

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### Geography

#### ▪ Vermont Principals' Association Geo-Bee

The VPA/AAA Travel Geo-Bee Competition Program is a team competition for fifth – eighth grade students. The VPA makes awards to team champions. For the state team competition, awards include individual student patches and team plaques. All participants at the regional competitions receive certificates of participation. Appropriate plaques are awarded to regional team winners at State Finals.

Individual schools decide how to choose their team for this program. A team consists of four competing students and up to two alternates. Each supervisory union may send two school teams to the regional competition. Charlotte's teams have frequently qualified for the Regional and/or State Competitions.

#### ▪ National Geographic Geography Bee

Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

*17 students entered the Charlotte Central School competition in 2007-2008. The winner of that competition took a written exam; then qualified for and competed in the State Tournament in April, 2008 at Middlebury College.*

### Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

Students in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades who score in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on the mathematics, verbal or composite score categories of their most recent standardized test qualify for this program, also known as **Talent Search**. They may then register for further testing that may qualify them for special summer programs and other academically challenging courses offered through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. Below are the statistics for the past two years. Students in fifth and sixth grades took the SCAT test and seventh and eighth graders took the SAT or ACT. The students who received **State Awards** were among the highest in the state in either Verbal or Quantitative (Math) categories. Seventh and eighth grade students honored with **Distinction** scored as well as or above the average college-bound senior on the SAT or ACT.

**Talent Search Results 2008**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Eligible</u>	<u>Participated</u>	<u>State Award Math</u>	<u>State Award Verbal</u>	<u>Distinction Math</u>	<u>Distinction Verbal</u>
Fifth	20	6				
Sixth	32	4		2		
Seventh	32	5	1	2	2	2
Eighth	36	1		1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

### Talent Search Results 2007

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Eligible</u>	<u>Participated</u>	<u>State Award Math</u>	<u>State Award Verbal</u>	<u>Distinction Math</u>	<u>Distinction Verbal</u>
Fifth	21	6	2	2		
Sixth	28	6	3			
Seventh	33	3		1		1
Eighth	28	2				
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>

#### **Odyssey of the Mind**

This K-8 program emphasizes creativity, teamwork, problem solving, brainstorming, project management, budgeting, presentation skills and life skills to the students who participate. Students form teams of 5-7 members and meet weekly with an adult coach throughout the winter and early spring, and present their solutions at a school performance and at a State Tournament. Winning teams are eligible to represent Vermont at World Finals, a competition held in the U.S. with hundreds of teams from North America and around the world.

In 2008, Charlotte had 2 Primary (K-2) teams in Odyssey of the Mind, with 11 students coached by 6 volunteers. Primary problems are an introduction to the program, and are not competitive. Since 2003, Charlotte teams have done very well at the state tournaments, earning many trophies and awards, with 12 teams being eligible to attend World Finals.

#### **Yearbook**

Seventh and eighth graders submit an application to work on the Middle Level Yearbook. Students may choose to work in one or more of the following areas: photography, graphic design, editing, page design and layout, sales and advertising. Technology plays a major role, as the Yearbook is completed using computers, digital cameras, scanners, and extensive use of editing software. . Work begins in October and is completed by the end of May. Yearbooks are distributed during the last week of school. In 2008, most of the eighth grade (over 50 students) worked on the Yearbook as part of a Learning Tools Unit.

#### **7-8 Grade Musical Production**

A live theatre production is an educational and fun experience. It combines all of the fine arts, and “fosters creativity, responsibility, independence, teamwork, and dedication, leading to major improvements in social/communication skills and self-esteem as students learn to work together and take pride in their accomplishments.” [BROADWAY JUNIOR Production Handbook] A Broadway-type musical is performed at CCS every year. Students rehearse every day after school for about six weeks and perform for the school and community in April. The 2008 production *Once Upon a Mattress* involved over fifty 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the cast, crew and orchestra, and approximately 30 adult and teen volunteers. The 2009 production will be *Guys and Dolls*.

#### **National Spelling Bee**

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation’s largest and longest-running educational promotion, administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company and sponsors in the United States, American Samoa, Canada, China, Europe, Ghana, Guam, Jamaica, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, South Korea, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The champion of each sponsor’s final spelling bee advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The purpose is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts,

and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. In general, the program is open to students who have not reached their 16th birthday on or before the date of the national finals and who have not passed beyond the eighth grade at the time of their school finals. A school tournament is held to determine the one student who will represent Charlotte at the State Competition. Most of the preparation is done by students on their own, but practice sessions and study materials are available to interested students.

Charlotte had 13 participants in the School Spelling Bee and the school winner competed at the State Spelling Bee at St. Michael's College in March 2008.

### **First Light Theatre Project**

First Light Theatre Project is an opportunity for Middle School students to become involved in several aspects of theatre: acting, stage managing, set and costume design and lighting and sound design. Several Chittenden County schools are involved in the project. Workshops and rehearsals begin in September and the performances are in early January. The emphasis is on dramatic character development for actors and acquiring new technical skills for crew members. CCS had 10 participants in 2008.

**Interscholastic Sports for Grades 6 to 8** - Baseball – 14 students, Softball - 7 students, Girl's Soccer - 37 students, Boy's Soccer - 30 students, Girl's Basketball - 22 students, Boy's Basketball - 26 students, Cross Country (boys and girls) – 19 students. Soccer, basketball, baseball, softball and cross country are the five sports included in the CCS interscholastic program. According to School Board Policy, any CCS student in grades 6-8 who wishes to participate in these sports will be afforded the opportunity to try-out. There will be an Interscholastic A and B team per sport. All other students will have the opportunity to participate in the Intramural program. Cross Country is co-ed and open to all interested students. Coaches and the Athletic Director place students on teams where it is judged they will be most successful.

### **Chorus**

There are a variety of opportunities to sing at CCS. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus is slated to begin at the end of January and will meet once a week from January to June. This year for the first time, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be invited to join this chorus in April and participate in our Spring concert.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus meets twice a week for 35 minutes and performs in a January and June concert.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus meets twice a week for 50 minutes and performs in concerts in December and May.

The Concert Choir is an auditioned group of unchanged voices from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This group meets twice a week for 30 minutes. They perform in two concerts as well as participate in special events both in and outside of school.

Vocal and sight-reading skills are taught in all the choruses. Repertoire is chosen from the areas of popular music, folk, jazz, spirituals. Broadway, multi-cultural and classical genres. Part-singing is emphasized and opportunities for solo work are offered. Students learn about stage presence, performing with confidence and singing with poise.

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participate in a vocal lesson to further develop their singing, sight-reading and musicianship skills as well as prepare for other performing opportunities such as the District Music Festival, The Children's Honor Choir Festival and the Small Ensembles Concert.

Participants in all of the vocal performing groups possess a sincere desire to excel as singers and have an experience which is both artistically and academically challenging.

**Stage Band – 39 Students; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band – 44 Students; 6/7/8 Grade Band – 83 Students**  
Students audition to be part of the Stage Band. Different styles of popular music are explored and there is a focus on improvisation. Practice is before school, 2 days per week.

### **Solo and Ensemble Performances**

This is a voluntary activity. Students will use instruments and/or technology to present performances.