



Carbondale New School

Educational Philosophy

Carbondale New School is a progressive, independent, not-for-profit private school for students from Pre-K through eighth grades. It is not, however, a new school; a small group of dedicated, determined, and visionary parents founded CNS in 1974. At the New School, we understand students have a variety of learning styles. Children's individual personalities are cultivated and respected. Children are allowed to develop at their own pace because education is not a one-size-fits-all process.

As a parent-owned-and – operated, not-for-profit corporation, we are committed to providing a diverse and dynamic learning environment as a leader in educational innova-



tion. We will provide the autonomy and support to inspire excellence in the students, staff, and parents of our school.

CNS has small classes. This commitment to small class size provides an intimate learning environment and promotes close bonds within the school family. This is definitely the place where everybody knows your name! Theme-based, hands-on, experiential learning– and many field trips– bring learning to life. Our playground includes a small pine and hardwood forest, a big grassy field, and many areas and structures that allow children the space and materials to explore and create. Yes, CNS students get dirty! Fresh air and learning about nature, proper animal care, and becoming good stewards of the land are some of the things

about which our students are passionate.

For four decades, CNS has provided creative, quality education to students in a safe, nurturing environment. Students, teachers, and parents work together to create a community that fosters and maximizes each student's intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

This sense of community has powerful and profound implications for its members. Students feel at home in their school. It is a place where they learn, grow, and feel respected and accepted. Parents know that their opinions and input are not only welcome, but also necessary to the school's success.



New School Curriculum



...hands-on, kinesthetic approaches to teaching math and science...

Small class size is one of New School's most notable and important commitments. Teacher aides, parents, and university students along with classroom teachers ensure that New School students receive a level of individualized attention that is unparalleled when compared to other schools.

Carbondale New School has always been a leader in implementing innovative teaching methods and concepts that several years later are reported in

the media as "progressive" or "cutting edge." For instance, teachers have many years of experience with hands-on, kinesthetic approaches to teaching mathematics and science. Language arts are integrated into the instruction and learning of all subjects.

A theme-based curriculum approach encourages students to make important connections among subjects and to develop their own intellectual in-

terests. The curriculum also permits classes to share knowledge throughout the theme. These relationships among the classes are an important feature of the school. Younger students gain confidence as they work with older students.

The themes for our curriculum are: American History and Life Science, Ancient History and Earth Science, and Medieval History and Physical Science.

Choosing to enroll your child at CNS means you are joining a family of people who will truly care about your child as a whole person. We help educate them into caring and loving citizens of the community and the world.

Love and Logic

Each student is a unique individual with unique personal, social, and educational needs. As a result, every situation is unique in nature. Consequences for misbehavior provide the best learning value when matched to the unique student and unique situation. The odds for children learning from their mistakes increase dramatically when chil-

dren see a reasonable connection between their behavior and the resulting consequences. (From *Schoolwide Discipline Plan Without Loopholes*, p. 44-45).

All staff members in this school follow core beliefs to guide their professional actions and attitudes. These include maintaining the dignity and self-respect of all in-

involved, guiding students to solve problems, and giving students choices to make decisions.

Misbehavior will be handled with the natural or logical consequence and will be viewed as an opportunity for problem-solving. If anything appears to be unfair, students and staff are welcome to voice their concerns.



Yoga & P.E.



Research shows yoga improves health, behavior, academic performance, and self-esteem.

yoga has focused on its benefits to children and teenagers. For example, a

study by California State University, LA, found that schoolchildren who practiced yoga had higher self-esteem, improved classroom behavior, and better school performance.

These benefits inspired CNS to include yoga as part of its physical health curriculum.

Many of yoga’s physical benefits are well-known, such as improved strength and flexibility. It is also known to reduce stress, improve concentration, and lift mood, as well as expand lung capacity and slow heart rate.

More recent research into

Our students experience a guided yoga class once a week where they work on yoga poses and practice breathing.

In addition to yoga, students participate in daily physical activity. Although P.E. is being phased out in many public schools, its benefits are well documented, from skill development to the creation of lifelong healthy habits. At CNS, we believe that healthy minds and healthy bodies develop together.

**“The mind is a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled.”
-Plutarch**

“Children live through their senses. Sensory experiences link the child’s exterior world with their interior, hidden, affective world...freedom to explore and play with the outdoor environment...in their own space and time is essential for healthy development.”

-Robin Moore, [The Need for Nature](#)

Certified Outdoor Classroom

CNS has long recognized the importance of connecting children with the outdoors by providing open, unstructured spaces for creative play. Students interact daily with the space during snack time and the lunch hour. To celebrate the school’s commitment to nature, CNS has recently been recognized as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom.

