



Casco Bay High School

For Expeditionary Learning
A Portland Public School

Get Smart to Do Good

196 Allen Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
phone: (207) 874-8160
fax: (207) 797-5437
<http://cbhs.portlandschools.org>
CEEB Code: 200804

Casco Bay High School (CBHS) is a small and rigorous public high school that reflects the increasing diversity of Portland, Maine (population: 64,000). Founded in 2005, CBHS is a school of choice for about 360 students (9-12). At Casco Bay, we challenge and support our students to become college ready through our 3R's: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. The Class of 2009 was our first graduating class, and nearly 100% of our graduates have been accepted to college. On the annual Maine High School Assessment, Casco Bay students routinely exceed state and district averages – as well as demographic expectations – in reading, writing, science and math.

Casco Bay High School is proud to have been chosen again as a “Mentor School” in the Expeditionary Learning national network of schools (www.elschools.org). In 2010, Casco Bay was featured by *Edutopia* as part of their “Schools that Work” series, and in 2014, CBHS was selected as one of twenty “Deeper Learning” schools in the country. In their spring 2011 “Comprehensive Program Review”, the Great Schools Partnership concluded, “the school has demonstrated consistently high levels of accomplishment in every dimension with exemplary performance... in many areas.”

The Class of 2015

- 73 Seniors
- 51% Free or Reduced Lunch
- 16% Special Education
- 16% English Language Learners

Curriculum

CBHS students participate in a demanding, college preparatory curriculum. Students typically enroll in six year-long courses that meet for nearly 90 minutes every other day. Additional support and accommodations are provided as necessary for our English language learners and special education students. 41 credits are required to graduate from all Portland Public Schools.

- Humanities courses (9-12) integrate English and social studies and meet daily.
- Our math program is inquiry-based and technology rich.
- Science courses are lab and field-based.
- French 1-4, Spanish 1-4, and Chinese 1-2 emphasize oral proficiency for use in real contexts.
- Honors (or “exceeds”) work is available in each course. We also offer four AP courses.
- Through our U. Start Ahead Program, upperclassmen are encouraged to take at least one college course before graduation.
- In Senior Humanities, students prepare for life after graduation and complete a customized senior project, the Senior Expedition.
- Crew is students’ family during their time at CBHS. Crews and crew advisors meet 2 ½ hours weekly, focusing on holistic student development as well as college and career preparation.

Graduation Requirements	Offerings and Typical Year of Enrollment
English: 4 Years (8 credits)	Humanities 1 (9th), Humanities 2 (10th), Humanities 3 (11th), Senior Humanities, AP English (12th) or College Courses (11th or 12th)
Social Studies: 3 Years (6 credits)	Humanities 1 (9th), Humanities 2 (10th), Humanities 3 (11th), Senior Humanities, AP US History (12th), or College Courses (11th or 12th)
Math: 3 Years (6 credits)	Math 1: Algebra and Statistics, Math 2: Probability and Geometry, Math 3: Quantitative Relationships (Algebra 2), Advanced Algebra and Programming, Pre-Calculus, Calculus or AP Calculus, or College Courses (11th or 12th)
Science: 3 Years (6 credits)	Biology (9th), Physics (10th), Chemistry (11th), Environmental Issues (12th), AP Environmental Science (12th) or College Courses (11th or 12th)
Arts: 1 Year (2 credits)	Visual Arts (9th), Advanced Art, Arts Intensives or College Courses
Health: ½ Year (1 credit) Physical Education: 1 Year (2 credits)	Freshman Quest (9th), Wellness (Health and PE, 10th), Senior Quest (12th), PE Intensives, or Advanced Health and Personal Fitness



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Learning Expeditions: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships

CBHS is intentionally small so that we can get to know each student deeply, and so we can better personalize instruction that will help students become their best selves. Our instruction is driven by Learning Expeditions that result in quality work about genuine problems for a real audience. Learning Expeditions are long-term, in-depth studies of a single topic that explore compelling social-justice questions, incorporate vital standards, involve fieldwork, and culminate in an authentic project, product or performance. The Class of 2015 last year completed a cross-disciplinary expedition that focused on the questions: How do we resolve our dependence on fossil fuels? What will be the impact of my generation? The expedition began with an exploration of the chemistry of climate change. It continued with the research and presentation of policy briefs (white papers) to local experts at an Energy Symposium, fundraising \$30,000 for the class "Junior Journey" to the Rockaways, and a week of service in the Rockaways, rebuilding homes ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. The expeditions concluded with student teams creating oral history documentaries of the untold stories of Hurricane Sandy survivors. The oral histories resulted in a DVD that was premiered in Maine and in Queens.

Other distinct programming includes:

- Intensives - Compact expeditions where students complete specialized electives during one 30-hour week. Intensive offerings range from boat-building to filmmaking.
- Sophomore Passage - Public presentations when sophomores individually address who they are, how they are doing, and their plans for the future.
- Junior Year Internship - 30-hour internships in a career area of interest.
- Casco Bay Quest - A three night, four day expedition in kayaking and personal writing that launches the freshmen and senior years.
- Senior Expedition - A Senior Humanities expedition in which each senior designs and actualizes his/her own long-term project and formally presents his/her learning to an authentic audience.

Standards-Based Grading

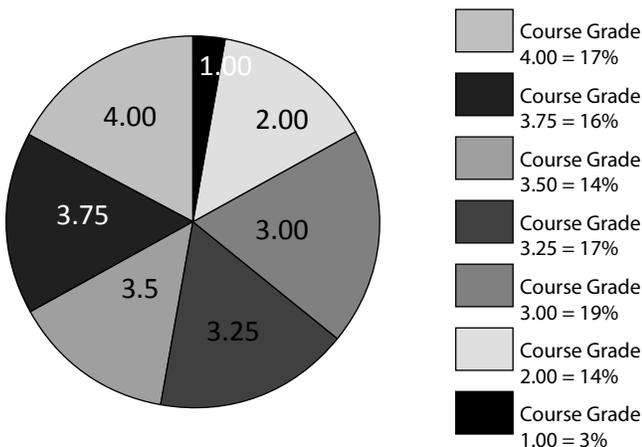
To earn credit at CBHS, a student must master content, meeting each of ten to fifteen course standards.

A course standard is a description of a learning target that can be achieved during a particular course; it represents the essential things all students must know or be able to do in a course. CBHS does not rank students or weight GPAs.

1 = Does Not Meet the Standards 3 = Meets the Standards: this is a rigorous standard. Only this grade and higher earns credit.
 2 = Approaches the Standards 3.25 to 4 = Exceeds the Standards

H = "With Honors": this is earned with a trimester course grade of 3.75 or higher.

Class of 2015 Course Grade Distribution (13-14)



Class of 2015 Highest GPA
(through 6/14): 3.89

Class of 2015 Junior SAT Scores
(100% participation)

Critical Reading: 509 Writing: 488 Math: 475

The CBHS Faculty

65% Hold Advanced Degrees, 100% Dedicated

Co-Curriculars

CBHS students participate in sports or activities offered at Deering or Portland High Schools. We also offer a variety of co-curricular activities on our campus, ranging from Model UN to Drama Club.

College Acceptances

Since 2009, CBHS graduates have been accepted to nearly 200 post-secondary institutions and are currently matriculated at institutions such as Barnard, Bates, Bowdoin, UC Berkeley, Brown, McGill, Mount Holyoke, NYU, Oberlin, Smith and Yale - as well as Maine universities and community colleges. Nearly 80% of our graduates have been accepted to 4-year universities.

"They say our school broke the mold, but I think we just made a new one."

- Alex Lycars, CBHS Class of 2009

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