

Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School

Overview of classes, grades 6-8

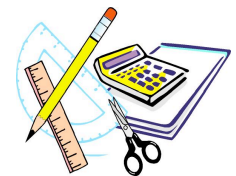
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6TH GRADE CLASSES

Students are assigned to an academic group of 18 students. There are four groups. Each term, groups are switched, giving students the opportunity to get to know everyone in the grade.

MATH

- ★ Work with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents
- ★ Explore number theory around primes, factors, and multiples
- ★ Geometry basics involving angles, classification of shapes, and area, volume, & perimeter of regular geometric figures
- ★ Emphasis on word problems, problem solving activities, and “real world” applications
- ★ Meets every day



LANGUAGE ARTS

- ★ Reading: Teaches comprehension skills and vocabulary within the context of guided and independent reading, as well as classroom discussions. Evaluate common themes, analyze characters, and make text-to-text and self-to-text connections. Readings: Freak the Mighty, Long Walk to the Water, So Far From the Bamboo Grove.
- ★ Writing: Teaches an understanding of the writing process and being able to work through every stage independently. Students are writing organized and detailed paragraphs and essays, while providing evidence and examples from text, discussion and experience. Meets four times each week.



SCIENCE

- ★ Units: Hierarchy of Matter, Ecology, Astronomy, Adaptation, Earth Structure, Cells, & Cape Cod Life
- ★ Site Visit program with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History - this is only 2 times this year
- ★ Meets four times each week

SOCIAL STUDIES

- ★ World Geography – Mapping, Cultures, World Issues and Current Events
- ★ Meets four times each week

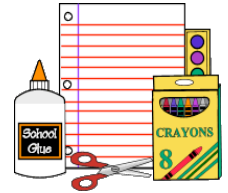


EXPLORATION

- ★ Focus on research and technology/organization and study skills
- ★ Music
- ★ World Language exploration (French and Spanish)

ART

- ★ Exploration of two and three dimensional media, including painting, drawing, clay, and printmaking
- ★ Understanding the visual arts in relation to world cultures
- ★ Sketchbooks are used to encourage creative discovery and develop drawing skills
- ★ Meets once a week



HEALTH

- ★ Units: Second Step Anti-Bullying program, Self-Esteem, Body Systems, Drug and Alcohol Prevention.
- ★ Meets once a week

REC

- ★ Due to our space limitations, Rec class travels off campus. Students are transported in the school's vans to local fields and recreational facilities.
- ★ Meets once a week

7TH GRADE CLASSES

MATH

- ★ Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents and integers
- ★ Represent and analyze mathematical situations using algebraic symbols
- ★ Explore geometry including two and three-dimensional shapes, the Pythagorean Theorem, circles, and volume
- ★ Read and interpret statistical information and understand the criteria for decisions based on data analysis
- ★ Complete a variety of projects that emphasize the application of mathematics to “real world” problem solving.
- ★ Meets every day

LANGUAGE ARTS

- ★ Reading: examination of a variety of different literature through a highly critical and analytical lens. Identify and extract literary elements and techniques from readings and put them into practice in writing. Literature often mimics history, so LA collaborates with Social Studies for two interdisciplinary units - the Holocaust and Greek Mythology. Students can expect two Independent Reading Projects.

- ★ Writing: Build upon writing skills by viewing writing as a process rather than a singular act. Students will be given journal prompts every day, along with time to complete them.
- ★ Meets four times each week

SCIENCE

- ★ Focus on physical science, primarily an introduction to chemistry and physics.
- ★ Units of study include: forces and motion, bridges and engineering, magnetism and electricity, introduction to atomic structure, and mass, volume and density
- ★ In the natural sciences, students are introduced to classification, biodiversity, and genetics.
- ★ Meets four times each week



SOCIAL STUDIES

- ★ Investigate the factors contributing to the shift from nomadic, hunting and gathering tribes to sedentary, agricultural civilizations.
- ★ Understand the various elements that contribute to the development of cultures and civilizations (geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics and social structures)
- ★ Explore ancient civilizations and cultures of Mesopotamia, Israel, Egypt, Greece and Rome
- ★ Further develop research, analytical and critical thinking skills through in-class simulations and independent project work
- ★ Meets four times each week



FRENCH AND SPANISH

- ★ Students select one of the languages to study in 7th and 8th grades. The curriculum follows what is taught in the first level at most area high schools, including Nauset, and is geared towards a smooth transition into the second level in high school.
- ★ While all aspects of learning a language are addressed - reading, writing, listening, and speaking - emphasis is placed on oral/aural proficiency.
- ★ Cultural exploration is also an important part of the curriculum, with the goal of fostering an understanding and appreciation for other customs and ways of living.
- ★ Meets four times each week



ART

- ★ Explore a variety of 2D and 3D art processes that comply with state and national visual arts standards
- ★ Develop skills in visualization and creative problem solving
- ★ Study art history and the work of other artists
- ★ Practice elements and principles of design
- ★ Make interdisciplinary connections
- ★ Encouraged to use sketchbook as a tool for creative expression and independent discovery.
- ★ Meets once a week

