



Cardigan Mountain School 2026 Summer Session Course Catalog



CARDIGAN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

SUMMER SESSION COURSE CATALOG

The mission of the Cardigan Mountain School Summer Session Academic Program is to foster exploration and application of academic subjects in a fun learning environment. We strive to design and implement an engaging curriculum that piques curiosity and reinforces subject-level benchmarks. Students take three to five classes per day, as each class is one or two periods in length.

When choosing classes, please keep in mind that your child’s grade level from the 2025-2026 school year is their grade during Summer Session.

Please keep in mind these considerations when choosing classes:

- Choose 15 different courses, regardless of 2-week or 4-week program.
- Due to the short nature of the program, we cannot accommodate course changes once the program begins.
- Some classes may not run based on student and/or faculty numbers, or scheduling conflicts.
- We do our best to give students their first choice; however, due to circumstances beyond our control, we are not always able to do so.
- Courses with a “\$” at the end of the description require an additional cost.
- New for Summer 2026: effort grades are based on a rubric, rather than a narrative format.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Summer Session Office by email at summer@cardigan.org. We look forward to learning with you!

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ARTS

Miracle of Clay

2 periods / All Grades

Miracle of Clay introduces students to methods of hand building and wheel thrown techniques. The course emphasizes wheelwork, slab and pinch pot methods of construction, and the proper use of glazing. Students will present their work in the final Art Show and will be able to bring home their work at the end of the course. \$

Woodshop

2 periods / Grades 6 to 9

Woodshop is an introductory course that familiarizes students with safe shop practices and techniques using basic hand tools and power tools. After completion of assigned projects, students are encouraged to explore their own ideas using the skills they have learned. Students will present their work in the final Art Show and will be able to bring home their pieces at the end of the course. \$

Drama Debut

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

Students will learn the basics of stage directions, how to project their voices, and the ins and outs of what it takes to be up on stage! Students will put together a drama production to be performed before an audience during Summer Session. No acting experience is needed, just the desire to give it a try.

Dance

2 periods / All Grades

Move, groove, and express yourself in this fun, high-energy class for both experienced dancers and novices alike! Students will explore a variety of dance styles while building confidence, rhythm, and coordination. Students will perform during the final Performance Night with their class. No experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm and love of music!

Fundamentals of Drawing

1 period / All Grades

Drawing students will work to develop and expand their skills in shading, line drawing, and composition. They will explore different mediums of sketching, and apply their skills to still lifes, portraits, and outdoor drawings. Students will present their work in the final Art Show and will be able to bring home their pieces at the end of the course. \$

Explorations in Art

2 periods / Grades 3 to 6

In Explorations in Art, students will learn the fundamentals of drawing, painting, and design while experimenting with color theory, shading, and perspective. Through creative projects, they'll explore how to mix colors, create depth, and express their ideas using a variety of art techniques and materials. Students will present their work in the final Art Show and will be able to bring home their work at the end of the course. \$

Recycle Art

2 periods / All Grades

In Recycle Art, students will turn everyday items like paper rolls, coffee filters, pine cones, and leaves into amazing works of art. Learn how to reuse and reimagine household materials while creating fun, eco-friendly masterpieces! Students will present their work in the final Art Show and will be able to bring home their work at the end of the course.

ARTS

Music: Create & Perform

1 period / Grades 3-6

Sing, play, and perform in this lively music class! Students will explore melody, rhythm, and harmony through traditional camp and folk songs from around the world as well as some modern jams! This class is geared towards younger students who are interested in an introductory experience to music. They'll add instruments like drums and boomwhackers, and work together to create a performance for the final Performance Night.

Music: Advanced Music Workshop

1 period / All Grades

Meant for students with more advanced musical experience, this class focuses on playing together, improving sight-reading, and learning to jam as a group. Students will grow their confidence and musicality while having fun making music with friends! Students will perform during the final Performance Night with their class.

Ukulele for Beginners

1 period / All Grades

This course covers everything you'll need to know to start playing a ukulele, including uke anatomy, tuning, how to read chord diagrams, strumming patterns, popular chords, and chord progressions. Suitable for absolute beginners through intermediate players. Students will perform during the final Performance Night with their class.

