for repair projects on bicycles, small engines, and automobiles. Projects might include oil changes, wheel changes, brake system repair, car stereo installation, auto body work, engine tune-up, welding, engine repair, etc. Students learn tool safety, and work with hand and power tools, as their ability allows.





Woodshop

This classroom offers students firsthand activities and project-based learning in woodworking and general carpentry. Students are taught proper safety, including hand and power tool operation, as well as on-the-job site safety protocols.

Through specially designed instruction, students understand and demonstrate math computations and basic woodworking skills.

Culinary Arts

A large, vibrant classroom houses the student kitchen and café, which the students help run. Students work with staff to prepare special lunches and treats. They develop menus with weekly themes, and learn food prep and cooking skills while gaining valuable customer service experience. Students create food displays, stock products, assist customers, and run the register. They also cater agency-wide events such as the annual board meeting,
legislative breakfasts, graduation, and school events.





Media Arts

Students gain foundational skills in the fields of portfolio development and computer skills while in this unit. They learn how to create displays and props, research projects, layout the school newspaper, etc. They create event
notices, culinary menus, murals, event planning, photography, and more.