



FAQs

Why do you use the Carden Curriculum?

The Carden Curriculum works – that is why we choose to use it. The Carden curriculum develops the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally, and physically, teaching children to think and to express themselves clearly and successfully.

Originally developed in 1934, it has been used in hundreds of schools, both public and private, across the nation. There is a strong emphasis on academic subjects, which are taught in small groups. The learning builds from one year to the next, so that children are taught what they are ready to learn in each year.

What extras does Carden Academy offer?

Carden Academy offers a well-rounded program that includes extras not offered at many other schools. The fine arts are emphasized, with strong programs in visual art, music, drama, French, computers (in middle school), and physical education. Students participate in an annual holiday program which showcases dance and drama. In addition, the spring Lei Day program provides students with the opportunity to learn about Hawaiian culture through music and dance.

Why do you teach French?

The study of French enhances the comprehension of English. “YourDictionary.com” explains, “The invasion of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 and the subsequent 200 years of French conquest resulted in the English language replacing almost half its vocabulary with French words. (In this last sentence, invasion, conqueror, subsequent, result, language, and vocabulary are all borrowings from French.”

In addition to studying the language, the students enjoy learning French music, customs such as poisson d’avril” (the French April Fool’s Day), and cooking.

How are parents involved at Carden Academy?

Parents are encouraged to become involved on a volunteer basis. The school is governed by a volunteer board of directors, many of whom are parents. The Carden Parent Teacher Ohana (CPTO) helps to organize the lunch program and organizes or assists with special events, including all-school picnics, music, dance and drama productions, fundraising events, school trips, and other activities. Individual parents also chaperone field trips, assist in the middle school electives program, and help in the school office. We value the professional abilities of our trained teachers, and our class sizes are small, so parents do not teach in the classrooms.

How is reading taught?

The Carden Method is a phonetically based reading program. In kindergarten, students learn the names and sounds of the letters and begin the process of putting the sounds together. The Carden Method emphasizes comprehension, the rhythm of reading, and the development of a mental picture of the words that are read.

Are students under a great deal of pressure to succeed?

At Carden Academy, to succeed is to learn and to enjoy learning. The school culture avoids pressure and rivalry. It encourages stamina and good sportsmanship and the development of personal responsibility. We avoid nervous strain and tension because competition is not a part of the learning experience. In addition, we believe that learning should be a joy, and that children should have fun while at school.

Is Carden Academy affiliated with any religious group?

We are a nondenominational school.

Is there a lot of homework for students?

No. Classroom instruction is focused during the school day. Homework begins in the 1st grade with a minimal amount of math and reading, and increases from year to year as students increase their stamina and ability. However, except when special projects are due, it should rarely take as long as an hour to complete. In Middle School, there are papers, projects, and tests given, to ensure preparedness for high school. We believe that school time is for learning, and if students are to have a balanced life, they should not have to use their “free” time for additional schooling.

Are computers part of Carden Academy’s program?

The Middle School curriculum includes a computer / technology class using the school’s laptops. The goal of this class is to integrate the use of computers as an educational tool for research, writing, and presentation of various projects throughout the middle school years.

Does the school accept students during the academic year, or must interested students wait until the fall?

Children are sometimes accepted during an on-going school year if there is room in the class and it is determined that the child will make a successful transition.

Does Carden Academy offer tuition assistance?

The school has a tuition assistance program. Applications will be made available once the student has been accepted and enrolled in the school.