



Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School

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Program of Studies: Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School

School Year: 2024-2025

Grades: 6, 7, 8

Our Mission

Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School seeks to provide a supportive and challenging learning environment for middle school students, where teachers foster intellectual development and academic achievement in an atmosphere that celebrates learning as a lifelong pleasure.

We appreciate and understand middle school-aged students. We enjoy the often undervalued creativity and intellectual potential of this age group. We strive to provide an emotionally safe and supportive community, encouraging students to develop their strengths and risk new growth, while pursuing an academically rigorous curriculum. Wherever possible, students learn through experience, allowing them to be engaged in the process of discovery and to see the practical applications of classroom lessons.

Looking beyond the walls of the classroom, we collaborate with local partners to utilize the unique natural and creative resources on Cape Cod, and reach out to global partners to broaden our cultural understanding and knowledge. Our graduates take with them the values of personal responsibility, consideration for others, respect for the environment, academic integrity, creative expression, and perseverance.

KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS:

- 1.) Project rich experiences and varied assessments
- 2.) Community connections
- 3.) Teaching to the whole child
- 4.) Teacher led

Guiding Principles:

- **Academic Rigor:** Providing a comprehensive curriculum aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core State Standards to ensure deep understanding and mastery of core subjects.
 - **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Integrating CASEL's five core competencies (Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making) across all content areas and school activities to foster well-rounded individuals.
 - **Equity and Inclusion:** Creating an inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued, supported, and challenged to reach their full potential.
 - **21st-Century Skills:** Developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication skills essential for success in a rapidly changing world.
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Core Curriculum Overview

All core subjects (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) are designed to meet or exceed the expectations outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the Common Core State Standards. Instruction will incorporate differentiated learning strategies to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

1. English Language Arts (ELA)

- **Curriculum Focus:** Reading comprehension (literary and informational texts), writing (narrative, argumentative, informative/explanatory), speaking and listening, language conventions.
- **MA Frameworks & CCSS Alignment:** Directly aligned with ELA/Literacy standards for each grade level, emphasizing text complexity, evidence-based analysis, and effective communication.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Encouraging reflection on personal responses to texts and understanding author's perspectives.
 - **Self-Management:** Developing independent reading habits and time management for writing projects.
 - **Social Awareness:** Analyzing diverse characters and perspectives in literature, understanding different cultural contexts.

- **Relationship Skills:** Engaging in respectful discussions, collaborative writing, and peer feedback.
- **Responsible Decision-Making:** Evaluating arguments in texts, making informed choices in research and writing.

2. Mathematics

- **Curriculum Focus:** Number Sense, Operations & Algebraic Thinking, Functions, Geometry, Statistics & Probability. Specific topics vary by grade level (e.g., Grade 6: Ratios and Proportional Relationships; Grade 7: The Number System; Grade 8: Expressions and Equations, Functions).
- **MA Frameworks & CCSS Alignment:** Aligned with the Math standards for each grade level, emphasizing conceptual understanding, problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and application of skills.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Recognizing areas of strength and challenge in math, building confidence in problem-solving.
 - **Self-Management:** Persisting through challenging problems, organizing work, managing time for assignments.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding how math is used in real-world contexts and different professions.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Collaborating on group problems, explaining reasoning to peers, providing constructive feedback.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Choosing appropriate strategies to solve problems, analyzing data to make informed conclusions.

3. Science

- **Curriculum Focus:** Life Science, Earth & Space Science, Physical Science, Engineering Design. Topics spiral and build in complexity across grades.
- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework, emphasizing scientific inquiry, engineering design process, and understanding core scientific concepts.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Identifying personal interests in scientific fields, recognizing the impact of science on daily life.
 - **Self-Management:** Following experimental procedures, managing time for long-term projects, organizing data.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding the ethical implications of scientific advancements, appreciating diverse contributions to science.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Collaborating on lab experiments, sharing observations, engaging in scientific discourse.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Making evidence-based conclusions, considering the environmental impact of human activities, making informed choices about health and wellness.