SUMMER GATES

Overview of the Gates Innovation and Invention Program

The Charles C. Gates Invention & Innovation Program at Cardigan is a cutting-edge educational initiative designed to inspire and challenge students to explore their passions and make meaningful contributions to society. Made possible by the generous contribution of Mrs. Diane Wallach on behalf of her father, Mr. Charles C. Gates, this program encourages students to be problem-seekers. Gates offers a space to ask questions about design and bravely seek solutions for tomorrow. Through hands-on, immersive learning experiences, students develop critical skills such as individual and collective creativity, problem-solving, empathy, and resilience. The program fosters a sense of community and individual identity, preparing students to navigate and shape an interconnected world.

Please note: *Due to popular demand, students may be limited to enrolling in only one class from this set of offerings.*

Drone Builders: Design, Build & Fly!

Introductory Course: 2 periods / Grades 3 to 6

In this hands-on introductory course, students will explore the fundamentals of drone technology by assembling and operating a basic drone. They will learn about aerodynamics, basic circuitry, and the core engineering principles that make drones fly. Through guided experimentation and problem-solving activities, students will gain foundational technical skills in a fun and engaging way. The course will conclude with a thrilling first flight test, allowing students to see their creations take off! \$

Engineering & Fabrication: Invent, Create, Solve

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

This dynamic course is perfect for young innovators who love to build, tinker, and solve real-world challenges! Students will explore engineering concepts while working with a variety of materials, including wood, metal, plastics, and electronics. Through hands-on projects, they'll develop problem-solving skills, learn fabrication techniques, and bring creative ideas to life. Whether constructing bridges, designing mechanical devices, or tackling design challenges, students will gain confidence in their ability to turn ideas into reality. \$

3D Printing & Design: From Imagination to Creation

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

In this exciting course, students will bring their ideas to life using cutting-edge 3D design and printing technology! Younger students and beginners will use TinkerCAD to create fun and functional designs, while older or more experienced students will advance to Onshape for more complex projects. They'll learn the fundamentals of 3D modeling, prototyping, and problem-solving while printing their own custom creations. By the end of the course, students will walk away with hands-on experience and a tangible product they designed themselves! \$

Crunch Labs

1 period / Grades 3 to 5

Note: This class is intended for students with no prior Crunch Labs experience.

From exploring rotational energy with a disc flier to accurately predicting projectile motion with a domino catapult, students will test, play, and think like an engineer. Working in small groups, students will build an engineering toy each week from Crunch Labs while learning all about the "juicy physics" behind it. \$

ENGLISH

Please Note: *Classes in the English Department are not recommended for English language learners.*
These classes are not meant to replace summer reading requirements.

Reader's Workshop 1

1 period / Grades 3 to 5

Young readers wishing to strengthen their reading comprehension and vocabulary skills will use short books and stories to learn and practice active reading skills. Class discussions and written reflections will also help to improve understanding.

Reader's Workshop 2

1 period / Grades 5 to 7

Middle-grade readers will strengthen their reading comprehension using short novels and stories. Students will learn and practice active reading skills. Class discussions and written reflections will also help to improve their understanding.

Reader's Workshop 3

1 period / Grades 7 to 9

Older readers will use short stories and passages from a variety of genres to strengthen reading comprehension and active reading skills. Class discussions and written reflections will also help to improve their understanding.

Writer's Workshop 1

1 period / Grades 3 to 5

Young writers will practice writing sentences and paragraphs that inform, persuade, and explain. They will use prewriting tactics to organize their work and will focus on sentence clarity and mechanics to communicate ideas.

Writer's Workshop 2

1 period / Grades 5 to 7

Middle-grade writers will work to write the perfect paragraph and also work on essays. They will use prewriting and outlining to create cohesive work and will practice proofreading with a focus on clarity and mechanics.

Writer's Workshop 3

1 period / Grades 7 to 9

Older writers will write essays that inform, persuade, and explain. They will use outlining to create cohesive, organized work and will practice proofreading with a focus on clarity and mechanics. In addition, they will learn to use MLA style citations.

