Charlotte Country Day School – Middle School
Outline of Service Learning Instruction
2026–27 School Year Model

5th grade: Through the We Are Charlotte grade-level group project, students learn about Charlotte: its growth and intrigue, its populations and demographics, its dynamic changes and current challenges. Students will be tasked with correlating their understanding of our growing city with ways to help community members who are facing need-based circumstances.

6th and 7th grades: Using cross-grade advisory pairings, students will engage in deep-dive explorations of local service organizations.

- Groups of around 20 students will partner with one local service organization and ask probing questions of themselves and the organization: Why is there a need for this organization? What can I do to make an impact and find a way to help?
- These groups will then present their organization to the broader Middle School population during several service initiatives throughout the school year, all the while putting their hands to use and DOING work to help that organization.
- Students will be challenged to:
    - Identify organizations that pique their personal interests, allowing personal skills and talents to intersect with needs in our community.
    - Develop their own service-initiative framework and hypothesize about starting their own non-profit organization.
    - Reach out to local organizations and ask how a middle school student can help during weekends and summer months.
    - Find needs in Charlotte and help fill in gaps.

8th grade: Through yearly partnerships with The Learning Collaborative and Brunswick Family Assistance, 8th graders will continue their exploration of meeting needs in our communities.

- The partnership with The Learning Collaborative Preschool has been a long-established relationship between 8th graders and TLC students, reinforced each year by recurring partnerships:
    - 8th Grade hosts a TLC Carnival.
    - 8th Grade Advisory visits to TLC.
    - Opportunities for CCDS families to provide holiday gifts to TLC families.

- The partnership with Brunswick Family Assistance and Paws-Ability's Paws Pantry while on their School at the Beach trip.
    - Representatives from BFA and Paws Pantry join the 8th graders to educate them about the organizations and the needs of the surrounding community.
    - Students make sandwiches, hygiene kits, school supply kits, dog and cat beds and toys, and package dog and cat food to support Brunswick Family Assistance.
    - Students will visit the BFA warehouse where all the donations go, helping to sort, organize, and move the provisions onward to the neighbors in need.

Teacher Education and Awareness

- In December, Kelly Patterson and McKensy Phillips will speak with CCDS MS teachers about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and how to incorporate more service-based learning into daily curriculum.