

Family Handbook

CEIBA NOVA EXPLORATORY



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This handbook is a publication of Ceiba Nova Exploratory, a part of the Ceiba Nova learning initiative. It reflects our commitment to purposeful, personalized, and transformative education. We are proud to share our philosophy, structures, and practices with families, educators, and communities who believe in redefining what school can be.

We also take seriously the intellectual labor, lived experience, and years of development behind every word, structure, and system represented in these pages.

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Thank you for honoring the work.

Welcome to Ceiba Nova Exploratory

Dear Families,

Welcome to Ceiba Nova. Whether you're joining us for the first time or continuing the journey, we're deeply honored to walk this path with you.

Ceiba Nova was not built from scratch—but from deep roots. We've drawn inspiration from the wisdom of the **Socratic Method**, the independence and practical elegance of **Montessori**, the wonder and rhythm of **Waldorf**, the child-centered reflection of **Reggio Emilia**, and the freedom of **play theory**. What we've done is **contextualize these powerful, time-tested methods** within the world our children are growing up in now: a world shaped by *global interdependence, climate complexity, social transformation, and the realities of life in a digital, AI-saturated, hard-to-fact-check age*.

We didn't create Ceiba Nova because we thought children needed more of the same. We created it because we know they need more of what matters.

At Ceiba Nova, learning doesn't move in straight lines—it unfolds in cycles, like a well-rooted tree. Our days are intentionally structured to support **deep academic growth, whole-child development**, and a strong sense of connection to both self and community. Students move, create, question, build, and rest. They get messy. They try again. They are encouraged to think critically, speak honestly, and take pride in both collaboration and independence.

This is not just a place to meet benchmarks. It's a place to build lives of meaning.

We meet and exceed academic standards, but we do so with flexibility and intention. Our learners don't just memorize—they synthesize. They explore not only what they know, *but how they know it*, and what to do with that knowledge. Every learning block, every project, and every shared meal is part of something bigger: **learning how to navigate a world that is complex, interconnected, and rapidly changing**.

We also recognize the sacred trust families place in us. We are not perfect, and we do not claim to have all the answers. What we do promise is to keep listening, keep learning, and keep building a space where children are *truly seen, deeply supported, and intellectually challenged* without losing their joy or sense of self.

Here, students are not preparing for life.
They are already living it.

Thank you for choosing to grow with us.

With care and conviction,



*Need something more "real"?
Read my personal letter on the final
page.*

Jen Bishop

Founder & Director
Ceiba Nova Exploratory



Rooted in Purpose

MISSION, VISION, & CORE COMMITMENTS
HOW WE LEARN TOGETHER



Our Mission: Not School As Usual

Ceiba Nova is not a school. It's *lived learning* – an **exploratory**.

It is a living, breathing learning ecosystem—rooted in relationship, imagination, and *the radical belief that **education should honor the full humanity of every child.***

At its heart, Ceiba Nova is a private educational experience, built to serve diverse learners through a model that blends academic rigor with deep personalization, ecological awareness, and meaningful connection. We center interdisciplinary inquiry, flexible pacing, and student-led projects—because real learning doesn't happen on a conveyor belt. It happens in ***spirals, leaps, stillness, and sparks.***

The name **Ceiba Nova** speaks to this duality:

🌳 **Ceiba**, the ancient tree, symbolizes deep roots, ancestral wisdom, and the interconnected web of life.

💡 **Nova**, the cosmic burst of brilliance, represents illumination, exploration, and the bold unfolding of new possibilities.

Together, they remind us that ***learning is both grounded and expansive***—anchored in care and ever-reaching toward discovery.

We created Ceiba Nova for families and learners who don't want to choose between structure and freedom, between high standards and whole-child care, between academic growth and emotional safety. We believe in all of it—and we design for all of it.

Whether your child thrives on pattern or surprise, movement or quiet, hands-on work or big-picture dreaming, Ceiba Nova makes room. Room for neurodivergent brilliance. Room for wild ideas. Room for getting muddy, changing your mind, and learning how to learn.

This is a place for children to grow whole—together.

