

### What are charter schools?

Charter schools are public, tuition-free schools, open to all California residents. California's charter schools were created to improve student learning and encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods. Charter schools must meet the same educational standards as regular public schools; however, they have the opportunity to use an extended curriculum as well as the freedom to choose materials from the best available nationally, not just those used in California.

### How large is CAPE Charter School?

Now in its second year, CAPE has 415 students. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes have a 20:1 student to teacher ratio and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> have a 32:1 student to teacher ratio.

### How does CAPE differ from other public schools?

- CAPE is smaller than most public schools, fostering a strong sense of community.
- All classes are taught by California credentialed teachers who are also considered to be highly qualified under No Child Left Behind.
- As a charter school, CAPE has more freedom to focus on the "whole child".
- Project based learning and storyline are emphasized so that every child works to his/her own set of goals.
- There is an active and cooperative partnership between parents, students and teachers. Parents are involved in: mini courses, junior great books, PTSO, field trips, artist and composer of the month, career day, women in history and many more.
- Our philosophy is that learning is its own reward (intrinsic) and there is no need for extrinsic rewards.
- Our character education program is integrated throughout the school in order to strengthen our students' self-esteem, personal responsibility, and decision-making skills, and to develop the moral convictions to withstand undesirable peer pressure.

### What are mini courses and when are they offered?

Mini courses are taught twice a year by parents and community members and overseen by CAPE teaching staff. The courses provide opportunities for students to connect with role models who share their interests.

Fall 2008 Mini Course offerings included:

- Volleyball
- Quilting
- Drums
- Beginning Guitar
- Japanese Culture
- Family History
- Say it with Flowers
- Mosaics
- Hip Hop Dance
- Lacrosse
- Basic Chess
- Soccer
- Scrapbooking
- Batty about Bats
- Super Science

### Does CAPE offer Sports Teams?

Yes. CAPE offers opportunities for 6-8 grade Middle School students to participate in co-ed flag football, boys and girls basketball teams, and co-ed track and field.

CAPE belongs to a league with other school around Ventura County.

### What is unique about the teaching staff?

CAPE has hired outstanding, highly qualified, credentialed teachers who share our passion for Professional Learning Communities (PLC). CAPE is proud to have several teachers with multiple credentials, as well as teachers who are credentialed in Gifted and Talented, Technology, Environmental Education, Cross Cultural and Language Development and more. To support the teachers, the school offers opportunities for collaboration and continued teaching improvement, including 7 staff development days every year.

### Is there tuition?

No. CAPE Charter School is a California public school and does not charge tuition. Families are encouraged to make a one hour volunteer commitment each week to help the school or in their child's classroom. Arrangements can be made with those families whose work schedules make them unable to volunteer during the regular school day.

### Who can attend and how do I reserve a spot for my child at CAPE?

The school is open to any student in the state of California. Siblings of current CAPE students have priority if enrollment exceeds capacity. All other students would be placed on a lottery list and placed in classes as room becomes available. You can download an application and get more information at [www.camarillocharter.org](http://www.camarillocharter.org)

### How can I learn more about CAPE Charter School?

To get on our vertical response e-mail list, please send an e-mail to Kay Ito at [hankay1@verizon.net](mailto:hankay1@verizon.net) with your e-mail address and name. You will then receive information on a regular basis on events occurring on CAPE's campus. Also please visit our website [www.camarillocharter.org](http://www.camarillocharter.org)

