

# Mayport Elementary Coastal Sciences Academy



## Frequently Asked Questions



### 1. What is a Coastal Science Academy?

Our Mayport Elementary Coastal Sciences Academy is a place where all K-5 students are immersed in learning about our local coastlines, preserving coastal environments, understanding key coastal science concepts, and encountering career specialists in the coastal sciences. Coastal science learning is integrated in all content areas (reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science) through inquiry-based lessons, hands-on lab experiences, field explorations and projects.

### 2. What are "coastal sciences"?

Coastal sciences cover many content areas and disciplines. Coastal sciences include: Physical Science, Chemical Science, Biological Science, Mathematics, and Social Sciences. All of these sciences will be incorporated into grade-appropriate Coastal Science units of study for our students. For example, our kindergarten coastal scientists are currently engaged in a "Forces in Motion in the Ocean" unit of study while our second grade coastal scientists are investigating the make-up of sand samples from around the world in a "Flat Sandy" unit of study.

### 3. What will a typical day be like in a coastal sciences classroom?

A coastal sciences classroom uses the science workshop model and 5 Es (Engage, Explore, Explain, Extend, and Evaluate) of science instruction for project-based learning of the coastal sciences. Students will study science topics and do hands-on explorations related to their grade level coastal sciences theme. Explorations will be structured and involve virtual learning through interactive technology, real-life outdoor activities, and lab-based investigations and inquiry methods.

### 4. What will a coastal sciences classroom look like?

You can expect to see interactive learning centers, books and materials, artwork, marine science-themed areas, informative commercial and student-made charts as well as student work exhibits that reflect the grade level's coastal theme. Learning itself is enhanced by 21<sup>st</sup> century interactive technologies (ex. SMART boards, interactive response clickers, lap pads, etc.), creative student work, integrated curriculum, and hands-on inquiry based work stations. The classroom will invite and engage all who enter in the exploration of our diverse coastal environments.

### 5. What kinds of clubs and extra-curricular activities will be available for my child?

Based on student interest generated by our coastal themes, club possibilities are River Keepers, Recycling, Sea Turtle Rescue, Water Conservation, Environmental Conservation, etc. Currently, students participate in our [Kiwaniis K-Kids service leadership club](#), [SEA Dads](#), [Cathedral Arts Project visual arts workshop](#), and [Fitness and Character Education \(F.A.C.E.\)](#). We will be exploring all possible ways to engage students in applying their new coastal sciences knowledge in a variety of community partnerships and organizations. Parents are welcome to help us start new clubs and after-school activities!

### 6. What kinds of hands-on learning lab experiences will my child have?

Touch tanks, fresh/saltwater aquariums, aquaculture tank, lab tables and state-of-the-art equipment, digital microscopes, interactive white boards, field studies, and digital lap pads are some of the tools used to give your child hands-on exploration into the coastal sciences. All units and lessons will be inquiry-based providing rich explorations through Duval County's research-based 5E instructional model: Engage, Explore, Explain, Extend, and Evaluate.

# Mayport Elementary Coastal Sciences Academy



## Frequently Asked Questions



### 7. What types of field experiences will my child have? Frequency?

Students will be "in the field" studying the plant and animal ecosystems of our coastal environments as a part of each unit of study throughout the year. Virtual field study will be incorporated as we add new technology to each of our classrooms such as interactive white boards and digital lap pads. Each unit of study at all grade levels will have a culminating field study to apply the expansive learning, scientific concepts and environmental awareness that **is** gained over the course of a year.

### 8. How will my child experience coastal sciences in art, music, P.E., and media?

Our art, media, music and physical education programs are going to be working closely with **classroom** teachers to integrate coastal themes and learning with their curriculum throughout the year. Examples include: reading and researching coastal science themes using online resources and books in our media center, moving like river animals in P.E. games, singing and producing music of the coast, and bringing coastal science environments to life in vivid color using a variety of mediums such as clay, paint, and natural materials in our art studio.

### 9. How will coastal conservation and awareness be integrated into my child's experience?

Our partnerships with real scientists provide coastal awareness for students learning about the importance of conserving and protecting our Northeast Florida ecosystems. Students will participate in engaging field experiences and service learning projects (ex. St. Johns River Cleanup, Small Fry to Go) with a focus on conservation and increasing environmental awareness.

### 10 How will parents be involved?

Parents are welcome to participate in any of our coastal sciences units of study as class volunteers, field experience chaperones, and community resources! Our Mayport Elementary Coastal Sciences Academy will continue to host our popular grade level Family Nights to encourage parent partnership in environmental service learning projects and state-of-the-art technologies used in our Coastal Science Labs. You can stay most involved by joining our PTA and keeping up with school activities and events on our school website, [www.duvalschools.org/mayport](http://www.duvalschools.org/mayport) and our weekly parent newsletter, *The Mayport Dolphin Connection*.

### 11 Is there an extended day program at Mayport Elementary Coastal Science Academy?

Yes, the hours for our Extended Day Program are 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. in the morning before school and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the evening after school. Extended Day provides children homework support, enrichment activities, recess time, and socialization while parents are at work.

### 12 Do students who have completed 5th grade move automatically to Mayport Middle's Coastal Sciences program?

Your 5th grade magnet student has "program continuity" priority to the Coastal Sciences magnet program at Mayport Middle school. This means that if they apply by the deadline they receive a priority in the lottery for admission. In almost all cases, students with program continuity are accepted at the next school level if they make it their 1st choice on the application; it is the district's intent for your child's magnet program to feed and continue on at the middle school level. If the parent should happen to make it the 2nd or 3rd choice on the application then the student might not get accepted -- depending on the number of 1st choices and available seats.