Our Educational Philosophy:

How We Learn Together

Relationship-centered, place-based, project-rich, neurodiverse-affirming.

Our guiding practices are how our commitments take shape. They are not fixed routines, but shared rhythms—shaped by curiosity, care, and real life. These practices help Ceiba Nova feel alive, cohesive, and deeply human.



Relationship-Centered

We prioritize trust, belonging, and collaboration in all that we do. From restorative circles to partner projects, from advisory groups to shared leadership, every learner is known and needed.



Neurodiverse-Affirming Design

Every learner's brain and body is different—and that's not a problem to solve. It's a strength to build from. Our environments are sensory-aware, trauma-informed, and intentionally flexible, with embedded supports and open-ended structures.



Learner-Led Inquiry

Learning begins with real questions. We guide students to wonder, explore, critique, and create. Through thematic investigations, personal projects, and collaborative problem-solving, students construct meaning that matters.



Hands-On, Minds-On

We learn by doing. Students engineer solutions, build physical models, design systems, grow food, conduct experiments, stage performances, and produce original work that reflects both academic rigor and personal investment.



Nature-Based & Planet-Aware

We don't separate "school" from "world." Whether identifying edible plants, tracking weather patterns, or mapping watershed impacts, students learn through engagement with the land and its systems. Stewardship is core to our curriculum.



Community-Minded Action

We teach toward interdependence and civic engagement. Students collaborate across ages and pathways, contribute to shared goals, and take part in real-world efforts—from school governance to environmental restoration to justice initiatives.



Depth AND Coverage

We go deep, not just wide. Our model emphasizes conceptual mastery, cross-disciplinary connections, and long-term understanding. We meet or exceed academic standards—but instead of moving on, we spiral back, reinforce, and refine.



Intentional Rhythms

We resist the false urgency of industrial education. Ceiba Nova's daily and weekly patterns allow time for reflection, focus, rest, and deep flow. We move with intention, not inertia.

Competency-Based Education (CBE)



Mastery Over Seat-Time

Students **advance when they demonstrate proficiency** in clearly defined skills or standards, rather than simply logging hours.



