



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS MIDDLE SCHOOL: GRADES 6-8

### ACADEMIC CURRICULA

#### What languages are offered?

Spanish and French.

#### If my child takes a different language, can they continue to and still get credit?

It is possible. In certain situations, that can be worked out with the Middle School Director.

#### If my child is advanced in math, can they be placed in Upper School classes?

Yes. That is the advantage of having three divisions on the same campus!

#### What arts courses are offered?

In 6th grade, CSS offers a foundations art course that spans several artistic disciplines. In 7th and 8th grade, students are able to choose the art they would like to pursue. The entire Middle School curriculum, including CSS's current art offerings, can be found [here](#).

#### Do you offer Honors classes?

The Middle School division is home to a Kodiak Scholars program. While the program does not entail extra work, it does include different and more challenging assignments for those students willing to take on the task.

#### I am afraid my child will struggle academically. Are there support systems in place?

CSS has a full-time Learning Specialist and Academic Interventionist on staff, who are trained to put together learning plans and work with students depicting a variety of learning challenges.

#### If my child is dyslexic, can we still apply?

Yes. Our dedicated Learning Specialist and Academic Interventionist are trained to work with students presenting all types of learning differences.

#### Do you conduct standardized testing?

We do not teach to the test nor do we conduct standardized testing regularly throughout the academic year, however, our faculty do use benchmarks to determine individual progress.

#### Do you teach sex education?

Yes. Beginning in the spring of students' 4th-grade year, we teach basic sex education from a biological and scientific standpoint in an age-appropriate way as based on curricular standards. Teaching of sexual reproduction begins in the 7th-grade year. We also encourage families to partner with us in having further discussions with their students according to individual preferences.

#### Do most kids start in PreK and go all the way through Upper School?

Every year at Commencement, CSS recognizes "Lifers" who have attended CSS continuously from Kindergarten – or earlier – through high school for 13 years or more.

### COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

#### Are you associated with any religion?

No. We are a fully independent, secular institution.

#### Will my child fit in?

CSS students come from all walks of life and backgrounds. We are a tight-knit community, with everyone working together to integrate new students and parents into the CSS way of life. Families come from approximately 40 zip codes in the Pikes Peak region, as well as from across the nation and around the world.

#### Do you accept international students?

Yes, and at all divisional levels!

#### Are you a boarding school?

No, but we do offer a homestay program for anyone coming from afar who would like to attend CSS. As part of the homestay program, a student will be paired and live with a current CSS family during the school year.

#### Where do international students stay?

As part of the homestay program, international students will be paired and live with a current CSS family during the school year. We work hard to determine the best fit for both the family and the student.

#### Is there any bullying at the school?

Like at any organization, disagreements and/or conflict can occur. The school does, however, respond to such matters by demonstrating respect, advocacy, resiliency, and partnership. Bullying will not be tolerated. When disagreements arise, students and parents are engaged in discussions aimed at getting to the root of the issue and finding a solution.

### DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

#### Can my child have snacks during the day?

Yes, and they also have an opportunity to purchase snacks from Maytag Dining Hall throughout the day if they so desire.

#### When are drop-off and pick-up times?

Carline drop-off takes place from 7:45-8 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and from 8:45-9 a.m. on Late Start Wednesdays designed to allow for faculty/staff professional development. Pick-up takes place at 3:15 p.m. every day.

#### What schedule do you use?

The Middle School division utilizes a hybrid schedule encompassing both block and 50-minute classes in direct alignment with the Upper School division.

#### I live far away. Are buses an option?

The Colorado Springs School offers its own fleet of buses and drivers. In a typical school year, there are at least two bus routes and we are happy to discuss those with you. Note: there is an additional charge for bus transportation. Learn more at [css.org/admissions/transportation](https://css.org/admissions/transportation).

## DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS CONT.

### Do you offer Extended Care?

The Colorado Springs School offers Morning and Afternoon Extended Care in the Lower and Middle School divisions, and at reasonable rates. Please visit [css.org/community/current-families/extended-care](https://css.org/community/current-families/extended-care) for the most up-to-date information on Morning and Afternoon Extended Care in the Lower School and Homework Heaven in the Middle School.

### Do you follow a specific school district with regard to weather delays and cancellations?

Decisions pertaining to school delays and cancellations are strictly circumstantial and are made with a variety of factors in mind, all of which can be found in greater detail at [css.org/admissions/transportation](https://css.org/admissions/transportation).

