

Vocational Education at the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center

Vocational courses at the Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center of the Connecticut Junior Republic combine theory and practical application. These classes help students discover the value of their academic studies while fostering work maturity, independent and critical thinking and marketable skills.

At the time of admission to CJR, students have the opportunity to enroll in a vocational course of their choosing. These classes offer students a variety of learning experiences appropriate to their capabilities and interests.

Vocational Course Descriptions:

Vocational Agriculture – Animal Science – This course introduces students to basic animal health, reproduction, and nutrition. Students apply their understanding of these topics through the production of poultry, beef, swine, and sheep, and develop the skills necessary to engage in farm management practices, including haying, building and repairing fences, and operating agricultural machinery. By assisting in the day-to-day operations of the CJR Farm and by competing in local agricultural fairs, students apply skills they learn in the classroom in a practical way on a daily basis.

Vocational Agriculture – Plant Science, Horticulture and Landscape Design – This course provides students with an introduction to horticulture, plant science and aquaculture. Students study plants, ponds, gardens, insects, and small animal life and components. Participants develop an understanding of nature and learn to identify, cultivate, and utilize natural resources. Members of this class participate in a variety of beautification projects on the CJR campus and in the Litchfield community, and learn how to utilize small farm machinery.

Building Design & Drafting – Students develop an understanding of building design and drafting as well as the practical skills required for seeking employment in the construction and building maintenance fields. Youth are introduced to the basic reading and mathematic skills required for carpenters and develop an understanding of and an ability to utilize computer aided drafting (CAD). Students apply their understanding of basic architectural design to various components of the construction field including framing, plumbing, and electrical work by completing model structures in and out of the classroom setting.

Creative and Fine Arts – These courses introduce students to a variety of skills associated with the production of arts and crafts, including pottery, slip casting, mosaics, textiles, leather, scherenchnitte, origami, candle making, papermaking, sculpture, and design. In the fine arts section, students develop skills in portrait making, printmaking, drawing, and landscape designs. Students apply creative and technical skills by designing and creating projects for campus display, donation for other non-profit organizations, and for personal use.

Culinary Arts – Students develop an understanding of safety, sanitation, and nutrition in a commercial kitchen and learn how to prepare poultry, seafood, red meats, and produce. Baking techniques for yeast breads, cakes, and pastry are also taught. Cultural diversity is explored through the research and preparation of ethnic cuisines. Students apply their skills by assisting in meal preparation, participating in a weekly laboratory workshop, researching and designing menus, and by preparing and serving food in association with special events at CJR and in the community.

Graphic Arts – Students develop the understanding and ability necessary to utilize specific graphic arts equipment for the purpose of producing printed materials for the CJR agency, projects for specific events, and the community. Class members learn to operate a Kodak camera, create negatives, plates, and various types of printing presses. Techniques in using and selecting paper, chemicals, and ink are also taught. Additionally, students demonstrate proficiency utilizing tools for cutting, binding, laminating, and folding paper products.

Power Mechanics – This course provides students with an opportunity to develop the introductory skills necessary for work in the automotive service industry. Students develop an understanding of proper utilization of hand and air tools, including wrenches, sockets, impact guns, blow guns, air drills, cut-off tools, and bench grinders. Basic automotive maintenance, including service for brakes, lights, horns, wipers, fluids, air pressure, and filters, is also taught. Students develop skills by servicing automatic and manual transmissions, welding and cutting metal, and utilizing automotive computer systems for diagnostic purposes.

Wood Technology – This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop introductory skills in carpentry, cabinetry, and furniture making. Students develop an understanding of different types of wood, use of tools and equipment, and learn how to plan, design, and construct a variety of projects. Practical application for measurement and layout, drawing and geometry are taught. Students also learn to use sanders and finishers, portable and stationary power and hand tools and apply their skills by building various projects for campus, community, and personal use.

Independent Living Synthesized Curriculum – The Connecticut Junior Republic Independent Living curriculum is a synthesized guide, addressing academic, vocational, and life skills based on the six primary principles outlined by *The Ansell – Casey Life Skills Assessment for Independent Living*. Students become proficient in career planning and communication; daily living; housing and money management; personal self care; social relationships; and work-readiness skills. By engaging in various interdisciplinary thematic modules, students will demonstrate an ability to contribute to society by living independently and developing and strengthening their academic and vocational skills. Through the use of technology, students develop a more astute ability to conduct research and use primary and secondary sources.