The Art of Creative Writing

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

Experienced writers will deepen their craft through focused practice in style, structure, and storytelling. Students will refine their use of description, dialogue, and pacing while engaging in thoughtful peer review and revision to produce polished pieces. If they wish, students may be able to present their performance-ready pieces during the final Performance Night.

ENGLISH

Introduction to Journalism

1 period / Grades 3 to 6

Journalism students will practice gathering and analyzing information, interviewing, and writing about their summer adventures at Cardigan. Students will work both independently and collaboratively to produce finished, polished pieces.

Stories & Poems: Seuss to Shakespeare

1 period / Grades 3 to 5

Young storytellers who wish to express themselves in both written and oral forms will learn about different types of poems and what goes into making a good, captivating story. Students will practice writing and reading skills in addition to oral presentation skills.

Utopia, Gone Wrong

1 period / Grades 6 to 8

Dystopian societies are common in many currently popular books, including *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, and *The Giver*, as well as in classics like *Animal Farm* and *Fahrenheit 451*. Students will read, discuss, and write about the themes prevalent in these books. Students will have a chance to create their own societies and present it to their peers.

Note: books may change from year to year.

Young Adventurers

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

Both bookworms and reluctant readers will enjoy exploring the world of young protagonists like themselves. Students will choose and read books with youth protagonists confronting the challenging issues of young adulthood. They will also be strengthening reading comprehension, studying plot development, and analyzing characters.

ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

Please Note: *EAS classes are designed to help students build and cement the skills they need to succeed scholastically. Students have the opportunity to refine their organization, handwriting, note taking, and public speaking skills through fun and engaging activities. These skills, once mastered, make learning easier and more fun!*

Life 101: Foundations for Independence

1 period / Grades 3 to 6

This hands-on, playful class helps younger students develop essential life skills that foster independence and responsibility. Through fun games and themed challenges, students will learn to tidy their rooms, make their beds, organize dressers, and sort recyclables—all while building confidence, focus, and pride in their abilities.

Tag It! The Art of Handwriting

1 period / Grades 3 to 6

In this creative handwriting class, students will strengthen fine-motor control and develop note-taking and organization skills through the study of graffiti and other art lettering. By exploring line, shape, and design, students will learn how to make their writing both legible and expressive, blending artistic creativity with practical handwriting practice.

Level-Up Learning

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

This course helps middle school students strengthen the habits and strategies they need to take ownership of their learning. Students will practice how to organize their digital workspaces, manage time effectively, take purposeful study breaks, and read actively for deeper understanding. Through hands-on projects, challenges, and reflection, they'll discover tools and strategies to help them stay motivated, work efficiently, and thrive as confident, independent learners.

Think. Research. Present.

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

Think. Research. Present. provides students with an opportunity to find, organize, and share ideas that matter most to them! In this practical and confidence-building class, students will develop research skills to identify strong, trustworthy sources and evaluate information critically. They'll also learn how to organize their thoughts, speak with confidence, and deliver meaningful presentations that inform and inspire their audiences.

SSAT: Skills and Strategies

2 periods / Grades 6 to 9

This two-period class combines focused practice in the verbal and math sections with strategies to manage time, reduce test anxiety, and stay calm under pressure. Students will strengthen vocabulary, reading comprehension, and problem-solving skills while also learning how to approach test day with focus, resilience, and a positive mindset.

Admissions Skills: Essays & Interviews

1 period / Grades 8 to 9

Designed for students applying to secondary schools, this course teaches how to craft persuasive, authentic application essays and present oneself confidently in interviews. Through guided writing practice, mock interviews, and guest speakers, students will develop the communication, professionalism, and self-presentation skills needed to succeed in the admissions process.

MATHEMATICS

Please note: *Please read course descriptions carefully to determine correct placement. Math classes are grouped according to basic ability, experience, and age range. Classes are enrichment-based, and not meant to take the place of year-long or remedial courses. Prerequisites are listed in the course description, if applicable.*

Numbers in Action

1 period / Grades 3 to 6

Students build strong basic number sense and fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. If applicable, word problems, riddles, and puzzles are explored to develop logical reasoning and creative problem-solving.

