

CORE VALUES OF OCEAN ACADEMY

- Excellence in education provided to students who *want* to learn.
- Spiritual growth and ethical leadership.
- Respect for every human being regardless of ethnicity, nationality, gender, religion or sexuality.
- Respect for Mother Nature: her land, water, and all creatures.
- Appreciation for local and foreign cultures and practices.
- Selfless volunteerism and community involvement.
- An awareness and support for the disadvantaged in our society.
- Leadership and activism for building a better future.
- A world vision and responsibility.

MOTTO OF OCEAN ACADEMY

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE, CREATING OUR FUTURE

In addition to our academic goals is an overall commitment to appreciating, respecting and preserving our island's heritage so that future generations may know the natural history, beauty and culture of Caye Caulker that exists today.

Preserving our Cultural Heritage: Students study and gather information about the families and history of the island. They learn to appreciate and live by values important to Caye Caulker.

Preserving our Environmental Heritage: Students learn the science and history of the reef, the ocean, the forests, and the island. They will become the leaders who will protect the economy of Caye Caulker which depends on a healthy reef and island.

Creating our Future: A strong academic and spiritual education builds strong minds and character so students can care for themselves, their families and their communities. An Ocean Academy education creates options for the rest of a child's life. With this education, Ocean Academy students carry a responsibility to build a better future for the next generation.



ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

FOR 2010-2011

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE,

CREATING OUR FUTURE

Mission Statement: Created in partnership with the community and for the preservation of the natural environment, Ocean Academy fosters the academic, physical and spiritual growth of all students who demonstrate a strong desire to learn, preparing graduates to pursue a life at home or abroad with personal and professional achievement.

Excellent Education

Ocean Academy founders, teachers, and Board of Governors are dedicated to providing the highest level of learning to Caye Caulker youth.

What Makes our Education Program Strong?

- **Highly qualified Belizean teachers.** Our teachers are permanent Caye Caulker residents with University degrees (Masters degrees, Bachelor degrees, Associates degrees).
- **Special volunteer experts.** Foreigners add a high level of learning to Ocean Academy. Volunteers include University professors of computer, teachers from NASA (U.S. Space Explorers), Canadian School System Administrators, and Canadian and U.S. teachers, counselors, and teacher trainers.
- **Small classes and few students per teacher.** The people who study the best schools say that the most important factor for a good education is for a teacher to have fewer students in a day. This way, the teacher can understand each student's needs and give more specialized attention. Ocean Academy is a small school with expert teachers. So, every student gets expert attention for every class.
- **Hands-on learning.** Ocean Academy gives students opportunities to learn with real-world experiences. For example, all students went on an overnight trip to Half Moon Caye and the Blue Hole in 2009 for science and social studies lessons. Students have worked one-on-one with professionals to learn photography, concrete, carpentry, and fisheries management.

Ocean Academy School Fees:

Registration Fee:

\$200 due August 1.
\$175 early discount if paid by July 15.

School Fees

(With \$300 Subsidy from the Ministry of Education):

Yearly Plan (Save \$125)	Monthly Plan	Weekly Plan
August 15: \$460 Dec 15: \$460 March 15: \$460	\$150 due on the 1 st of each month (10 months)	\$38 due every Monday (40 weeks)

School Fees

(With No Subsidy):

Yearly Plan (Save \$125)	Monthly Plan	Weekly Plan
August 15: \$460 Dec 15: \$460 March 15: \$460 June 1: \$300	\$180 due on the 1 st of each month (10 months)	\$45 due every Monday (40 weeks)

Applications for Sponsorship

Sponsorship is on a case-by-case basis for students with need. Please see the school for more details.

Entrance Requirements:

FORM I:

Students are eligible to enter Ocean Academy when they complete Standard VI with passing grades in all subjects and a passing PSE score.

If a student fails one subject for the year and/or on the PSE, he/she will enter Form One on an academic probation period. He/she will be required to attend mandatory after-school tutoring Monday-Thursday until 5PM during the first Semester of Form I to strengthen his/her skills and raise his/her grade to passing.

