



## **The Community School**

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Accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges

### **Profile of The Community School**

The Community School is an independent, non-sectarian day school with full-time programs for students in grades 6-12 and part-time American history, environmental science, and literature classes for 8-12 year olds. We incorporate real-life problem solving, opportunities for collaboration, service, and independent exploration into college preparatory courses. Students spend time in classrooms, and use our farm, forest and fields as extensions of our school-house. We do not offer special education services and are not a therapeutic setting, though highly motivated, curious students with mild learning disabilities can thrive with us.

We believe that learning should be a rigorous and joyful pursuit which promotes the interconnectedness of people and places, and which challenges mind and body. It's rare for a day to go by when we don't go outside for some portion of our school day.

Classes at TCS are small, with six to twelve students in each seminar or workshop. Multi-age classes allow students to learn from each other and to be grouped according to ability rather than strictly by age or grade. Daily classes include English, math, and foreign language, for all students. Afternoon block classes meet four days each week and focus largely on social studies and the sciences. Friday afternoons are reserved for extended blocks of study, our stewardship classes, and offer hands-on explorations of everything from boat building or knitting to bee keeping or peer mediation, architectural drawing to *Odyssey of the Mind*.

We do not use rankings or grade point averages. Students receive for each class narrative evaluations which explain, in detail, strengths and areas in need of improvement. We have a pass/fail system with pass with honors noted for those who have had marked periods of personal growth or insight. Students must earn just over 30 credits to graduate. Requirements are designed to prepare students for college admission, but also to emphasize our core values as taught through stewardship, travel, school meeting, and senior project.

Travel is essential to our program. Our teachers include field exploration as a regular part of coursework. Several times each year, students are offered opportunities to travel farther afield, whether to major cities, wilderness areas, or foreign countries. These trips both connect to our mission and course work, but also build, in and of themselves, important skills: self-reliance, perspective, empathy, and organization.

The Community School manages 316 acres under conservation easement. This land includes a certified tree farm and a certified organic garden. Students work closely with staff and community members to manage these assets, both for academic credit and community service hours.

Students come to us from more than a dozen towns in central New Hampshire and western Maine. 80% receive financial aid in order to learn with us. As of June 2013, TCS has graduated 127 students since its first class of two in 1992. About 90% of these students has won acceptance to college. For the past six years, we have boasted a 100% college acceptance rate, working hard to match our students with colleges and universities which will enrich their lives and challenge them. We are fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education.