HEALTH

- ★ Covers three areas of personal health - physical, emotional, and social well-being. A major objective is for students to understand that these three areas are interconnected in achieving overall wellness. Classes are discussion-based with various activities, including role play and debate. We strive to make the health classroom a place where students feel safe in talking and learning about their own personal health.
- ★ Meets once a week

REC (physical education)

- ★ Connecting with the health class, the Rec program focuses on teamwork (social well-being), supportive play (emotional health), fitness (physical health) and fun (all three). Due to our space limitations, Rec class travels off campus. Students are transported in the school's vans to local fields and recreational facilities.
- ★ Meets once a week



8TH GRADE CLASSES

MATH

All Math classes:

- ★ Meet every day
- ★ Work on developing problem solving, communicating, reasoning and proofs, making connections, and representations

Algebra I

- ★ Prepares students for honors or college prep Geometry in high school
- ★ Aligns with local public district freshman Algebra I courses
- ★ Focuses on deep understanding of algebraic principles, the fundamentals of geometry and data analysis

Algebra I-B

- ★ Prepares students for a rigorous high school Algebra I course
- ★ Focuses on topics in number theory, developing a solid foundation in algebraic skills and concepts, the fundamentals of geometry and data analysis
- ★ Allows for more review to meet student needs

Pre-Algebra

- ★ Prepares students for high school Algebra I course
- ★ Focuses on topics in number theory, developing a solid foundation in algebraic skills and concepts, the fundamentals of geometry and data analysis
- ★ Allows for more review and small group work



LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing:

- ★ Students learn how to write a thesis-driven, four paragraph essay, and learn how to critically analyze short stories and write more formally and academically. Much of the first third of the year is focused on this goal and we revisit this type of writing throughout the year.
- ★ Students write a short story based on the style of Edgar Allen Poe.
- ★ Students end the year with a 1,000-word personal essay.



Reading:

- ★ Students read a variety of genres of literature., with focus on critical analysis of plot, characters, and theme. Students keep journals about many of the novels and also write essays at the end of each novel.
- ★ Short Story Unit
- ★ Much Ado About Nothing or The Tempest or MidSummer Night's Dream
- ★ Pigman
- ★ The House on Mango Street
- ★ To Kill a Mockingbird
- ★ Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- ★ Edgar Allen Poe
- ★ One independent reading project
- ★ Poetry - reading and writing
- ★ Other units:
 - ★ Etymology
 - ★ Grammar
 - ★ Parts of Speech
 - ★ Latin
 - ★ Meets four times each week

SCIENCE

- ★ Focuses on understanding the fundamental organization of matter in the physical and biological world
- ★ Prepares students for honors and college prep high school courses in physical and biological science
- ★ Includes projects on energy resources, the periodic table of the elements and the biology of students' own bodies
- ★ Includes units on energy, the phases of matter, atomic theory, the periodic table, chemical reactions and an introduction to organic chemistry.
- ★ Meets four times each week



SOCIAL STUDIES

- ★ U.S. history from the American Revolution to the Civil War
- ★ Active participation in all phases including classroom trials, debates, reenactments

- ★ Variety of Texts by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Joy Hakim
- ★ Projects focus on local artifacts and participation in town meetings
- ★ Trip to Gettysburg as culminating activity
- ★ Final day of school reenactment of Battle of Fort Donelson (with water-based ordnance)
- ★ Emphasis on using and interpreting primary source documents
- ★ Meets four times each week

FRENCH AND SPANISH

- ★ Study of the language continues (see description in 7th grade classes)
- ★ Meets four times each week



ART

- ★ Exploration of two and three dimensional media, including drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.
- ★ Aesthetic inquiry, personal expression and skill development are emphasized through the study of the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
- ★ Studio experiences make connections between the visual arts and other disciplines.
- ★ Sketchbooks are used to encourage creative discovery and develop drawing skills.
- ★ Meets once a week.

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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FOR ALL GRADES

TUTORIAL, CHORUS, & BAND

- ★ Tutorial is a quiet study time for students. Students are able to work on homework and get extra help from teachers.
- ★ This is also the time when students can participate in chorus and band.
- ★ Tutorial meets twice a week. Band meets during one tutorial period and chorus the other.

SEMINARS

- ★ Each term, students at CCLCS have a choice of elective courses, known as Seminars. Fifteen to 20 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. A list of current and past seminars are available on our website.
- ★ Meets twice a week; each session is 90 minutes

NATURE'S CLASSROOM

- ★ During the third week in school, the sixth grade travels to Greenfield, NH, for one week at Nature's Classroom, an outdoor environmental education program. Students stay in cabins with teachers and parent volunteers and take classes with the Nature's Classroom staff. This week is a remarkable bonding experience for the new sixth grade.

SEA CAMPS

- ★ All students and staff spend a day and a night at Sea Camps in Brewster in early October. This is a time for the entire school to bond. Students are broken into multi-grade groups, in which they travel around to different activities throughout the day. Families join us in the evening for coffee and dessert, and a student talent show at the outdoor theatre.

8TH GRADE TRIPS

- ★ WHITE MOUNTAINS - In October the entire 8th grade travels to New Hampshire for two nights/three days of outdoor adventure and orienteering. This bonding experience sets the stage for the students' last year at CCLCS.
- ★ GETTYSBURG AND WASHINGTON, DC - In June the 8th grade visits Gettysburg and our nation's capital for five days.