



CAPE FEAR ACADEMY

FAQ: Admission Process

Q. How can I see CFA's campus?

A. Please register online for an open house or phone our admission office (910-218-7177) to schedule a personal tour. Also on our web page is a request form for virtual tours, separate ones for each division: Lower School (preschool-5th grade), Middle School (6-8th grade) and Upper School (9-12th grade). These guided tours take you around our campus and offer valuable information about our programs and school life.

Q. Can I still apply for the current school year? What about the next school year?

A. Although most grades fill quickly, we invite you to inquire about availability at any time. We sometimes are able to add students early in the school year or at mid-year. For the next school year, we encourage applying in October - November, since by early February we begin filling spots for the coming year. In the "[How To Apply](#)" portion of our web page, you can access the online application and related forms. Our staff will work with each applicant's family regarding assessments and interviews.

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

A. We love welcoming students to our campus, where they can connect with our current students and sit in on classes with our amazing faculty. Contact us for more information. Also, we can connect you with students, parents, faculty, and staff who are happy to speak with you. Additionally, we encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to see more of the CFA community.

Q. What does a virtual admission assessment entail?

A. For applicants to preschool - 3rd grade, assessments are arranged individually, whether virtual or in person, and one of our staff contacts you regarding scheduling. Applicants to grades 4-11 register online for one of our specified dates; these tests generally are administered online in real time by one of our staff. Beforehand, we email parents a detailed protocol sheet. The assessment is the same as those used when we test on campus, and we explain the materials and procedures with the applicant at the outset of the session, just as we normally would. Virtual testing typically takes

about two hours and assesses in three areas: reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, and writing. Since these are timed tests, we monitor the pacing at points during the session, and we allow for brief breaks between each section. Appreciating that this may be a novel experience for families, we invite you to contact us to learn more. Applicants who have documentation of accommodations for testing, such as extra time, should so indicate on the application and provide the related documentation well before the test date.

Q. How does my child prepare to take the virtual assessment, especially given gaps in learning due to the pandemic?

A. We recommend reviewing their school work from this year in reading comprehension and math, since our assessment is based on what students across the US typically are learning at that grade level. We understand that they may have missed out on valuable classroom time, and may not have covered all the concepts on the test. We ask that they do their best, and we will coach them on standard test-taking tips at the outset of the assessment session (e.g. marking questions about which they're uncertain so they can return to them later if there's time).

Q. My child struggled with online learning during the pandemic. What if his/her grades dropped due to being out of the classroom or in hybrid learning?

A. We recognize that this is/has been a challenging time for many students. We take these factors into consideration when your child's admission file is reviewed by our admission committees. Even in a "normal" admission cycle, we consider all aspects of an applicant's file and circumstances unique to that child. That is why it is important that you provide past grades and test scores and teacher recommendations, so we can see patterns of performance as well as potential.

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

A. We understand that families have had much uncertainty recently, so 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 relay the decision to you as promptly as possible.

Q. We want to apply for admission, but we are not sure we can afford the tuition. Now what?

A. Let's talk. The better we know your situation, the better we can advise you. We award some need-based grants, and some families also may qualify for state grants. Don't let the unknown stop you from at least conferring with us. As our current families can attest, the value of what CFA offers has never been more apparent than during the pandemic, as we moved quickly, effectively, and compassionately to serve our students and to maintain communication and connections among our community. We'd be honored to help you decide if it's a community of which you can become a part.

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 are able to assist you, we do have some areas of specialization, as indicated below. We look forward to hearing from you.

- Nelda Nutter, Director of Admission nelda.nutter@capfearacademy.org, 910-218-7190
applicants for grades 6-12, international applicants, financial grants
- Alison Reid, Associate Director of Admission alison.reid@capfearacademy.org,
910-218-7177
applicants for preschool-5th grade, admission assessments
- Laura Peterson, Admission Administrative Associate laura.peterson@capfearacademy.org,
910-791-0287 ext. 1014
Initial inquiries, general information and support, records and files