

Welcome to the Cambridge Connections After School Enrichment Program



Overview and History

Did you know that children spend 1,000 hours in school and 5,000 out of school (not including sleep time) each year? Thanks to the 21st Century Community Learning grant and contributions from parents, students in grades one through six are able to participate in highly engaging activities after school for the fourth year in a row. Our program, Cambridge Connections, is offered Tuesdays – Thursdays for five sessions. Students choose their activities from a variety of enrichment classes and receive academic support in homework club.

During the 2010-11 school year, Cambridge Connections served over 125 students and offered over 50 engaging classes and activities. Some of our most popular classes were Snowy Days Play Days, Lego Challenge, Knitting, Robotics, Skateboard Club, and Wildcats 4-H Leadership. Classes were taught by teachers, support staff, community members, high school students, Johnson State College students, and parents. Thank you to all the children and adults who have helped make the Cambridge Connections Afterschool Enrichment Program a huge success! Please contact Rachel Rose to become involved with Cambridge Connections. You can reach her at 644-8821 ext. 143 or rrose@cambridge.k12.vt.us.

The 2011 – 2012 School Year

We are excited to be gearing up for this school year and implementing some changes. Due to rising gas prices and rapidly growing enrollment, our transportation costs have skyrocketed. Taking each child to his/her front door costs more than paying instructors for two sessions (12 weeks) of afterschool. This is driving our need to restructure our program and how we provide transportation. Our daily schedule for this school year is as follows:

2:30 – 3:00 snack (provided free of charge) and recess

3:00 – 4:10 Enrichment classes

4:10 – 4:15 first dismissal (lobby and CAP only) and transition to Homework Club

4:15 – 5:00 Homework Club

5:00 second dismissal (lobby, CAP, and bus)

5:00 – 5:30 Extended Club and educational games; Parents may pick up their children anytime.

Transportation

Cambridge Connections will provide bussing at 5:00, a change from the 4:30 time last year. We are no longer able to bring children right to their front doors. Rather, the busses will drop students off at four sites (drop-spots) in Jeffersonville and Cambridge where parents will meet their kids. Those sites are: Cambridge Village (across from the old general store); the intersection of Edwards and 101 (Smuggs View); the intersection of Mudget Rd., Tanner Rd., and Pollander Rd.; and intersection of Upper Pleasant Valley Rd. and Westman Rd. These locations were chosen based on three factors: the addresses of children who needed bus transportation last year, where the bus can turn around or exit the location safely, and where it is safe for parents to pull over and park while waiting for the bus. Please note, that the drop-spot locations were decided upon prior to enrollment and are subject to change based on the needs of families. We are also going to be staying open until 5:30 for late pick up. Parents may pick their children up at the school at 4:15 (prior to Homework Club) and anytime between 5:00 and 5:30.

We realize that this change may present a challenge for some families. We certainly do *not* want any child to miss out on the opportunities and support provided by Cambridge Connections due to transportation difficulties! If your child is not able to attend due to challenges with transportation, please call Rachel Rose at 64408821 ext. 143 to discuss options. We want every child to have the chance to participate in after school enrichment and receive academic support!

Registration and Sign-Up

Enclosed in this packet are the Cambridge Connections Registration and Transportation forms. *If you think your child may participate in Cambridge Connections at any time during the school year, please fill out these forms and send them back to school promptly!* The forms can also be found online through the school's website and the 21st Century After School Program link. (http://cesvt.org/after_school.htm) This is also a change from last year and an effort to simplify and streamline the enrollment process.

Sign-up forms go home five times each year, one for each session, as enrichment offerings change. Spots in classes are awarded on a first-come-first serve basis so it is important to fill out the form and get it back to school right away. Many classes fill up the day after sign-up forms go home. Students who do not get into the class they want are placed on a waiting list. Should the class be offered again (of which there is no guarantee), students on the waiting list get in for sure. When signing up for enrichment classes, it is helpful for students to mark their first, second, and third choices if possible. This helps us get students into classes they want. Sign up forms for each session can also be found online.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Rose, the site coordinator, at rose@cambridge.k12.vt.us or 644-8821 ext. 143.

We hope to see your child after school!

Sincerely,
Rachel Rose and the Cambridge
Connections Advisory Board