CCPA

— COMMUNITY GUIDEBOOK —

A HYBRID PATHWAY OF THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL

Interdisciplinary, Project-Based, Montessori-Inspired Charter Academy

We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.

DR. MARIA
MONTESSORI

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& VISION**

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VISION & MISSION

VISION (THE WHY) The CCPA vision is to guide our community to love learning, to profoundly contribute to our diverse world, and to lead lives of achievement.

MISSION (THE WHAT) CCPA, influenced by Montessori principles, will provide an innovative, rigorous, self-exploring education through experiential learning, design thinking and meaningful interdisciplinary studies cultivating a growth mindset.

OUR VALUES

Cottonwood College Prep Academy (CCPA) strives to develop students who are prepared to be part of an increasing complex, demanding and competitive 21st century. In addition to being influenced by Montessori principles, CCPA values the skills highlighted by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P-21).

Design Thinking

OUR HYBRID MODEL PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF LEARNING IN A CLASSROOM AND PERSONALIZATION PROVIDED BY ONLINE LEARNING. STUDENTS TAKE THE COURSE OF STUDY IN CLASSROOM SETTING WHILE TAKING THE OTHER COURSES USING AN ONLINE PLATFORM - ALL WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE TEACHERS.

DESIGN THINKING GIVES STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP SKILLS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN A RANGE OF DIFFERENT FIELDS—INCLUDING DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, AND BUSINESS. STUDENTS WILL LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THE END-USERS, QUESTION HARD-SET ASSUMPTIONS, AND REDEFINE PROBLEMS.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVISORY

Advisory is all four years with the same group of students and same advisor. Advisors help students find educational resources, assist students to target key academic learning goals, work with mentors to ensure the rigor of internships, and actively involve parents in their student's education.

SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning opportunities allow students to become knowledgeable in specific areas of interest while serving local and global communities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

CCPA's course of study blends Common Core, project-based learning, and 21st Century Skills with the philosophy of Montessori. Incorporating the pathway's values with the spiraling curriculum deepens understanding leading to student agency—where a student has a growth mindset to take charge of their own learning.

CCPA students are expected to complete the courses required for graduation. Students are encouraged to pursue an internship, special project or other endeavor with the guidance of an advisor for credit towards graduation.

WASC ACCREDITATION

Fully Accredited by WASC
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

The WASC process is designed to allow us to go through an in-depth self-study of our school, focusing specifically on organization, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and school culture. We take a close look specifically at our high school students and their success. In addition, we identify and reflect on our progress towards our student learner outcomes (SLOs). The WASC cycle includes targeting our areas of strength and areas of growth and the creation of an action plan to address those areas to increase student achievement.

When a school becomes accredited, it:

- Certifies to the public that the school is a trustworthy institution of learning.
- Validates the integrity of a school's program and student transcripts.
- Fosters improvement of the school's program and operations to support student learning.
- Assures a school community that the school's purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable educational program.
- WASC accreditation is important because the military often requires applicants to be from accredited schools and many school districts and universities will only accept credits from WASC accredited schools.
- Allows high school students' courses, grades, and units to be accepted at more colleges and universities after graduation.

MASTERY LEARNING

In an interdisciplinary, project-based high school environment, "mastery" is defined as a comprehensive understanding and application of knowledge across various subjects through practical, real-world projects. This educational approach emphasizes depth over breadth, focusing on the student's ability to integrate concepts from different disciplines, think critically, and solve complex problems creatively.

CCPA MASTERY SCALE

Levels of Mastery	Scale	Description
4-Innovating	90-100	Applies learning beyond expectation
3-Proficient	76-89	Meets Expectation
2-Developing	60-75	Meets the expectation with support and guidance
1-Exploring	0-59	Surface level of understanding

GRADES

Grades are issued four times each school year. Quarter grades are "progress" grades that are not permanently recorded. Semester grades are permanent grades that are recorded. The semester grade is the total of the grade of the two quarters.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

To build agency, students are asked to lead conferences with their advisor and parents/guardians to evaluate their progress in Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	40 Credits
Social Science	30 Credits
Mathematics (must include Algebra & Geometry)	30 Credits
Laboratory Science (must include one life science and two physical)	30 Credits
World Language	20 Credits
Visual Performing Arts	10 Credits
College Preparatory Electives	70 Credits
Total	230

A-G COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Social Science "A" Requirement	2 years
English "B" Requirement	4 years
Mathematics "C" Requirement	3 years 4 years recommended
Science "D" Requirement	2 years with lab 3 recommended
Language Other Than English "E" Requirement	2 years of the same language 3 years recommended
Visual and Performing Arts "F" Requirement	1 year
Electives "G" Requirement	1 year

GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is imperative for success. Students who attend class have greater opportunity to succeed. This includes attendance on campus, participation of field studies, internships & other academic endeavors. A student can expect their grades to be impacted by attendance. In addition, excessive/constant tardies or absences may lead to a family conference, more extensive campus restriction, including participation in activities beyond CCPA campus.

Every attempt should be made to contact CCPA on the date of the absence at 530.285.2003.

Late Arrival/Leaving Early
Students who arrive to school late or leave early need to check in & out of the office. Parent/guardian permission is required & must sign out the student, send a signed note or call 530.285.2003 to excuse their student during school hours.

SOCIAL GUIDELINES
INTEGRITY, RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY
We have the confidence that all students will interact with others respectfully and with grace. If needed, students are supported by redirection towards making the necessary changes in their behavior. CCPA has the following social guidelines:

1. Spreading negative information regarding any member of the CCPA community is unacceptable. If there is any way that the information can be construed as negative, harmful, or abusive the sender(s) of that information will be viewed as contributing to an unsafe school community.
2. Students are expected to conduct themselves outside of school with respect toward any member of the CCPA community with the same guidelines that exist when in school.
3. Students are not allowed to take pictures, audio or video of any member of the CCPA community without permission.
4. The CCPA community shares the responsibility of keeping the environment orderly, clean, and operational.

BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES

Students contributing to an unsafe school community will be subject to consequences. CCPA adheres to the CA Education Code regarding grounds for suspension and expulsion. Please see this policy, located in The Cottonwood School Handbook.

DRESS CODE

To promote unity, excellence and pride the CCPA community will dress for success.

1. Students can wear tank tops as long as undergarments and/or private areas are not exposed.
2. Clothing must be length that ensures undergarments, midriff, and/or private areas are not exposed.
3. Students cannot wear clothing that displays or insinuates weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, nudity, or gang affiliation.

Teachers may have other requirements for presentations & field trips Please see this policy, located in The Cottonwood School Handbook.

DRIVING AND PARKING

Both parking on site and on the street is shared with multiple businesses in the immediate area. In serving our communities, we acknowledge a commitment to maintain a good relationship with our neighbors and to honor their need for parking space.