

All About CCLCS



Key Concepts:

- Academic Achievement
- Community Partners
- Environmental Studies
- Ethical Community
- Global Awareness
- Intellectual Development
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Project Based Learning

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School is to foster intellectual development and academic achievement by providing a school centered around challenging interactive learning experiences that consistently bridge traditional disciplines. Employing an interdisciplinary approach which utilizes the unique natural resources on Cape Cod and which are developed and implemented with local resource partners, the school's approach breaks down the boundary between school and community, practical and theoretical. As students develop basic problem-solving skills while studying thematic units focused in large part upon these local resources, they will recognize that real life cuts across disciplines, combines the practical and theoretical, and can be enhanced through education.

Essential to the achievement of this mission is the establishment of a community of learning -- a community built upon the values of personal responsibility, consideration for others, respect for the environment, academic integrity, and perseverance.

CCLCS Population

Founded in 1994, the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School (CCLCS) is a public middle school serving Cape Cod students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Two hundred and twenty-eight students from nearly every town on the Cape attend. Classes are small (usually no more than 19 students).



Seminars



A Sampling of Seminars

- Animal Tracking
- Adopt a Grandparent
- Art History
- Fiction Writing
- Finding the Cornerstone
- Ham Radio
- Lord of the Rings
- Mock Trial
- Newspaper
- Portrait Painting
- Pottery
- Preschool Book Buddies
- Tennis
- The Seuss Seminar
- Timber Framing
- Quilting
- Salem Witch Trial Hysteria
- School Musical
- Strat-O-Matic Baseball
- Wellness
- Yearbook
- Yoga

Each term, students at CCLCS have a choice of elective courses, known as Seminars. Fifteen to twenty different seminars, in subjects ranging from Mock Trial Competition to Forensic Science to Songwriting, are offered each term, so students are able to explore their own interests in greater depth, or to try out new things that intrigue them. Seminars are an integral part of the Lighthouse School philosophy and curriculum. Meeting twice a week for 90 minutes a session, the seminars are a way for students and teachers to explore in-depth subjects which might not be covered under the traditional parameters of a middle school curriculum. Each term the seminar offerings change to reflect both the instructional interests of the faculty as well as the learning interests of the students. The seminars also provide a window of opportunity for community members to act as resource partners and share in the education of our local students.



Academics



How do CCLCS students learn?

CCLCS curriculum designers (the teachers) venture beyond the confines of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks to create programs that teach to the whole child. While instruction does not revolve around MCAS test preparation, our students still perform persistently well, usually outperforming schools whose sole mission focuses on test prep. Feel free to visit our school's website to see detailed analyses of school performance on the MCAS.

CCLCS was founded on the belief that middle school students have a tremendous capacity to learn and that a school that is devoid of excessive bureaucracy, that is teacher driven, and that engages parents in the educational process can be highly effective.

The curriculum is designed following a grade level approach combined with a subject-centered approach. All students take full programs in language arts, social studies, math, and science. In addition, they take studio art, health and physical education once a week. Sixth grade students also take exploration and general music and seventh and eighth

graders take French or Spanish.

Curricular contents and skills are coordinated with the Massachusetts frameworks but are approached in ways that draw relationships between the practical and the theoretical and that engage students in the process of discovery.

Teachers challenge students to become problem-solvers and encourage students to pursue their intellectual curiosity. Long-term projects, class presentations, productions, and reading and writing assignments further motivate students to perform to their highest individual potential.



PROJECTS AT CCLCS

The traditional boundaries existing between disciplines are frequently blurred by the curriculum and the activities used to teach it. This occurs in the daily classroom experience and through the school's seminar program. Projects which bridge traditional disciplines often serve the mission element of "looking beyond" by working with local resource partners.

Projects are essential to the academic program at CCLCS. The hands-on nature of a project engages students actively in the learning process, provides a "real life" context for academic work, and allows students to demonstrate depth of understanding in a variety of formats including performances, presentations and portfolios. Highlights of the sixth grade academic program include the following:

In Language Arts, students create prefix, root and suffix flip books to facilitate their understanding of grammar. Students also create Friendship Books after reading *Freak the Mighty*. This project is a collection of poems, essays, pictures and collages.

In Social Studies, students keep field notes which allow them to participate in a mock Global Rainforest Conference. Students also independently research a European country for which they make a travel brochure, a native dish and an oral presentation. The most comprehensive project is the animal project which is a six week independent study of an animal of students' choice.

Finally, in science, students write a Child's Guide to the Cell and create an organism that can adapt to an alien planet in the adaptation project.

Project work is continued across the curriculum in the seventh and eighth grades. A heavy emphasis on writing is inherent in each assignment.

Seventh grade projects include one independent reading project per term in L.A. as well as writing,

editing and illustrating a children's book about acceptance. In social studies, students assume the role of archaeologists for the Egyptological Excavation project for which they develop field notes, a newspaper article and several artifacts. In science, students must build a functional circuit as part of their study of electricity.

In eighth grade, science students learn about the body's systems in the Body Biology project. For social studies, students must attend their local town meetings in support of an issue. They must also work with artifacts at their local historical society. Students conclude their eighth grade math class with an independent study of the golden ratio.

Projects are also included in the French, Spanish, art, and health curricula.



Activities



CCLCS students have a number of opportunities to participate in a wide variety of clubs and activities. In keeping with the school's mission, a number of environmental studies and activist groups are sponsored as well as those focusing on the global community.

In the fall, each homeroom holds elections for student government representatives who meet weekly.

All students take art each week and those interested may participate in the school's chorus, string ensemble or band.

Activities Offered

- Art Spark
- Band
- Bird & Nature Club
- Chorus
- Destination Imagination
- Jump Roping
- National Junior Honor Society
- Newspaper
- Roots and Shoots
- Strings
- Student Government



All clubs are facilitated by a member of the CCLCS faculty who are often assisted by parents or community members.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Each fall, the entire school participates in a community-building experience at the Cape Cod Sea Camps. Students engage in a number of team exercises which serve to foster bonds and friendships across the grades and give teachers the opportunity to work with all students. A highlight of the trip is the annual talent show.

Sixth graders participate in a week-long trip to Nature's Classroom in September giving them the chance to get to know each other and their teachers

beyond the confines of the classroom. Seventh graders visit the Boston Museum of Science for an overnight.

Eighth graders take a trip to the White Mountains in the fall and to Gettysburg in the spring to cap their CCLCS experience.



Sports



The Lighthouse Charter School provides a diverse recreational program for its students, including such activities as bowling, soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Seventh and eighth grade students may also participate in interscholastic competition in soccer, basketball, baseball and softball.

The Interscholastic Athletic Program seeks to parallel the school's mission by providing the CCLCS student community with an extracurricular environment supportive of the academic programs.

The CCLCS athletic program fosters self-discipline, respect for self and others, and ethical competitiveness in order to promote personal responsibility, moral courage, altruism, as well as an appreciation for team and school spirit. The program operates under the guidance of adult school community members.

The school offers interscholastic middle school competition in boys/girls soccer, girls field hockey, boys/girls basketball, baseball and softball.

Athletic Teams

Seventh and eighth graders may elect to join one of the CCLCS athletic teams and participate in interscholastic competition.

FALL SPORTS

- Boys' Soccer
- Girls' Soccer
- Field Hockey

WINTER SPORTS

- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball

SPRING SPORTS

- Boys' Baseball
- Girls' Softball



The school maintains a policy of inclusion for all teams; however, coaches make the final determination (based on safety, health, transportation, facility issues, skill level, attendance and attitude) regarding how many players will actually "suit up" for each game.