

**Casper Classical Academy
6th Grade
Curriculum Guide for Enrollment**



**2024-2025
Home of the Cougars**

Welcome to CCA!

**Marie Puryear, Principal
Michael Brainard, Assistant Principal**

Non-Discrimination Policy

Nondiscrimination Policy

NCSD #1 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in employment, treatment, admission, or access to educational programs and activities. The lack of English language skills shall not be a barrier to admission or participation in the activities and programs.

Natrona County School District does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding these laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator(s). The following person(s) have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Non-Discrimination Policies of Natrona County School District.

504 Coordinator - Todd Burns

970 N. Glenn Rd., Casper, WY 82601, or (307) 253-5445

todd_burns@natronaschools.org

Title IX Coordinator - Dillon Fuller

970 N. Glenn Rd., Casper, WY 82601, or (307) 253-5445

dillon_fuller@natronaschools.org

Or you may also contact:

The Wyoming Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Coordinator, 2300 Capitol Avenue,
Cheyenne, WY

82002-0050 or 307-777-7673

Accessibility

At Natrona County School District #1 (NCSD), we seek to understand and respect the unique needs of our students and community. We are committed to ensuring the accessibility of our web content to people with disabilities. All content on our website will conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, Level AA. This policy applies to all new, updated, and existing web content on www.natronaschools.org. Accessibility checks will be incorporated into the publishing workflow for all new website content. Each page of the website will include a link in the footer to this page which includes contact information providing a method for users to submit feedback on the site; this information will be compiled and considered during the review

process. Any accessibility issues should be reported to NCSD's Public Relations Department at communications@myncsd.org.

To request information on this website in another language, please email communications@myncsd.org or call 307-253-5253.

All areas of the Natrona County School District #1 website will be reviewed annually. Reviews are the responsibility of

NCSD's Public Relations Department.

Natrona County School District 1

CONTACT US

970 N Glenn Rd, Casper, WY 82601

Phone: (307) 253-5200

Curriculum

Casper Classical Academy follows a classical, college preparatory curriculum approved by the Governing Council. While district and state standards are adhered to closely, the curriculum is enhanced with additional content that reinforces the classical theme. Every subject area sets high expectations for CCA students. Math classes are challenging, with students typically working beyond the expectations.

We integrate character development and the Arts and Humanities into each of our core subjects. Our curriculum is rich in Classical and Award winning literature. As part of a classical education, one elective for students is pre-selected. We introduce Latin/Greek roots in grade 6, instruct our students in Latin in grade 7, and give them the option to continue in grade 8 if they so choose.

Technology is an integral piece to our school's curriculum as well. It can be integrated into all curriculum areas primarily through projects. Students combine technology and content area classes to produce projects to meet standards within those content areas.

Students needing enrichment in language arts and math may be selected by WY-TOPP score and teacher recommendation to partake in an accelerated course. In addition to the basic course offerings, students can select from a number of Fine and Performing Arts or Career and Technical Education elective courses.

The Trivium

Casper Classical Academy's classical education curriculum centers around the Trivium. The Trivium is a brain-based, human development theory as well as a theory of knowledge. The Trivium can be defined as having three stages of human development and learning: grammar, logical-dialectic, and rhetorical.

The grammar stage involves learning the fundamental skills and knowledge that every student needs to know. This may involve memorization or facts and skills.

The logical-dialectic stage involves analyzing the basic facts and knowledge learned in the grammar stage. This stage has been implemented into every content area as well as in our 8th grade Logic class.

The last stage of the Trivium is the rhetorical, or communication stage. It involves synthesizing and evaluating the basic facts and knowledge learned in the grammar stage, and analyzed in the logical-dialectic stage. This stage has also been embedded into the curriculum of each content area.