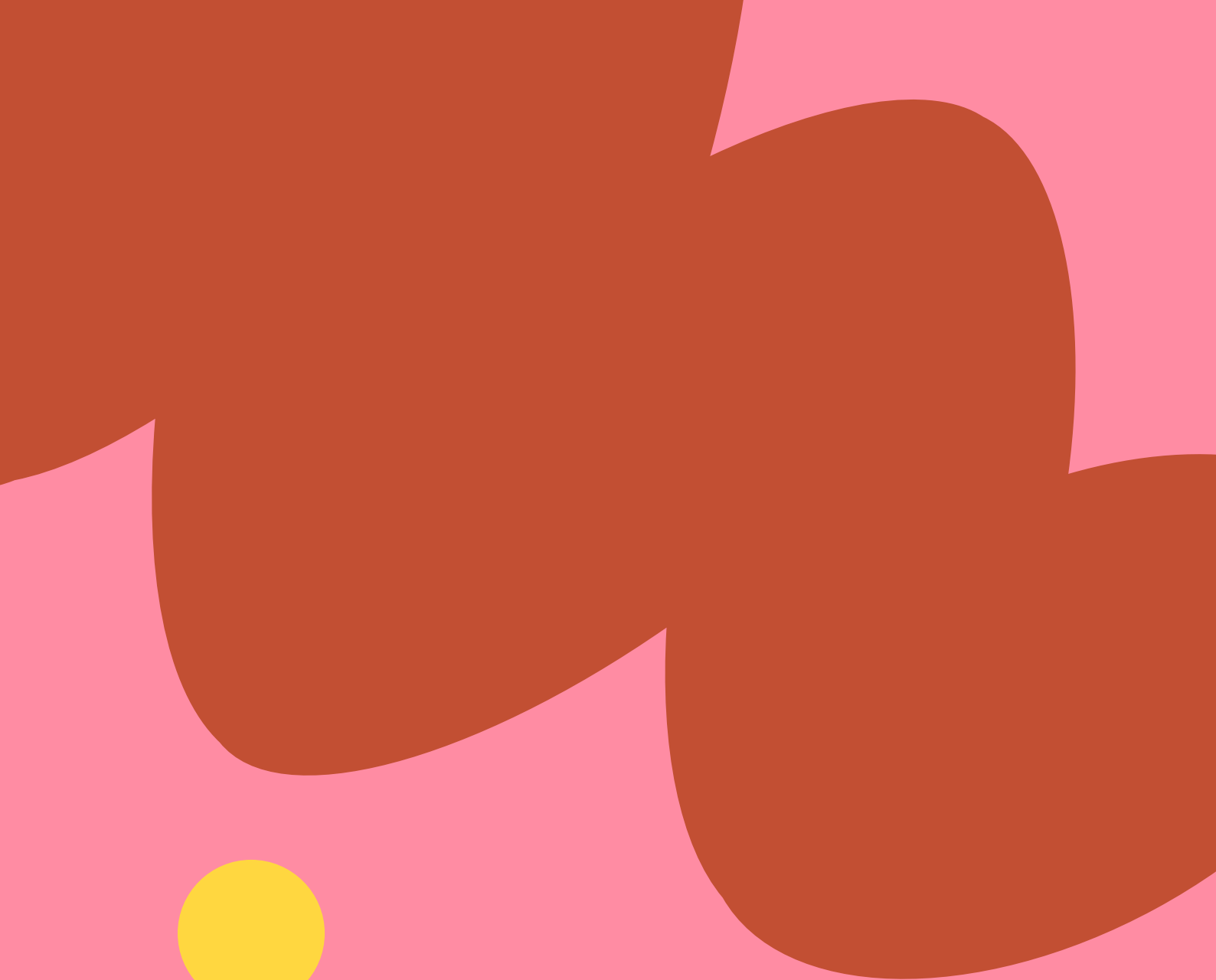
Personalized Pace

Learners may **take more or less time to reach mastery**, and assessments are often formative (ongoing) and summative (final).



Transparent Rubrics

Each competency has associated **performance levels**, with criteria **clearly and objectively spelled out in rubrics or learning progressions**.



How We're Structured

PHASES & CYCLES
PATHWAYS, BADGES, & TRACKS
GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP



At Ceiba Nova, **Phases and Cycles work together**—not to segment time, but to shape **a steady rhythm of engagement, expression, and transformation**. We teach and learn like life itself: in motion, in conversation, and always in relationship.

This system allows students to take time without losing momentum, and families to participate in their child's growth with autonomy and support.

Phases, Cycles, & Annual Flow

Our year-round structure is designed to support deep learning, rest, reflection, and real life. Rather than racing through arbitrary deadlines, we move through intentional rhythms that allow each student to **grow, question, build, and revise at a pace that respects both their individuality and our shared community**.

At Ceiba Nova, time isn't just managed — it's honored.

Four Phases, One Continuous Journey

The Ceiba Nova calendar is divided into **four intentional phases** per year. These structured blocks include approximately **9 weeks of core learning**, followed by a **2-week seasonal break**.

Seasonal breaks are the final two weeks of March, June, September, & December. Additionally, we have a rest day (for students & families) & a prep day (for staff) midway through each month in observance of national & international holidays. These occur on a Monday or Friday, with few exceptions, for the convenience of our families' & to reinforce consistent structure. Specific dates are always clarified in our annual calendar.

This rhythm supports meaningful academic progress, sustained focus, and time to recharge.

Flex Days: Honoring Individual Rhythms

We know that life doesn't always align with school calendars. Ceiba Nova families receive **16 Flex Days per student, per calendar year** to support their own rhythms, needs, and values.

 **1 Birthday Day** – On (or near) the student's birthday per family's preference

 **5 Anytime/Anyway Days** – For rest, holidays, travel, or spontaneous joy

 **2 Flexible 5-Day Weeks** – Scheduled with one month's notice. Can be scheduled in combination. *Shorter notice requires approval.*

Important Notes: Flex days **do not rollover** to the next year unless approved. Flex days are **not sick days** – health related absences are always excused. Extended health-related absences trigger a MAP review to ensure continuity and care.

