

## **Education Overview – Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center**

The Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center at the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) is an approved private special education school located on CJR's 150-acre Litchfield Campus. Serving male youth from local education agencies and public schools, the Cable Education Center provides special, vocational and alternative education, as well as transition services. Most students require special education services and are diagnosed with specific learning disabilities, emotional disabilities, and/or other health impairments. However, some of the students served by this program do not require formal special education services. Many students referred to the Connecticut Junior Republic have a history of problematic behavior in the public educational setting and demonstrate significant deficiencies in their academic and affective abilities. It is incumbent upon CJR staff to address negative behaviors and teach students ways to conduct themselves in the educational setting while concurrently assisting them to become more proficient in their given grade levels.

To provide students with an effective milieu of educational services in the least restrictive environment possible, and to ensure the development of requisite skills for school success, students are assigned to academic classes based on their skill levels and abilities. Remedial instruction and inclusion services are provided for every student whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requires such assistance and/or if the educational staff determine such assistance is warranted. Students transition to and from different classes and have an opportunity to work with several different teachers daily.

All students attend English language arts, mathematics, science (with a laboratory component) and social studies classes daily. Technology skills are introduced, applied, and reinforced in the academic setting by integrating the computer and academic curricula. Students attend physical education and wellness classes on a weekly basis and have the opportunity to enroll in enhancement classes including music and art. A special education teacher collaborates with each regular academic and vocational teacher and assists in implementing the necessary modifications and accommodations as identified in each student's IEP.

Each student has an opportunity to enroll in a vocational course of study at CJR. Boys develop a theoretical base for the given course content and apply that knowledge to practical application in and out of the classroom settings. Every student develops and maintains a vocational portfolio which integrates his skills in the given trade, in reading, writing, and mathematics, and independent living skills. This portfolio serves as a collection of each student's accomplishments, and may be used as an instructional and assessment tool.

Transition services are developed and coordinated through an interdisciplinary team. This team makes recommendations to each student's Planning and Placement Team (PPT) on appropriate plans and courses of action to assist students in developing and utilizing skills that will foster independence and self-reliance.

CJR provides parent support, discussion groups, and advocacy on an as needed and requested basis. Related services are provided by school psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, and other professionals, as required by each student's IEP.

At CJR, it is acknowledged that each student learns at his own pace, possesses different levels of previous knowledge, reads, writes, and is competent in mathematics at various skill levels. To accommodate these differences, modes of instruction and methods of assessment are different for each individual, as deemed appropriate by the student's Individualized Educational Plan. The ability of instructors to provide differentiated instruction and apply the *Multiple Intelligence Theory* to their lesson plans, is an integral component of the education program at CJR and critical to ensuring the success of students enrolled in the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center.