



# CAPE FEAR ACADEMY

## Frequently Asked Questions about Admission to Cape Fear Academy

### **Q: What makes your school distinct?**

**A:** In short, our school's well-deserved reputation for academic excellence and abundant opportunities for students' individual growth is unsurpassed in this region. The varied program distinctions and the many data points or outcomes on which that reputation is built are best understood by visiting our campus and speaking with our faculty, staff and students.

### **Q: What are typical entry points?**

**A:** While preschool/Little Explorers and Kindergarten are ideal starting points, we encourage enrollment at the natural transition points for many schools in our region (grades 1, 6 and 9). Since many families move to this area or local families desire a school change, we may accept mission-appropriate candidates at any grade level, as space and timing permit.

### **Q: What do you seek in an applicant?**

**A:** Admission criteria include: prior school reports and recommendations, admission testing, personal interviews or visits, indications of an appropriate fit between family and school, insight into which can be found at our Portrait of a Graduate and academic profile, and the expectation of mutual support and financial sustainability.

### **Q: How do you determine placement once a student is admitted?**

**A:** We respect and encourage diversity in its many forms, whether from learning styles to gender or from ethnicity to religious belief. We strive to create a balance in each classroom by knowing the individual attributes of our students and the community they will create when grouped as a cohort.

### **Q: What is your teacher-student ratio?**

**A:** It averages 1:9.

### **Q: What is a typical class size?**

**A:** On average, Little Explorers has 16 students with a full-time teacher and a full-time TA. Kindergarten has a maximum of 18 students in a class with a full-time teacher and a full-time TA. Grades 1-5 typically have 20 students with a full-time teacher and a full-time TA. The average class size in Grades 6-12 is between 15-20 students.

### **Q: Is financial assistance available?**

**A:** Yes. CFA accepts the Opportunity Scholarship and also offers need-based financial grants. Decisions regarding admissions and financial aid are separate, and an application for admission must be submitted before applying for financial aid. In all instances, timely submission of applications and supporting documentation is advised.

**Q: Must I reapply annually?**

**A:** For continued enrollment, no: assuming eligibility to re-enroll (academically, financially), families complete enrollment documents in early February. For financial aid, yes: those decisions are based on annually updated information, with new applications being filed by early March.

**Q. By what organizations is your school accredited?**

**A.** We are accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS).

**Q. Will my middle or high school-aged child get to have a visit/shadow day?**

**A.** After CFA receives an application for admission, students are highly encouraged to visit for the day (or half day), where they can connect with our current students and sit in on classes with our amazing faculty. Contact us for more information.

**Q. What does an admission assessment entail?**

**A.** For applicants to preschool - 3rd grade, the Admission Team will contact you to arrange an individual assessment. Applicants to grades 4-11 register through their Veracross checklist. Beforehand, the Admission Team will email parents a detailed protocol sheet. We explain the materials and procedures to the applicant at the outset of the session. Testing is timed and typically takes about two hours and assesses three areas: reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, and writing. Applicants who have documentation of accommodations for testing, such as extra time, should so indicate on the application checklist and provide the related documentation well before the test date.

**Q. How long until I know if my child will be offered admission?**

**A.** Our staff works diligently to move things along as smoothly and quickly as possible. Our admission committees convene frequently to review files that are complete (assessment, school records, recommendations). We will relay the decision to you as promptly as possible.

**Q. What's the best way to contact you?**

**A.** We are happy to connect by email or phone M-F, 8am-4pm, and we invite you to contact us with questions. While each of us can assist you, we do have some areas of specialization, as indicated below. We look forward to hearing from you.

- Lindsey Boden, Director of Enrollment (applicants for grades 6-12, international applicants, financial grants)
  - [lindsey.boden@capefearacademy.org](mailto:lindsey.boden@capefearacademy.org)
  - 910-218-7190
- Alison Reid, Director of Admission for the Lower School (applicants for grades LE-5, admission assessments)
  - [alison.reid@capefearacademy.org](mailto:alison.reid@capefearacademy.org)
  - 910-218-7177
- Laura Peterson, Assistant Director of Admission (initial inquiries, general information and support, records and files)
  - [laura.peterson@capefearacademy.org](mailto:laura.peterson@capefearacademy.org)
  - 910-791-0287 ext. 2131