

Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC) at the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR)

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Vocational Education

In addition to his academic and enhancement classes, each student has an opportunity to enroll in a vocational course of study at CJR. As a part of this experience, every boy develops a theoretical base for the given course content and uses that knowledge in practical applications in and out of the classroom setting. All students develop and maintain an experiential learning portfolio which integrates their skills in a given trade, life skills, reading, writing, and mathematics, and documents his accomplishments. Instructors may use the portfolio as an instructional guide and assessment tool. Vocational courses of study include: *Building Design and Drafting/Construction, Creative and Fine Arts, Culinary Arts, Graphic Arts, Landscape Design and Horticulture, Power Mechanics, Vocational Agriculture/Animal Science, Vocational Agriculture/Plant Science, Horticulture and Landscape Design and Wood Technology.*

CJR's vocational curriculum uses a standards-based curriculum which was developed utilizing the Connecticut Career and Technical Education Competencies and the Connecticut Technical High School Curriculum Frameworks. These classes offer students a variety of learning experiences appropriate to their capabilities and interests while introducing them to prospective career paths.

Vocational Course Descriptions:

Building Design and Drafting/Construction – Students develop an understanding of, and the practical skills required for, employment in the construction and building maintenance fields. Students are introduced to the basic reading and mathematic skills required for carpentry 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 to 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 daily meal preparation for CJR’s Litchfield campus, participating in a weekly laboratory workshop, researching and designing menus, and by preparing and serving meals for special events at CJR and in the community.

Graphic Arts – Students develop an understanding of, and ability to utilize, specific graphic arts equipment in order to produce printed materials for the CJR agency and projects for 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.

Vocational Agriculture/Animal Science – Students are introduced to and develop an understanding of basic animal health, reproduction and nutrition. Students apply their understanding of these topics to the production of poultry, beef, swine and sheep. Students develop an ability to engage in farm management practices, including haying, building and repairing fences and operating agricultural machinery. Students apply their skills by assisting in the day-to-day operations of the CJR Farm and by competing in local agricultural fairs.

Vocational Agriculture/ Plant Science, Horticulture and Landscape Design – This course provides students with an introduction to plant science, including horticulture, landscaping and aquaculture. Students study plants, ponds, gardens, insects, small animal life and related components, while developing an understanding of, and an ability to identify, cultivate, and utilize natural resources. Students also develop an ability to utilize plant cultivation tools and small farm machinery. Members of this class participate in a variety of beautification projects on the CJR campus and in the community.

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 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’s 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 will 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 will develop a more astute ability to conduct research and use primary and secondary sources.

Students will develop their English language arts skills by engaging in the writing process including brainstorming and outlining ideas; writing and editing rough drafts; attending writing conferences with their teachers and peers; and completing final versions of their work. Students will develop mathematical skills by recognizing patterns, completing operations and computations, and applying theories and ideas to practical scenarios that reinforce everyday math concepts. Students will develop critical thinking skills and an in-depth understanding of American civics and history by identifying, analyzing, and explaining the role of the United States and the rights and responsibilities of its citizens in modern times and throughout history. Students will identify and explain the impact that their personal behavior has on their health, the environment, and the laws and regulations that our society depends upon. By utilizing the Connecticut School-to-Career standards and the SCANS Competencies, students will develop their aptitude in given fields of study and industry. Students will recognize the contributions of the arts by studying theater arts and identifying and recognizing how performing artists have influenced and shaped society.

The overarching instructional design for CJR’s curricula guide is inquiry-based (constructivism) learning, which provides lessons and connected learning and assessment activities that reinforce the student’s ability to engage in independent research and self-guided study.

The primary purpose of this curriculum is to provide specific students with an opportunity for self-guided, independent academic and vocational study and research; an opportunity for specific students returning to their public school environments to have a more efficient and effective transition from residential education to mainstreamed public education; and to support CJR teachers by providing an effective tool for facilitating a positive learning environment while engaging in differentiated instruction.