As more children become disconnected with nature, places like CNS have become increasingly important. Recent research backs up the school’s long-standing commitment:

*Howard Gardner, creator of the multiple intelligences theory, added “naturalist intelligence” to his list.

*Contact with nature promotes healthier social behavior, lessens social dysfunction, helps alleviate stress, and improvise resilience.

*Wilderness and nature-based experiences result in a range of benefits including: improved physical and mental health (e.g. reduced body fat, reduced anxiety and stress, and improved self-esteem); positive changes in behavior; enhanced connection to nature; and improved knowledge and skills acquisition.

tion.

*Outdoor recreation can benefit children with specific health issues, such as obesity and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Children at CNS see all of these benefits in our outdoor classroom. During recess and before– and after-school care, children are invited to play, explore, and create in our playground that features exciting structures, an arboretum, and a large grassy field.



Art



Students experience art as an integral part of their classroom learning, as well as attending weekly art classes.

The importance of arts education is well-documented. According to Americans for the Arts, some of the benefits include:

*stimulated imagination

*refined cognitive and creative skills

*better developmental growth

*developed sense of craftsmanship, quality task performance and goal-setting

*improved life skills such as developing an informed perception, articulating a vision, solving problems,

making decisions, thinking critically, building self-confidence and self-discipline, developing the ability to imagine “what might be,” and accepting responsibility to complete tasks from start to finish

*developed values, including team-building skills and respecting alternative viewpoints

Music



Although historically music education has shared a back bench with art, its contributions to the intellectual and social development are many and well-documented. CNS is pleased to offer Suzuki

string instruction to all students once a week.

Far from being a diversion from core classes, music education is a fundamental part of academic development with benefits including:

*greater brain development and memory improvement

*larger vocabularies and

more advanced reading skills

*higher levels of self-confidence and better able to express themselves

*better listening skills

*enhanced critical thinking skills and better ability to cooperate with teachers and peers.



Students who study the arts seriously are taught to see better, to envision, to persist, to be playful, to learn from mistakes, to make critical judgments, and to justify such judgments.

-Ellen Winner and Lois Hetland

Spanish



More than 37 million people in the United States speak Spanish at home as their primary language; more than double the number of those who did in 1990! Furthermore, the importance of Spanish in our culture is

expected to grow, to an anticipated 43 million speakers by 2020.

In addition to the need for Spanish speakers in order to communicate with a significant portion of the population, there are many other benefits to learning the language. Studies have shown that students who learn another language reap cognitive advantages that lead to improved brain function. Moreover, language learning supports academic achievement by increasing reading skills, improving linguistic awareness, and scoring higher on the SAT and ACT tests.

Having second (or third!) language

instruction has positive benefits for all children in school. Additionally, students are able to gain a multi-cultural perspective and learn about other people and their way of life. These skills are crucial in the job market.

In recognition of these trends, CNS features Spanish language instruction at every level. As students age, their exposure to Spanish also grows— from 30 minutes a week to 40 minutes a day. At CNS, students have the opportunity to experience the beauty of the language and culture through stories, songs, games, and interactive activities.

Clubs

Being a small school doesn't mean doing without extra-curricular activities. CNS offers programs for choir, crafts, chess, and outdoors, reinforcing our curriculum's emphasis on problem-solving, creativity, and environmental awareness and appreciation.

The CNS choir performs at the CNS Winter Program and graduation. Craft Club allows students

to pursue their interest in art and refine their skills after school hours. Chess Club features both quiet and combative contests in chess, Quarto and Othello. Students also branch out to occasionally play other board games. Outdoor Youth takes advantage of our proximity to the Marberry Arboretum to extend students' interests in biology and environmental issues.

Clubs at CNS often rely on the skills and interests of parents, staff, and volunteers willing to sponsor them from year to year.



Pre-K/K



“Students are encouraged to be independent and confident in their exploration and education.”

Education is full of endless possibilities. By using a hands-on approach, I facilitate the growth of each student as he/she explores his/her surroundings. I do this in a fun and loving way as students learn important life skills, reading, writing, language arts, math, social studies, and science. As learning occurs, students become independent, confident thinkers. Students work as a large group, in small groups, and on their own. Education is a fun and exciting adventure for all students.

We are here to teach each student based on his/her needs. In my classroom, students are encouraged to be independent and confident in their

exploration and education. This helps each student to learn at a level with which he/she is comfortable.

Students have the opportunity to explore and learn at various centers throughout the day, such as reading, writing, math, science, art, construction, puzzles, and dramatic play. We also use a sensory table to help learn concepts such as measuring and spatial reasoning. Kindergarteners have some structured time in kin-



dergarten corner and at centers.