## DRESS CODE

### Are uniforms worn?

No. There are general protocols for dress code, however, CSS does not require school uniforms. We are a hands-on learning institution, so be sure you send your student to school in something you don't mind getting dirty!

## EXTRA-CURRICULARS & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

### What sports are offered?

A list of sports offerings – ranging from Cross Country, Girls' Volleyball, and Soccer to Mountain Biking, Basketball, and Boys' Lacrosse – can be found at [csskodiaks.com](https://csskodiaks.com). Note: participation in CSS sport offerings is not included in the cost of tuition.

### What if my child plays a sport that isn't offered?

A waiver can be given based on time spent practicing/competing in the sport not offered by CSS. For more information, please contact the Middle School Director and Athletic Director.

### What do Seminars consist of in Middle School?

- **Seminar I:** This overnight trip occurs each fall to promote a spirit of community-building as students camp and enjoy group activities. Past locations have included Round Mountain, Wilderness Institute Lake Pueblo, and Mt. Sherman.
- **Seminars II & III:** Students choose from a variety of hands-on offerings each winter and spring, with topics ranging from STEM, Outdoor Education and the Arts to Social/Current Issues & Events and Life Skills.
- **8th-Grade Walkabout:** This CSS rite of passage, including seven to 10 days in Utah's canyon and river country, occurs each spring. The student-driven trip emphasizes lessons in leadership, maturity and growth.

### Can I volunteer to go to a Seminar with my child?

No. By the time students are in Middle School, we feel it is important for them to self-advocate and take on a higher level of independence. Seminars play a key part in this development.

## FACULTY

### How many students are in each class?

A typical core-curriculum class contains between 12 and 14.

### Do teachers work/communicate with parents?

Teachers are in regular communication with parents and partner with them to ensure the best education for each student. During report card periods, teachers provide written narratives about each student in addition to offering grades. Also, during report periods, faculty host meetings in collaboration with parents and their student. Students are responsible for leading these conferences and are expected to discuss their academic progress and/or challenges as well as goals for the future!

### Are your teachers licensed to teach?

It is not a requirement of independent school faculty to have a teaching license, but approximately 70 percent of CSS faculty do hold advanced degrees, and a good number hold teaching certifications.

### What is your turnover rate for teachers?

The average tenure of a teacher at The Colorado Springs School is six years. CSS is home to a significant number of individuals with 5+ years of service and faculty members with over 20 years of service!

## TUITION & FEES / AID

### What is the cost of tuition?

Tuition varies by grade level and may include merit scholarships, discounts or financial aid depending on your family's unique situation. For up-to-date tuition and fees, and aid offerings, please visit [css.org/tuition](https://css.org/tuition).

### Are textbooks and books included in tuition?

No. Books are considered an additional cost for families.

### Do you have to pay for lunch or is it provided?

Your student may bring lunch or purchase food from Maytag Dining Hall. CSS is proud to have a personal chef on staff who sources many ingredients from local farmers. Lunch menus and pricing: [css.org/community/current-families/lunch](https://css.org/community/current-families/lunch).

### Are field trips included in the cost of tuition?

In Lower School, all Experiential Education trips\* are included in the cost of tuition. In Middle School, Seminar I\* is included in the cost of tuition, but Seminars II & III are provided at an additional cost, which varies depending upon a students' selected experience. In Upper School, Mountain Caravan\* is included in the cost of tuition, but the Experience-Centered Seminar is provided at an additional cost, which varies depending on students' selected experience. *\*The cost for food per student is not included in the price of tuition.*

### What is BYOD? Is there a specific type of device my child needs?

BYOD is an abbreviation for the Bring Your Own Device program. The school's policy on electronic device specifications and specific needs can be found [here](#).

### Can we apply for a CSS scholarship?

We do not offer scholarships, but do follow a protocol of Indexed Tuition – CSS's very own version of "Financial Aid."

### What is Indexed Tuition (IT)?

IT is a form of Financial Aid wherein families must apply annually. CSS does its best to meet your family where you are, taking into account changes in your financial situation year-over-year. Learn more [here](#).

### Do you offer military discounts?

We do take into account active and retired military, among other things, when making Indexed Tuition award decisions. In addition, there are several external institutions that offer scholarships for active and/or retired military personnel. Learn more at [css.org/admissions/military-families](https://css.org/admissions/military-families).

## SCHEDULE A TOUR & APPLY

[admission@css.org](mailto:admission@css.org) | (719) 434-3500 | [css.org/discover](https://css.org/discover)