

Cape Fear Center for Inquiry Expectations Guide

What to Expect at CFCI	What NOT to Expect at CFCI
Inquiry-based teaching: Students having more ownership of learning Learning how to learn	Constant teacher-directed, skills-oriented instruction
Integrated curriculum: Connections made between subject areas Integrated arts education	Subjects taught in isolation
Student-centered classrooms High levels of student self-direction	Teacher-centered classrooms
Children actively engaged in learning	Silent classrooms
Variety of instructional techniques: Whole class, small group, individual	Primarily whole-class instruction
Variety of academic resources driving curriculum: Student ideas, field study, teacher resource books, technology	Textbook-driven classes/curriculum
Individual assessments: Checklists, narratives, conferences (student-led and parent)	Traditional report cards (letter grades)
Daily, school-wide practice of social curriculum	Monthly or weekly character education programs
Homework designed to extend or practice learned skills and concepts	Repetitive, busy work
Individual/personal challenges	Competition among classes and/or peers
Cooperative, inclusive and developmentally appropriate physical education and health	Competitive "gym" classes
Multi-grade electives and challenging academic academies (grades 6-8)	Traditional middle school concept
A high level of parent involvement: PTO (Parent "Partnership") Classroom volunteering Field trip chaperones	Limited opportunities for parent involvement
Lunches from home (eat in classrooms)	A cafeteria
Parent or carpool transportation	Bus transportation
Director	Principal
Mobile computer carts In-class libraries	Typical school building

*Kindergarten - 5th Grade:

- General Music Minimum of twice weekly for 30 minutes
- Spanish Minimum of twice weekly for 30 minutes
- Art Once a week for 1 hour
- Physical Education Once a week for 50 minutes
- Health Once a week every 5th week for 50 minutes
- Technology
 - K-2 Once a week for 30 minutes
 - 3-5 Once a week for 1 hour
- 5th grades also have option to join band and/or chorus

+Middle Grades (6-8) Electives:

- Band Daily all year
- Chorus Daily all year
- Spanish I, II, III 12 week classes
- Art I, II, III 12 week classes
- Physical Education 12 weeks
- Cultural Studies 12 weeks
- Study Hall 12 weeks
- Technology 12 weeks

++Middle Grades (6-8) Academies of Inquiry:

Academies are challenging, trimester long [12 weeks] electives based on the University of Chicago's model for Gifted Enrichment
Academies change each trimester and meet the first 3 Wednesdays of the month. Examples include (but are not limited to): Film, Drama, Forensics, Entrepreneurship, and Architecture.

+++Algebra is also offered in 8th grade for those students who qualify - based on a standardized assessment. It is a year-long course and students take the Algebra End-of-Course (EOC) exam.

+++The entire Middle Grades participates in some form of Service Learning once a month (the last Wednesday afternoon of the month). Currently, Service Learning includes: The Parenting Place, Children's Museum, Therapeutic Riding, Wrightsville Beach, Arboretum, and Greenfield Lake.