Classroom teachers provide opportunities for daily hands-on activities, in addition to daily singing and movement. Children experience art and PE with their teacher, as well as Spanish with the Spanish teacher. Students can expect to eat lunch in their classroom, as well as enjoy a morning, lunch, and afternoon recess.



About Ms. Kathy...

Kathy Compton was born and raised in Southern Illinois. She received her Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology from Southern Illinois University, with a specialization in Marriage and Family Counseling. She worked as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor for a few years. After her third child, she went back to school and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood. After graduation, she was hired by Carbondale New School and has been a teacher here since 2010.

1st-3rd Grade



No student is the same, and I try to provide learning experiences that meet the needs of each individual student. I achieve this through exploration and hands-on experiences with the core curriculum that allow students to work in groups or as individuals. Students can expect to be able to work with manipulatives as we learn such math concepts as addition, subtraction, geometry, and measurement.

In the sciences, we will learn through experimentation and investigation. An exciting part of my classroom is the chance to role play as we explore different social studies themes, such as medieval, ancient, and U.S. history. We will also experience food and cultures as we learn about these periods in history.

I believe in a child-centered classroom, where my role is to provide guidance through my students' educational

journey. Students will have the opportunity to participate in project-based learning. Our themed projects will guide our learning across the curriculum, incorporating skills from language arts, math, science, and social studies.

Field trips are an important part of our learning and provide the opportunity to apply and expand knowledge.

Through connections with local agencies in the community, students are able to take their learning outside the classroom and learn to think outside the box.

Children can accomplish so much when given a loving, warm, and respectful learning environment. Trust and security is an important part of that environment and needs to be established between teacher and student. I strive to build relationships with my students by earning their respect through caring, fun, and exciting experiences. Of course, I cannot do these things alone—families of my students play an intricate role in their child's education. I firmly believe in forming positive relationships with each student's family.



About Ms. Melissa...

As an Illinois native, Melissa Camasta has had over 12 years of teaching experience in both formal and non-formal education. After she received her Bachelor's Degree in Zoology, she began her educational career as an environmental educator working in Hood River, OR. Upon returning to Illinois, she pursued her Elementary Education degree at Southern Illinois University. She is the mother of three beautiful girls, who mean the world to her. As a family, they spend their free time camping, hiking, and exploring the great outdoors.



"I believe in a child-centered classroom, where my role is to provide guidance through my students' educational journey."

4th-8th Grade



Every child can learn, and as a teacher I discover how they learn best and motivate them to do that. To do this, I build a relationship with each and every student.

The most important thing to teach a child is how to think and how to learn, so they can be lifelong learners. I encourage my students to question and explore so they can gain the skills necessary to become lifelong learners.

I lead my class by example and would not ask students to complete work that I would not do myself. I believe the best way to teach behaviors and values is to model them and abide by all rules we set in the classroom. Most of all, no matter the age of the student, I respect them and treat them how I would want to be treated. I think it is important never to lie to a child!

I am happy that you have learned about Carbondale

New School and the outstanding learning opportunity it affords students of middle school age.

Our students are all treated as individuals with unique learning needs and skill sets. One thing that they all have in common is that they have me for a teacher, and I expect a great deal of each and every student. As my student, I will push you to achieve your potential and advance as far and as quickly as you can. That being said, please know that I build a working relationship with each student and will treat you with respect and thoughtfulness.

All curriculum areas are valued in my classroom and during your time here, you will have interesting and advanced levels of work in earth science, physical science, and life science. In addition, we will study ancient history, medieval history, and U.S. history from the

perspective of many nations and cultures. We will also study the U.S. Constitution and how our government works during the year we study U.S. history.

We also have some challenging studies in the language arts and math. We use a very advanced math curriculum that places our students in higher-level classes when attending the area high schools.

Students are also allowed to work at their own pace and can advance as quickly and as far as they desire. In language arts, students have basic study guidelines, but they must set and achieve goals in accordance with their abilities. I have found that setting and meeting goals is the best way for students to improve self-esteem and learn to think and work independently.



“I build a working relationship with each student and will treat you with respect and thoughtfulness.”

4th-8th Grade



This doesn't mean that students are not held to a high minimum standard, because you will be. Last school year, students worked on writing novels, and every year they work on several research projects.

Practical and interpersonal skills are also valued and taught. Manners are important as is problem-solving in a real-life setting. You will learn about caring for pets, housekeeping chores, service to the community, recycling, the outdoors, and learning from mistakes. We

About Ms. Carla...