CCA's Core Classes for 6th Grade

English Language Arts (Reading & Writing): In 6th grade Language Arts, students will meet twice each day with their teacher in order to read, write, speak and listen, and learn about language. To address reading skills, students will read in three ways: whole class, small groups or book clubs, and independently. Independent reading will be coached through mini-conferences with the teacher; book clubs will offer a menu of text choices and the opportunity to work through the book with others via discussion, journaling, and potential projects; and whole class reading will ensure that students read and discuss two longer works in detail: A Comedy of Errors, and Colibrí, a novel about a Mayan girl kidnapped in Guatemala. Students will also read many shorter works of fiction and informational text to help achieve reading standards. Students will strengthen their skills in grammar and conventions, vocabulary, and three types of writing: narrative, informational, and argumentative. Students will have opportunities to write informally, to imitate other excellent writers by analyzing their techniques, and to follow the entire writing process to achieve a well-developed final product. Students will practice writing daily to build a strong foundation of writing skills that will help them be successful writers throughout their years at CCA and beyond. Speaking and Listening skills will be addressed through many formal and informal presentations including recitations where students will be asked to recite one memorized poem from a list of options every quarter in front of the class to enhance their public speaking skills and touch on the Rhetoric stage of the Trivium.

Math: Casper Classical Academy's math classes are built around the Wyoming State Content and Performance Standards. Natrona County School District has worked diligently to align these standards K-12 to flow in a sequential, logical manner. Therefore, Casper Classical Academy uses the Natrona County School District Priority Standards to guide instruction in each grade level. These standards can be found on the district's website at: www.natronaschools.org under "Curriculum and Development" tab. To teach these standards, we will use EdGems Math in grades 6-8. Teachers may supplement this curriculum, using resources that directly align to the standards.

Science: 6th Grade Science students will develop an understanding of the integrated, disciplinary core ideas of physical, life, Earth and space science, as well as engineering, technology and applications of science. Students will explore components of critical cycles of matter and energy on Earth, the interaction of forces between objects on Earth and in space, and the availability of abiotic and biotic resources which leads to competition. *The main goal of the "Go with the Flow" unit is to teach students to apply the concept that the world is composed of small components that impact the structure and function of very large components. Energy flows through all levels of a system. *The main goal of the "May the Force (Mass x Acceleration) Be with You" unit is to teach

students how forces interact on small and large scales. *The main goal of the “Life’s Not Fair” unit is to teach students that abiotic and biotic resources are limited in any ecosystem which causes competition within the system. Humans can have a positive or negative impact on these resources based on our choices.

Social Studies: We work to get students to question and think about historical events from unique perspectives and critically analyze world events, and to use that historical knowledge and current events to develop into being good global citizens. We will be studying the geography, ancient history, and a bit of modern day life of South, Central, and North America. Get ready for an amazing journey!

Units:

- Physical, Political, and Human Geography of the Western Hemisphere
- Map skills for Canada, US, Central America, and Latin America
- Native people of the Western Hemisphere (Canada and the US)
- Native People of the Western Hemisphere (Middle and South America)
- Early Exploration of the Western Hemisphere
- European Settlement and Early Colonization
- Western Hemisphere Today, Latin America, Canada and the US

English Language Arts-Extension (6th grade): In our 6th grade ELA-Extension course, students will do work to support the ELA standards of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Our units also build the foundation for a classical education at CCA. Our units include: reading *The Iliad* and discussing the connections of the literature with the historical facts (or lack thereof) and reading *Percy Jackson-The Lightning Thief* as comparison; mythology and the connections/comparisons between nature and the myths of the gods, also connected to *The Iliad*; and philosophy and the Socratic Method by studying ancient Greek philosophers and life’s big questions (logic).

This course will also be an opportunity for 6th graders to improve their writing skills, grammar-parts of speech, and perform recitations (memorized poems recited in front of their peers). Between units, we also enjoy expressing ourselves with a bit of drama and exploring the stage with dramatic readings and small plays. Throughout the year, students will have many opportunities to speak and share ideas, think deeply, and organize their thoughts by making modern-day connections to our western civilization foundations.

Finally, to prepare for Latin in 7th grade, this class begins the introduction of common Latin phrases still used in life today. We will be making connections between the roots of our English vocabulary with their Latin and Greek origins.

UNITS:
KEYBOARDING
DRAMA
LATIN VOCABULARY
CLASSIC LITERATURE

RECITATIONS
PHILOSOPHY
GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Physical Education: We like to be active with our classes as much as possible so that we can emphasize our three state standards through a variety of activities- fitness, movement, and personal and social behavior. Students will be introduced to individual and dual sports like tennis and badminton, as well as team sports like basketball and softball. In addition, students work daily on the five areas of physical fitness: muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, and body composition. Students need to have laced-up athletic shoes for class each day and we have lockers available for students in the gym area to store shoes and clothes in.

