

**Sizer School: A North Central Charter Essential School**  
**School Profile: 2016-2017**



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David Perrigo, *Principal*  
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Total Enrollment: 385  
Number of Teaching Faculty: 40  
Average Classroom Size: 15

**Sizer School Mission**

Sizer School, a North Central Charter Essential School, is a public school where students are known personally, challenged intellectually, and participate actively in their learning. Guided by its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, the school seeks to send graduates into the world who **THINK** for themselves, **CARE** about others, and **ACT** creatively and responsibly.

**The SIZER SIX:  
Our Core Values**

**PURPOSE**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**SAFETY**  
**VOICE**  
**INTEGRITY**  
**COMMUNITY**

***A Note to Colleges and Universities:***

Sizer students must demonstrate progress in both content understanding and work habits.

**GPA's are calculated based only on grades earned from Sizer School. Grades from other institutions are displayed on the student's transcript but are not calculated into their GPA.** GPA is unweighted at Sizer and we do not rank students. All classes are heterogeneous.

For the purpose of calculating GPA, the following content-grade numerical translations apply:

**EXP/EXC = 4.3**

**MTG = 4.0**

**APP = 3.0**

**JB = 2.0**

**NP/NEA = 0.0**

**Content Understanding / Work Habits**

**EXP/E** Exemplary  
(*This assessment is reserved for truly exceptional student work.*)

**MTG/M** Meeting Standards

**APP/A** Approaching Standards

**JB/J** Just Beginning

**NP/N** Not Passing

**P** Passing

**SIZER...**

Professor Ted Sizer, one of the leading educational reformers of the 20th century, founded the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES) in 1984. His Ten Common Principles guide Sizer's program. Examples include "Learning to use one's mind well" and "Student as worker, teacher as coach."

**NORTH CENTRAL...**

Sizer School is located in a brand new building near downtown Fitchburg. Sizer School serves students from over 20 towns and cities in north central Massachusetts. Diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

**...CHARTER...**

With an aim to nurture bold ideas and innovation in existing schools state-wide, the Massachusetts Education Reform Act grants citizens the right to start new public schools. Charter schools adhere to all state regulations. Sizer School is a free public school open to all students in grades 7-12.

**...ESSENTIAL SCHOOL**

The coalition of essential schools is a national network of over 1,200 schools and centers engaged in reconstructing and redesigning schools to promote better student learning and achievement.

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**ELEMENTS OF CURRICULUM**

- **Essential questions** drive and organize curriculum. These questions have no single right answer; indeed they are rich with possibilities, which is what makes them interesting. They require higher order thinking – analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating evidence – in order to find answers, come to understanding, and create something of value.
- Classrooms are heterogeneous, with differentiated instruction providing students ongoing opportunities to engage in remedial or challenge work as appropriate.
- All students are part of an Advisory group. The functions of Advisory are to increase personalization of learning, influence school governance, and facilitate communication with families.
- Learning at Sizer is active and often project-based.
- Students are expected to master key concepts, knowledge, and tools in each of the academic disciplines within the interdisciplinary framework.
- Students receive intensive, sometimes individualized, instruction in mathematics and literacy.

**To meet GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS students must *minimally*:**

- √ Earn a total of **88 credits** to graduate, including:  
English (16) Math (16) \*Science (12) Social Studies (12) Spanish (8) Arts (4) Wellness (4) Advisory(16)
  - √ Complete a **Senior Project**
  - √ Pass the Massachusetts student assessment program exams (e.g. MCAS, PARCC)
- \*All Sizer science courses are laboratory based

**Post Secondary Programs – Senior Intentions**

	Numbers of Students			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Four-Year Colleges and Universities	21	19	19	10
Two-Year Colleges and Universities	19	12	12	7
Workforce	---	---	---	1
Military	2	---	---	---
“Gap Year” Program (e.g. AmeriCorps)	---	---	---	1
Technical Education Program	2	3	3	2

*“The first object of any act of learning, over and beyond the pleasure it may give, is that it should serve us in the future. Learning should not only take us somewhere; it should allow us later to go further more easily.” – Ted Sizer*

**Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 76, sec. 5: An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in the Public Schools**

NO PERSON SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN ADMISSION TO NCCES, FOR ADMITTANCE TO STATE AND FEDERALLY FUNDED GRANT PROGRAMS, OR IN OBTAINING THE ADVANTAGES, PRIVILEGES, AND COURSE OF STUDY PRESENTED IN THIS SCHOOL ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, COLOR, GENDER, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. THIS NON-DISCRIMINATION APPLIES TO ALL PERSONS, WHETHER OR NOT THE INDIVIDUAL IS A MEMBER OF A CONVENTIONALLY DEFINED “MINORITY GROUP.”