



The Community School

1164 Bunker Hill Road

South Tamworth, NH 03883

(603) 323-7000 • (603) 323-8240 fax • info@communityschoolnh.org
Accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges

Courses at The Community School

In order for such a small program to do justice to the wealth of information, perspectives, and resources available for teachers and learners, our studies follow a 3-year thematic rotation: History of the Ancient World; History of the Americas: post-contact to the Industrial Revolution/Westward Expansion; Modern World History of the 20th and 21st Centuries. Applicable coursework is included in these thematic studies.

The Community School's full-time program courses fall into three categories: core classes, afternoon blocks, and stewardship. One credit equals 120 contact hours with teacher and subject.

Cores meet four to five mornings per week, all year. They include English, math, and foreign language. Students earn 1.2-1.5 credits per course per year. This consistent immersion builds both skills and dispositions essential for a strong academic foundation. Students are grouped largely based on their experience with or exposure to material. Math classes progress logically from pre-algebra up through calculus, with our annual offerings meeting the needs of each student group. Foreign language follows a similar path.

Blocks run for one or two months, and meet four afternoons per week for approximately 150 or 75 minutes per session. These intensive studies allow time to delve deeply into fairly specific areas of history, social justice, or the sciences. Students choose one to two block courses per block session, earning approximately .60 or .30 credits per block.

Stewardship meets on Friday afternoons in 2.5 hour sessions, for 4-8 weeks at a time. During these classes, students immerse themselves in elective areas: the arts, wood working, farming, cooking, health and sexuality, invention, physical fitness, and more. Expert craftspeople from our region often teach these classes.

Assessment and Evaluation

We believe that assessment and evaluation are tools to help learners to grow and record that growth. To that end, we use a narrative evaluation system which highlights in detail each student's strengths and weaknesses in intellectual concepts, critical skills, and commitment to learning. Based on these narratives, a PASS WITH PERSONAL HONORS, PASS WITH DISTINCTION, PASS, PASS WITH CONCERN or NO CREDIT is recorded on an individual transcript. The criteria for each course are highlighted in the narrative evaluation, as well as notation regarding individual work resulting in the transcript record.

Our system has no correlation to a traditional alpha-numeric grading system, therefore our students do not accumulate a grade point average, nor are they ranked. We are happy to offer individual narrative recommendations for scholarship consideration, college course prerequisites, or in other areas which typically rely on standardized norms.