Curriculum Electives for All Grade

Art - Comprehensive (optional elective): This full year art class will give an overview of different art techniques. Each art student will have the opportunity to learn different techniques for working in a variety of media. Students will also learn how to talk about their artwork and other artists' work and be able to express those views in writing.

General Band (optional elective): This full year elective class is designed to accommodate all students in grades 6th - 8th, who wish to begin or further their knowledge in instrumental band literature and technique. Students will perform a minimum of three concerts during the year. The 8th grade students may have the opportunity to participate in the NCS D #1 Middle Level Music Clinic.

Choir (optional elective): This is a full-year elective for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. This course focuses on healthy vocal technique, music theory, and ear training all related to performing. Students participate as a group and perform a minimum of three concerts during the year. Certain 7th and 8th grade choir students are eligible for the NCS D #1 Middle Level Music Clinic. There is no prerequisite for this class. If you enjoy singing, or want to learn how, please sign up.

Orchestra (optional elective): This full year elective course provides continuing instruction in both the individual skills to play a bowed stringed instrument and the ability to perform in a larger ensemble, the string orchestra. Through a variety of styles of traditional and alternative literature, this course advances students' techniques such as rhythm, intonation, tone color, and upper positions while increasing each student's orchestral skills such as following a conductor and listening while playing to the other members of the ensemble. The 8th graders may be eligible for the NCSD #1 Middle Level Music Clinic. Students may have a minimum of three performances during the school year. Most musical materials and some large instruments (cello and bass) are provided: Students must purchase incidental supplies, which usually are under \$20.00 per year. If the student doesn't have their own instruments, they may be checked out to them for a \$50 annual fee. The course is leveled and if they have prior experience, they must perform an audition in front of the instructor to determine which orchestra to be placed in.

Guitar (optional elective): This course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills, and techniques required to become a successful musician. Areas of concentration include correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, bass playing, finger picking styles, melody construction, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation, and performing experiences.

Piano Lab (optional elective): This course is designed for students with no previous piano experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the piano on a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills, and techniques required to become a successful musician. Areas of concentration include correct posture, technique, note reading, aural skills, theory, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, sight reading, repertoire, melody construction, musical forms, improvisation, accompaniments, and performing experiences.

Computer Science (optional elective): Computer Science in the Virtual World takes a wide lens on computer science through software by covering topics such as problem solving and program development. Students create and share their own content to meet various software design challenges while learning legal and ethical concerns.

CTE (Career Technical Education optional elective): Industrial Technology will include curriculum that is based on the five CTE standards, including: Career Readiness, Collaboration and Communication, Problem Solving and Critical Thinking, Technical Literacy and Technical Proficiency. Most of these standards are integrated into the following units:

Introduction to Industrial Technology (first year):

Unit 1: Engineering

Throughout this unit, students use a software called Whitebox to guide them through the engineering design process. Students will learn some physics regarding motion and forces. They will design a CO₂ car, virtually, using the software and then create their car by hand in the woodshop. Students will also work collaboratively to optimize the performance of their cars. Students will create a presentation in Google Slides illustrating their journey through the engineering design process.

Unit 2: Woods

Throughout this unit, students will learn how to safely operate the woodworking tools and machinery required to complete their woodworking projects. Students will learn how to glue up, layout, cut and finish (sand and stain) a woodworking product. Reading the ruler is another basic skill taught to students in this unit. Introduction to Industrial Technology students will complete a cutting board for their project.

Unit 3: Manufacturing

Throughout this unit, students will learn the basics of solid modeling using a software called Solidworks. Students will learn how to sketch, extrude and cut using the software.

Unit 4: Career Exploration

Throughout this unit, students will learn about personality types and personality traits. Students will take a personality test and use the information to create a personality collage.

Family and Consumer Science (optional elective): This year-long course focuses on learning the basic skills of nutrition, food safety, teamwork, budgeting, food preparation/measuring skills, and career exploration. The students will be participating in the cooking labs once a week when we are not working on the careers units. In addition, this course will focus on money management, manners and etiquette, careers, nutrition in our lives, advanced teamwork/communication, and advanced meal

planning. This course consists of project based learning with plenty of hands-on opportunities to support in-depth knowledge, with the final project being planning and preparing for and then hosting the career fair.