Learning Cycles, Not Checkpoints

Each learner's journey moves through **unique cycles of inquiry, action, and reflection**—guided by their Mentored Adventure Plan (MAP) and supported by advisors, guides, and peers. These cycles are not fixed units or academic checklists. They are living processes that spiral forward through experience and insight.

This model ensures that students:

- Engage deeply with meaningful questions
- Build skills through authentic application
- Reflect on both process and product
- Reenter new learning with greater awareness and direction



We believe that real learning requires **both doing and thinking about the doing**—and that learning cycles should reflect the fluid, recursive nature of true understanding.

Pathways, Badges, & Tracks

Whole-child development, responsive academics, and purposeful direction.

At Ceiba Nova, student growth isn't siloed by age or dictated by a rigid academic sequence. It's shaped by who each learner is, what they're building, and where they're going. That's why we use a **dynamic three-part system: Pathways, Badges, and Tracks**—each serving a distinct role in guiding growth.

Pathways: Who You're Becoming



Wayfarers

Typically Ages 7–11

- Typically developing core skills, habits, and confidence through guided exploration.
- Earn foundational badges first to solidify core knowledge, executive functioning, & community skills.

Daily Rhythm

- Gentle start with breakfast, play, and social prep
- Core academics taught through mini-lessons + station rotations
- Daily practice of kitchen skills, shared meals, and clean-up routines
- Badge projects guided by adult facilitation and sensory-rich learning
- Movement, nature play, and creative physical activities
- Calm closing with group reflection and free play



Pathmakers

Typically Ages 9–15

- Growing in independence and synthesis, able to take on more complex, interdisciplinary challenges
- .Begin accumulating intermediate- and advanced-level badges tied to interdisciplinary projects and Track-aligned work.

Daily Rhythm

- Self-prep and social start with increasing autonomy
- Integrated core blocks blending subjects like math, language, and science
- Leadership in meal prep and responsibility roles
- Badge work aligned to Tracks and MAP goals
- Purposeful physical wellness: skill-building, stamina, and coordination
- Reflective closure through journaling, group discussion, or quiet reset



Stargazers

Typically Ages 14+

- Operate with high levels of autonomy and initiative, preparing to apply their learning in real-world or post-Ceiba contexts.
- Often specialize—pursuing mastery-level badges in one or more Tracks, acquiring industry-recognized certifications, and developing real-world products and solutions.

Daily Structure

- Flexible arrival with optional mentor time or project setup
- Deep academic dives, research blocks, and collaborative challenges
- Student-led meal planning and food preparation
- Badge time devoted to Track work, capstone projects, and MAP execution
- Self-managed wellness activities or leadership in group sessions
- Independent closure: conferencing, reflection, or quiet decompression

Progression through academic content is **responsive, subject-specific, and non-linear**. Students don't wait for a Pathway promotion to begin more advanced coursework. If a learner has mastered the Math or Science course aligned to their current Pathway, they begin the next level—whether or not that's typically associated with a higher cohort.

This allows each learner to be **appropriately challenged across every subject and domain**, without being rushed or held back in areas where they're still developing. It's not about skipping ahead—it's about honoring exactly where a student is and supporting them to grow from there. Our full curriculum is explored in our *Learning in Action* section.

Our Curriculum At-a-Glance

At Ceiba Nova, our curriculum is designed to nurture the whole child—integrating academic depth, creative exploration, and real-world application. We blend proven methods like Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio, and the Socratic approach with updated psychological frameworks and the realities of a global, digital world. Our interdisciplinary structure emphasizes critical thinking, executive function, and ethical engagement, allowing students to build meaningful connections across subjects and with their communities. Learning is flexible and student-centered, guided by developmental readiness, personal goals, and hands-on experience. The result is a living, evolving curriculum that grows with each learner—rooted in care, curiosity, and purpose.