4. Social Studies

- **Curriculum Focus:** History, Geography, Civics and Government, Economics. Topics vary by grade level (e.g., Grade 6: Ancient Civilizations; Grade 7: World Geography & Culture; Grade 8: U.S. History).
- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework, emphasizing historical thinking skills, civic engagement, and understanding global connections.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Reflecting on personal biases and perspectives when analyzing historical events.
 - **Self-Management:** Managing research projects, organizing information, meeting deadlines for presentations.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding diverse cultures, historical perspectives, and social justice issues.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Engaging in respectful debates, collaborating on group projects, understanding different viewpoints.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Analyzing historical dilemmas, understanding civic responsibilities, making informed decisions as active citizens.

5. Spanish (World Language)

- **Curriculum Focus:** Developing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. Introduction to Spanish-speaking cultures.
- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts World Languages Curriculum Framework, focusing on communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Building confidence in communicating in a new language, recognizing personal learning styles.
 - **Self-Management:** Practicing vocabulary and grammar, memorizing phrases, managing time for language practice.
 - **Social Awareness:** Developing cultural understanding and empathy towards Spanish-speaking communities.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Engaging in conversations with peers and teachers, participating in role-playing.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Choosing appropriate vocabulary and grammar in different communicative contexts.

6. Technology

- **Curriculum Focus:** Digital literacy, responsible use of technology, coding/computational thinking, research skills, presentation tools, digital citizenship.

- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum Framework, focusing on computing and society, digital tools, and computational thinking.
 - **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Understanding personal digital footprint, recognizing emotional responses to online content.
 - **Self-Management:** Managing screen time, protecting personal information online, troubleshooting technical issues.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding online etiquette, recognizing cyberbullying, respecting intellectual property.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Collaborating on digital projects, communicating effectively online, resolving online conflicts.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Evaluating online information, making ethical choices in digital interactions, understanding online safety.
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Specials/Elective Classes

These classes provide opportunities for students to explore diverse interests, develop new skills, and enhance their overall well-being.

7. Art

- **Curriculum Focus:** Exploring various art mediums and techniques (drawing, painting, sculpture, digital art), art history, visual literacy, creative expression.
- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework, emphasizing creation, presentation, response, and connection.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Expressing emotions and ideas through art, recognizing personal aesthetic preferences.
 - **Self-Management:** Persisting through artistic challenges, organizing materials, managing time for projects.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding cultural influences on art, appreciating diverse artistic expressions.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Collaborating on group art projects, providing constructive feedback.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Making artistic choices, evaluating the impact of different techniques.

8. Physical Education (PE)

- **Curriculum Focus:** Developing motor skills, physical fitness, understanding health-related fitness components, teamwork, sportsmanship.

- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework, focusing on movement skills, fitness, and personal/social responsibility.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Recognizing personal fitness levels, understanding emotional responses during physical activity.
 - **Self-Management:** Setting personal fitness goals, regulating emotions during competition, following rules.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding the importance of fair play, respecting diverse abilities.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Collaborating effectively in team sports, resolving conflicts respectfully.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Making healthy lifestyle choices, understanding safety precautions in physical activity.

9. Health

- **Curriculum Focus:** Promoting physical, mental, and social health. Topics include nutrition, hygiene, substance abuse prevention, healthy relationships, emotional well-being, stress management, internet safety.
- **MA Frameworks Alignment:** Aligned with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework, focusing on personal health, social emotional health, safety, and healthy relationships.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Recognizing personal strengths and challenges related to health, understanding personal values.
 - **Self-Management:** Developing healthy habits, managing stress, setting personal health goals.
 - **Social Awareness:** Understanding community health issues, recognizing signs of distress in others, advocating for healthy environments.
 - **Relationship Skills:** Communicating effectively in healthy relationships, resolving conflicts, seeking help when needed.
 - **Responsible Decision-Making:** Making informed choices about health behaviors, evaluating health information, understanding consequences of risky behaviors.

10. Tutorial

- **Curriculum Focus:** Providing dedicated time for independent work, homework completion, organization, and academic support.
- **MA Frameworks & CCSS Alignment:** Indirectly supports all subject areas by providing time for consolidation of learning and skill practice.
- **CASEL Competencies Integration:**
 - **Self-Awareness:** Identifying personal learning needs, understanding strengths and weaknesses in academic tasks.

- **Self-Management:** Developing organizational skills, time management, prioritizing tasks, setting academic goals.
- **Social Awareness:** Understanding when to seek help from teachers or peers.
- **Relationship Skills:** Practicing effective communication when seeking clarification or assistance.
- **Responsible Decision-Making:** Making productive use of study time, demonstrating academic integrity.