Carla Watts is certified to teach K-9th grade in Illinois and Pre-K-12th in California. She has endorsements in several subject areas including cross-cultural education, middle school education, and several upper-level subjects. She has 42 hours of graduate credit in education and special education. Carla has been a presenter at math and science conferences in the area and has been in *Who's Who for American Teachers* several times. About this she says, "I particularly value this, because you have to be nominated by students who have been recognized for outstanding achievement." Carla also values the fact that her students know she is their teacher for life and keeps in touch long after they leave New School. She has extensive "real world" experience outside the academic community and she feels this gives what she teaches her kids more depth and value. Carla uses Love & Logic to manage her classroom and is also a certified instructor for Love & Logic.

value and teach to the whole person, including physical fitness, art, music, and Spanish by providing individual classes as well as integrating these studies throughout our core curriculum.

We work hard, study hard, learn much, all while laughing, enjoying life, and appreciating ourselves and each other. Being a member of my class will be limited only by your own work and desire, but most of all it is a real adventure in learning about yourself, as well as advancing academically.

Sincerely,

Carla Watts, 4th-8th Grade Teacher



From the Director..



As the director of Carbondale New School, I thank you for your interest in our outstanding learning environment. At CNS, you will find high academic standards, compassionate

staff and families, and an atmosphere of encouragement.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and my Master's degree in Elementary Administration from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri. I have 11 years of classroom teaching experience (first, fourth, and fifth grades), as well as administrative experience in Missouri. I began serving as the director of CNS in 2012.

My family and I chose to relocate to Southern Illinois so that I could accept the position of Director of Carbondale New School. When we entered the doors of CNS, we were overwhelmed by the genuine learning that occurs here.

As a native of Cobden, IL, I am very excited to live closer to my family.

My husband, Brad, and our son, Thaniel, are very pleased to call New School our educational home. Brad has volunteered at CNS, and Thaniel is an enthusiastic member of his class here.

In my spare time, I love to read, travel, sing, and garden. I especially enjoy going on road trips, and I have visited more than 45 states.

My favorite thing about CNS is the people that make it such a wonderful place. Everyone here has a common goal of wanting the whole child to be successful. I feel that people at New School are sincere in their desire to reach all learners, and as an educator that makes me happy!

Sincerely,
Amanda Sheridan,
Director



“People at New School are sincere in their desire to reach all learners.”

Fast Facts



Carbondale New School is:

*Private
Not-for-profit
Pre-K through 8th grade*

Programs Offered:

*Spanish
Art
PE & Yoga
Music
Choir
Craft Club*
Chess Club*
Outdoor Youth Club*
Certified Outdoor Classroom
Before and After School Care
Summer Programs*

**Clubs vary year to year*

Enrollment:

'12-'13: 55

*Pre-K: 9
K-1st: 10
2nd-3rd: 13
4th-5th: 10
6th-8th: 13*

'13-'14: 59

*Pre-K: 14
K-1st: 16
2nd-4th: 16
5th-8th: 13*

'14-'15: 49

*Pre-K: 16
K-1st: 12
2nd-4th: 8
5th-8th: 13*

Tuition and Fees:

\$6,460 Full Time

\$3,876 Half Day

Scholarship and rebate opportunities available!

Fees cover:

*Curriculum
Spanish
Music
Art & PE
Safety
Accident Insurance
Liability Insurance
Building and Maintenance*

Payment options available:

*10 month (\$646/mon.)
12 month (\$538.33/mon.)
Lump sum*

Incidentals:

*Milk (\$.50/carton)
Pizza— Weds. (\$1.75/slice)
Before/After School charges*

Payment methods accepted:

*Check
Cash
PayPal
Debit/credit card*

Every family is responsible for 40 service hours during the school year

School Fundraising:

*Yard Sale
Bake Sale
Trivia Night
SIU Holiday Craft Show
Barnes and Noble Book Fair
Valentine's Day dance
Locally Grown Music Festival
Plant Sale
Box Tops for Education
Labels for Education
Amazon Smile
Schnucks eScrip
Target REDCard*



Carbondale New School

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Our vision...

As a parent-owned-and-operated, not-for-profit corporation, we are committed to providing a diverse and dynamic learning environment as a leader in educational innovation. We will provide the autonomy and support to inspire excellence in students, staff, and parents of our school.



Our Mission...

The Carbondale New School provides quality, student-centered education that inspires confidence and a lifelong love for learning. We respond to each student's



unique abilities and learning style within an inclusive and supportive community

that values intelligence, worth, and creativity of all children. We empower children with knowledge, skills, compassion, and a sense of responsibility for self and others.