Badge-Based Pathways

Fostering exploration and discovery through hands-on experiences.

Montessori Principles

Encouraging independence and self-directed learning.

Reggio Emilia Approach

Promoting creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

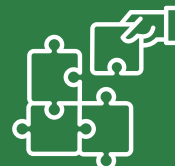
Our curriculum focuses on the following key developmental areas:



**SEL, Identity,
Belonging, & Voice**



**Cognitive &
Academic Growth**



**Executive Function
& Self-
Management**



**Ethical Reasoning &
Global
Consciousness**



**Physical & Sensory
Integration**



**Creative
Expression &
Design Thinking**

Learning Tracks & Interdisciplinary Anchors

Progressing with purpose, skill, and agency.

At Ceiba Nova, students don't just move through subjects—they move through **identity and intention**. As **learners grow in mastery, self-awareness, and independence**, they begin to chart their own course through one or more of Ceiba Nova's Specialized Learning Tracks: immersive, student-driven journeys that align with their **Mentored Adventure Plan (MAP)** and deepen their skills, passions, and personal goals.

These Tracks are not separate from our core program—they are *natural evolutions* of a learner's growth. Each Track supports **increased challenge, real-world production, and authentic engagement**, all while maintaining the same **relationship-centered, interdisciplinary, and nature-connected foundation** that defines Ceiba Nova.

The Five Ceiba Nova Tracks



Creative Arts & Design

For makers, storytellers, and expressive thinkers in visual, performing, literary, and digital arts.

Projects may include: exhibitions, publications, portfolios, installations, performances.



Ethical Entrepreneurship & Finance

For innovators with a vision for sustainable business, ethical economics, and social enterprise.

Projects may include: business plans, micro-enterprises, pitch events, ethical market research.



Global Communications & Advocacy

For students passionate about justice, storytelling, diplomacy, and global connection.

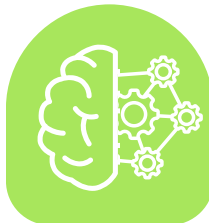
Projects may include: multilingual podcasts, research campaigns, Model UN, community action work.



Scientific & Environmental Inquiry

For systems-thinkers, data lovers, and ecologically aware problem-solvers.

Projects may include: original research, field studies, lab journals, ecological restoration.



Technology & Systems Thinking

For students excited by design, programming, digital infrastructure, and systems mapping.

Projects may include: app development, digital tool prototyping, ethical tech audits, robotics.

EVERY TRACK

*is a
prep
track*

At Ceiba Nova, “prep” doesn’t mean standardized test drills. It means preparing for **purpose**—for **real futures, lifelong learning, and meaningful contribution.**

How is every track a “prep” track?

Whether a student is designing a fashion line, launching a podcast, running a micro-business, or restoring a mangrove, they are:

- 01** Acquiring, applying, & practicing **real-world skills in real-world situations** by learning things they can actually use—like budgeting, map-reading, conflict resolution, or tool use—through hands-on experience.

This looks like fixing a leak, running a market table, leading a tour, or building something that works in the real world, not just on paper.

- 02** **Building ethical frameworks**, developing the capacity to **think critically & compassionately** about the consequences of their choices—technological, social, environmental, or interpersonal. They are learning to think through what’s right, fair, and responsible—not just what’s possible.

This looks like asking hard questions, weighing consequences, and making choices that reflect care for others, the planet, and themselves.

- 03** **Creating tangible, purposeful work** by building, writing, designing, or performing things that matter—to themselves, their community, or the world.

This looks like real projects with real audiences, where effort results in something lasting, shareable, and meaningful.

- 04** **Preparing for what comes next—on their terms** by shaping their own goals, paths, and pace toward meaningful futures.

This looks like crafting portfolios, engaging in internships, filing patents, pursuing passions, and gaining the confidence to lead, create, or contribute wherever they choose to go next.



Preparation isn’t about where you go.

It’s about who you become—and how you’re equipped to lead your own way forward.

Governance & Leadership

Shared responsibility. Transparent systems. Leadership as stewardship.