Number Ninjas

1 period / Grades 3 to 6

Students strengthen multi-digit operations, explore fractions and decimals, and investigate geometry concepts like perimeter, area, and angles. This foundational course prepares students for applied math challenges and pre-algebra reasoning.

Pre-Algebra Patterns

1 period / Grades 5 to 7

Students apply fractions, decimals, ratios, and percentages to real-world problems while exploring patterns, expressions, and simple equations. This course bridges foundational math to algebraic thinking with hands-on practice.

Math Masters: Algebra I

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

Prerequisite: completion of pre-algebra during the academic year.

Students explore linear equations, inequalities, functions, and systems of equations, applying their knowledge to real-world problems. Hands-on activities and problem-solving challenges build strong algebraic reasoning and prepare students for higher-level math.

Math Masters: Geometry

1 period / Grades 7 to 9

Prerequisite: completion of pre-algebra during the academic year.

Students investigate geometry concepts including perimeter, area, volume, ratios, similarity, and spatial reasoning. Real-world problem-solving, multi-step calculations, and interactive projects strengthen analytical thinking and prepare students for advanced math.

Advanced Topics in Math

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1 and basic knowledge of geometry.

The Advanced Topics in Math course is appropriate for math-proficient students interested in enrichment and exploration. Class content changes year to year based on class interest and level. Contents could include, but are not limited to: Systems of Equations, Statistics & Probability, Linear Functions, and Exponents.

Introduction to Computer Coding

1 period / All Grades

Using a variety of educational coding applications, students will learn how to write basic programs and tell computers what to do.

MATHEMATICS

Advanced Computer Programming

1 period / All Grades

This course will explore topics and themes with students already possessing previous computer coding skills.

SCIENCE

Science Detectives

1 period / Grades 3 to 5

How are volcanos made? What happened to the dinosaurs? Young scientists will investigate a wide range of science topics in this hands-on, beginner-friendly class. Through experiments, observations, and interactive activities, students will explore the natural world, develop curiosity, and learn the basics of scientific thinking while having fun discovering how science works.

Amusement Park 101

2 periods / Grades 5 to 9

Amusement Park 101 will explore the engineering design process while building amusement park attractions. Students will construct paper roller coasters, motorized Ferris wheels, and a rubber band swing ride to fit out their own amusement park. \$

Making Things Go: In the Air

2 periods / Grades 3 to 6

This adventure follows the history of flight from early balloon flights through modern rocketry. Students will first build tissue paper balloons that can soar hundreds of feet in the air. Then they will test paper gliders and balsa airplanes before finishing their journey by making rockets out of paper and plastic.

CSI: Forensics

1 period / Grades 7 to 9

Students will learn how to document a crime scene and implicate a suspect after carrying out a variety of forensic techniques including simulated blood typing, blood spatter analysis, fingerprint analysis, glass analysis, luminol detection of simulated blood, and DNA analysis. \$

LEGO Engineering & Science - Introductory

1 period / Grades 3–6

While collaborating in small groups, students will create models and conduct investigations using building materials such as LEGOs in order to develop their understanding of physical and motion. They will strengthen their data analysis, critical-thinking and presentation skills as they explore the engineering design process. \$

LEGO Engineering & Science - Advanced

1 period / Grades 6–9

Students will explore science and engineering concepts through hands-on LEGO kits and creative design challenges. They will investigate motion, simple machines, balance, and structural design while building, testing, and refining their own creations. This class combines creativity with problem-solving and critical thinking, helping students develop STEM skills and confidence in applying scientific ideas to real-world challenges. \$

Wilderness Explorers

2 periods / Grades 6 to 9

Students will spend every class outdoors, exploring plants, animals, and ecosystems. The class covers basic wilderness survival skills, such as the rule of 3's, wild animal encounters, fire-building, and what to do when lost in the wild. Students should come prepared for rain or shine as they build confidence, curiosity, and a deeper connection to nature.