If a student fails more than one subject for the year and/or on the PSE, the Ocean Academy Principal will review the student's records for possible placement into our Bridge Preparatory program which also requires mandatory after-school tutoring. In order to be accepted into the Bridge program, the student must show a strong commitment to learning and improving study skills.

Form II, III, IV:

Ocean Academy has accepted transfer students at every grade level and these students have traditionally done very well in our small-school environment where the students get individual attention. The student must have a transcript from his/her previous school.

*Please see our application forms for more details.

- **CXC/SCEC Courses.** Ocean Academy offers eight Caribbean Examination Council (CXC/SCEC) courses: English A, English B, Math, Spanish, Biology, Principles of Business, Principles of Accounting, and Electronic Document Preparation and Management. These courses prepare students to take the CXC exams in Form IV. CXCs are important because:
 - the international exams ensure a high-level of learning in the classroom,
 - the Government of Belize and other employers offer a higher salary to graduates who have passed English and Math, and
 - students who pass a certain number of CXCs may receive a scholarship for an Associates Degree.
- **Partnerships with Belizean High Schools.** Ocean Academy has worked with many Belizean high schools including St. Catherine Academy and Gwen Lizarraga to develop a discipline policy, curriculum, and course schedule based on the best in Belize.
- **Partnerships with colleges and Universities.** Ocean Academy is committed to sending graduates to junior college and Universities in Belize, the United States, and Canada. We have partnered with San Pedro Junior College to transition students to an Associates Degree, and with the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, USA, to develop opportunities for University scholarships.
- **Differentiated Learning.** This is a teaching method that follows the belief that every student learns differently and may need some extra help or extra challenges to learn as much as possible.

How Does Ocean Academy Help the Fast and Slow Learners?

- **Faster Learners.** The #1 graduating students from CCRCs Standard VI have chosen Ocean Academy. Mercedes Requena (2008), Angel Fuller (2009), and Sofia Diego (enrolled for 2010).
 - **Skill-based learning.** At Ocean Academy, students learn to improve their own skills which means that if a student has a high-level of skill (such as English grammar), then, he/she will be taught and graded on how he/she improves his/her own skill. This means that a fast learner will always be challenged to learn more.
 - **Honors classes.** We offer special honors classes/projects to advanced students.
- **Slower Learners.** Ocean Academy was created for all students to receive an excellent education, including those who have struggled with school in the past. If a student shows us that he/she wants to learn, we provide the extra help he/she needs:
 - **After-school tutoring.** We offer free tutoring Monday-Thursday from 3:45 – 5PM. If a student risks failing a subject, he/she is required to stay for tutoring. Students receive one-on-one instruction and the discipline to do their work every day.

Teachers and Staff: 2009-2010

Ocean Academy staff have a high-level of education/experience and passion in their subject area.

Hilda Marin, Principal, Associates Degree, Business Management, St. John's College. First Place Pallotti High School. Bank Manager and Small Business Owner. Five years teaching at Pallotti High School and Muffles College.

Heidi Curry, Co-Founder, English Teacher: Bachelor of Arts, Humanities, University of Texas, Austin, Texas. Graduated #1 in her class of 2,500. U.S. Corporate Business Manager, Small Business Owner. Two years teaching and five years as a professional trainer.

Joni Miller, Co-Founder, Director of Community Involvement. Computer Teacher. Advisor for Interact Club. Masters of Education in International Education, University of Alberta, Canada. Twelve years teaching.

Sarah Requena, Science Teacher. Bachelor of Science, Nutritional Science, University of Guelph, Canada. Two years teaching, ten years tutoring.

Destino Fuller, Social Studies Teacher. Bachelor of Arts, Marketing, Loyola Marymount University on full academic scholarship. Small Business owner. Two years teaching.

Andy Marin, Math and Technical Drawing Teacher. Associates degree in Applied Science and Architectural Technology, University of Belize and two years of Civil Engineering at Hostra University on Long Island, NY. Three years teaching.

Mario Sandoval Jr., Spanish, Accounting and Business Teacher. Associates degree in Accounting with minor in Economics, Belize Technical College. Four years professional accounting clerk.

Marilyn Alarcon, Teacher's Aid. One year Associate's Program in Business. Three years substitute teaching. Lucky Strike Sunday School teacher.

