



Hampshire Country School
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Hampshire Country School Educational Program

Classes at Hampshire Country School are small: typically three to six students. Instruction is traditional, with teacher-led discussions, presentations, and assignments; but there is a vast difference between traditional instruction in a large public or private school class and a small Hampshire Country School class. In the small classes at H.C.S., teachers and students are always in direct contact; there is time to modify a lesson to fit one or two students' special interests or difficulties; and interruptions because of a student's abundance of enthusiasm or momentary frustration do not need to become major issues.

Student evaluations and grades (A through F) are based on class assignments; homework; quizzes and tests; class participation; and effort. High grades (B's and A's) are intentionally rather difficult to earn, requiring good mastery of the subject and consistently high quality work.

Often extra help is available for students from teachers, who live on campus and can, therefore, visit dorms in the evening to assist with homework or review for a test.

In addition to the core courses studied during the class day, art, music, drama, and physical activity are all important parts of a Hampshire Country School education. However, these subjects take place outside of formal classes and are not graded.

Elementary Program

Elementary students, (usually fourth through sixth grade), have a single teacher and are taught in an ungraded classroom. The goals of the elementary program are to stimulate growth in reading, writing, math, and content subjects such as science and social studies. Enthusiasm for learning is more important than formality; but the development of learning tools such as working effectively in a group and completing assignments is seen as an important part of developing enthusiasm for school learning. The daily schedule is regular but flexible, so lessons that generate special interest or success can be extended and lessons that generate resistance or frustration can be postponed until a better time.

Secondary Program

Secondary school students, 7th grade and above, have six class periods` and move from one teacher to another. All students take English, science, math, history or geography, and a foreign language. Some students may have a study period or special tutoring during the day. (continued on next page)



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Students in the 7th and 8th grades are regularly in classes together, and high school students of various grades are in classes together. In any particular year, only a limited number of different courses are offered, but over a few years a wide range of subjects are covered.

English courses focus on writing skills, literature, grammar, and spelling. Math courses range from basic math through Algebra 2 and Geometry, with pre-calculus occasionally available. Science courses include Earth Science, Life Science, General Science, Biology, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Chemistry, and Human Anatomy and Physiology. Social studies courses include U.S. History, World Geography, Twentieth Century History, and Ancient Civilizations. A foreign language is taught on a beginning and intermediate level.