SCIENCE

Advanced Topics in Science

2 periods / Grades 6 to 9

In this hands-on, student-driven class, young scientists explore a wide range of topics through exciting experiments like slime-making, elephant toothpaste, and other chemical reactions. Students will design and test their own investigations, develop hypotheses, and analyze results while building critical thinking, problem-solving, and a deeper understanding of scientific concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Greek & Roman Mythology

1 period / Grades 3 to 6

Step into the world of ancient heroes, powerful gods, and epic adventures! Students will explore classic Greek and Roman myths through storytelling, art, and creative projects that bring these timeless tales to life. Along the way, they'll discover how mythology shaped ancient cultures and continues to inspire stories today.

Gladiators and Governments

1 period / Grades 5 to 9

Students will investigate Spartan military training, Roman gladiators, architecture, and daily life—right down to learning how to tie a toga! Through hands-on projects, discussions, and historical simulations, they'll uncover how these ancient empires shaped government, culture, and innovation in the modern world.

Introductory Sports Psychology

1 period / Grades 6 to 9

In this course, students will study the minds of athletes. Students are introduced to the history, concepts, and topics of sports psychology as well as contemporary issues and practices relevant to the field. Material is introduced and evaluated through discussion, research, and collaborative presentations.

Travel the World in a Book

1 period / Grades 3 to 5

Stories and books will transport young adventurers to far off places and cultures. They will read, write, and research their way across the globe and create their own stories about places they dream of visiting and the adventures they will have.

Global Issues and Current Events

1 period / Grades 7 to 9

Students interested in learning about what is behind the news and participating in lively Socratic-style discussions will enjoy this class. Participants will use this engaging content to practice research skills, source analysis, and active reading.

Pirates!... and Other Maritime Adventures

1 period / Grades 4 to 7

Have you wanted to explore the myth and fact of famous maritime adventures? Well here is your chance as we dive into fact or fiction about some of your favorite seafarers. We will explore the exploitations of characters such as Black Beard, Davy Jones, and Francis Drake.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Please Note: *Beginning classes are appropriate for students with little/no experience in the language, and Continuing classes are for those who have taken one or two years. Classes include language instruction and cultural components.*

FRENCH

Beginning French

Continuing French

LATIN

Beginning Latin

Continuing Latin

SPANISH

Beginning Spanish

Continuing Spanish

JAPANESE

Beginning Japanese

Continuing Japanese

MANDARIN

Beginning Mandarin

Continuing Mandarin

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Please Note: *English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are designed for international students who are preparing for study abroad programs. These rigorous but fun courses aim to increase students' English fluency and confidence for use in academic and social settings.*

Each course features small and highly interactive classes focused on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. These courses are designed to support students who already have some proficiency in written and spoken English as they move towards deeper mastery of the language.

ESL: Reading and Vocabulary

1 period / All grades

This immersion-based class helps ESL students strengthen their reading comprehension and vocabulary through authentic, real-world English materials. Students will read and discuss articles, stories, and other engaging texts while using conversation to reinforce new words and expressions in context. Through active participation and meaningful communication, students will build fluency, confidence, and a deeper understanding of English language use in everyday life.

ESL: Writing and Grammar

1 period / All grades

ESL students in the Writing and Grammar class will refine their writing skills and master the building blocks of English grammar. Through focused practice in sentence structure, punctuation, and paragraph organization, students will learn how to write with clarity and precision. From creative writing to academic essays, they'll gain the tools to express ideas effectively and develop a confident, polished writing voice in English.

ESL: Voice

1 period / All grades

Students in the ESL: Voice class will build confidence and fluency in spoken English through daily practice and active participation. Students will work on pronunciation, vocabulary, and conversational skills as they engage in guided discussions, role-plays, and real-time conversations. Because speaking is at the heart of this course, students should be ready and willing to participate verbally every day as they develop clear, natural, and confident communication skills.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Class

1 period / Grades 8 to 9

Students will define their leadership styles, identify their leadership competencies, and develop their leadership practices through class simulations and real-world experiences. Students will identify areas for growth in their own lives and create leadership blueprints including goals, action plans, and self-reflections. This class is open to 8th and 9th graders, and will be excellent preparation for students who choose to apply for Summer Session 2027 Student Leadership.

Leadership For Leaders

2 periods / Leaders only

Please select this course only if you are enrolled in the 2026 Leadership Program.