Long-term Volunteer Teachers include a Professor from NAIT (highest ranked technical school in Canada), a Canadian teacher with 30 years experience, and a U.S. teacher/counsellor.

- **Bridge Prep Program.** Students who lack strong skills may enter in our bridge prep program which may add an extra year to their four years of high school. This program helps to build confidence and skills so that a student can graduate from high school.
- **Special meetings and progress reports.** The Ocean Academy principal meets with the teachers during the year to identify students who are struggling. The principal and teacher work with these students and their parents to find out what type of help or change the student needs to make so that he/she can bring his/her grade to passing.
- **Workshops.** Teachers hold special workshops to teach groups of students who are missing skills or understanding of a part of their classes.

“Ocean Academy has a staff of highly educated and dedicated teachers who believe in their students and are committed to working together as a team in helping their students in achieving their goals.”

Ms. Enelda Rosado, Principal, CCRCS
and Member of Ocean Academy’s Board
of Governors.

Discipline Policy:

All students and parents must sign the Ocean Academy Student Handbook which lists all school rules and a firm discipline policy.

Principal Hilda Marin attended a workshop with principals from every high school in Belize to compare discipline from all the schools. Ocean Academy’s handbook includes the most effective policies in all of Belize. Ocean Academy’s rules closely follow the handbook of St. Catherine Academy.

Acceptance into Ocean Academy requires a serious commitment to professionalism as a student who *wants* to learn and to represent the Ocean Academy family with pride and strong character. Students who do not follow the rules receive demerits which lead to parent meetings, behavior boot camps, discipline probation contracts, suspension and/or expulsion.

Student Handbooks are available for review.

Positive Reinforcement

Students who show strong character and good behavior receive merits. Students may use merits at Ocean Academy to buy school supplies such as pencils, blanks, and backpacks.

Tuition scholarships are awarded in June of each school year to recognize and celebrate student efforts and achievements.

Ocean Academy Courses/ National Belize Curriculum.

1. **English Language:** Core focus on strong writing skills with the highest level of grammar and ability to express oneself.
2. **English Literature:** Core focus on students learning to love to read lots of books.
3. **Math:** Ocean Academy spends more class time in math than in any other subject to make sure that every student has enough time to learn each topic. In addition to daily 70 minute classes, students attend afternoon math workshops to practice lessons they don't understand.
4. **Integrated Science:** Classroom experiments and science equipment such as microscopes help students to learn concepts in a fun way.
5. **Social Studies:** Projects and interviews in the community strengthen students' understanding of Caye Caulker and the culture and economy of Belize.
6. **Spanish:** Students learn how to read, write and speak Spanish while preparing for the CXC exam.
7. **Spirituality:** Students practice reverence for God, for oneself, for others, and for all of creation as the criteria for all of our actions.
8. **Life Skills:** Prepares students for life as a high school student and graduate.
9. **Physical Education:** Team Sports (with competitions): Football, Basketball, Beach Volleyball. Water sports: (learning Caye Caulker job skills): Swimming, Kayaking, Windsurfing, and Scuba Diving.

Additional classes offered by Ocean Academy to Form I:

1. **Computers:** Computers are an important part of an Ocean Academy education. Very few Form I students in Belize spend as much time on computers as Ocean Academy students. They use computers four days per week to learn common and advanced computer programs. Form I students become comfortable typing, using the internet, sending e-mails, writing letters, creating graphic art, making presentations/slideshows, using math spreadsheets, and building a website.

In addition, all classes use the computer lab for advanced lessons such as in English writing, math projects, and science research.

2. **World History:** Ocean Academy prepares students to understand important events in the world so that they can feel confident meeting people from all over the world.
3. **Technical Drawing:** Students learn math/geometry concepts through architectural/construction drawing.
4. **Introduction to Business:** Form I students learn general business concepts to prepare them for more advanced classes in Form II, III, and IV.

Additional Upper Level Courses:

Form II: Principles of Accounting (CXC), Marine Biology

Form III: Principles of Accounting (CXC), Principles of Business (CXC), Entrepreneurship, Biology (CXC)

Form IV: Concentration on CXC courses, advanced computer courses, job training, and Sixth Form/ University preparations.