At Ceiba Nova, we believe leadership should be **relational, transparent, and accountable**—not hierarchical for its own sake. Our governance model reflects the same values we embed in learning: collaboration, voice, reflection, and shared stewardship of our community.

We aim to model the kind of leadership we hope students will practice: ethical, thoughtful, and grounded in care.

How We're Organized

Ceiba Nova is an independent exploratory and educational initiative directed by a private teacher. All programming, curriculum design, mentoring, and communication flows through this central role. Our **daily operations, long-term strategy, and educational design are carried out in partnership between:**

- The **Lead Guide** (Director & teacher on record) holds responsibility for:
 - Educational design
 - Mentored Adventure Plan (MAP) development
 - Student progress and family support
 - Daily operations and logistics
 - Legal compliance, documentation, and planning
 - Community rhythm, care, and culture

*This allows for **consistency, personalization, and deep knowledge of each learner**, while still building space for **shared ownership and participation** from students and families.*

- **Family & Community Collaborators**, who contribute insights, resources, volunteer leadership, and shared decision-making

We are not a traditional top-down institution. While legal and fiduciary responsibilities are held by the school's leadership, **voice is distributed**—and students and families are recognized as essential partners in shaping our evolving community.

Participatory Leadership

Students and families are not passive recipients of decisions. We build in structures for meaningful participation and distributed leadership, including:

- **Community Circles** for reflection, celebration, and shared agreements
- **Student Forums & Advisory Groups** that guide projects, rituals, and feedback processes
- **Family Consultations & Listening Sessions** to co-design improvements and policies
- **Portfolio Exhibitions & Student-Led Conferences** that center learner voice and direction

These participatory systems help ensure that Ceiba Nova remains **adaptive, inclusive, and responsive** to the people it serves.



**Leadership is not about managing people.
It's about tending the space where learning
can thrive.**

Guiding Principles of Leadership at Ceiba Nova



TRANSPARENCY BUILDS TRUST.

We share decisions, processes, and intentions openly. Students and families are included in the “why,” not just the “what.”

FEEDBACK IS A GIFT AND A RESPONSIBILITY.

We view critique as part of our growth cycle—just like our learners do.

LEADERSHIP IS RELATIONAL.

We lead by listening, holding space, and taking responsibility.

POWER MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE.

Leadership isn't about control. It's about responsibility, clarity, and care.

Growing with Integrity

We don't grow by getting bigger. We grow by going deeper.

Ceiba Nova is not designed to scale in the traditional sense—and that's entirely intentional.

We are committed to remaining a **one-room, relationship-based exploratory**—a space where each learner is truly known, and where long-term trust forms the foundation of meaningful education. We believe that **deep learning thrives in consistent, community-rooted environments**, not in ever-expanding systems that dilute connection.

When your family joins Ceiba Nova, you can count on **stability**:

- Your child will not lose their teacher mid-year to institutional turnover.
- You will not return from a break to find the exploratory abruptly closed.
- You won't be asked to navigate a revolving cast of instructors or philosophies.

We are here for the long haul, building learning lives alongside the families we serve with **consistency, sustainability, and presence**.

What If Demand Increases?

If interest in Ceiba Nova exceeds our small-scale capacity, we will not expand our class or pathway cohort sizes. **Our priority is to preserve the intimacy, intention, and depth that make this model work.** Though not currently planned, in the event that there is both concentrated need and demand for additional Exploratories, Ceiba Nova *may* interview and partner with other qualified educators who wish to operate additional facilities guided by our philosophy and utilizing our proprietary curriculum. Should this ever happen, **our commitment to our families remains paramount & inflexible.** It is possible that at some point in the future our Ceiba Nova family may welcome extended family members but they will have their own home, Lead Guide, and community. Any affiliated pod-sites would be:

- Independently operated microsites
- Led by dedicated Lead Guides
- Using Ceiba Nova's curricular tools, badge systems, and values-based framework
- Deeply rooted in their own local communities**

Each affiliated site would carry forward the Ceiba Nova spirit:

Holistic, rigorous, sustainable education—for those who need it most.

Our Promise

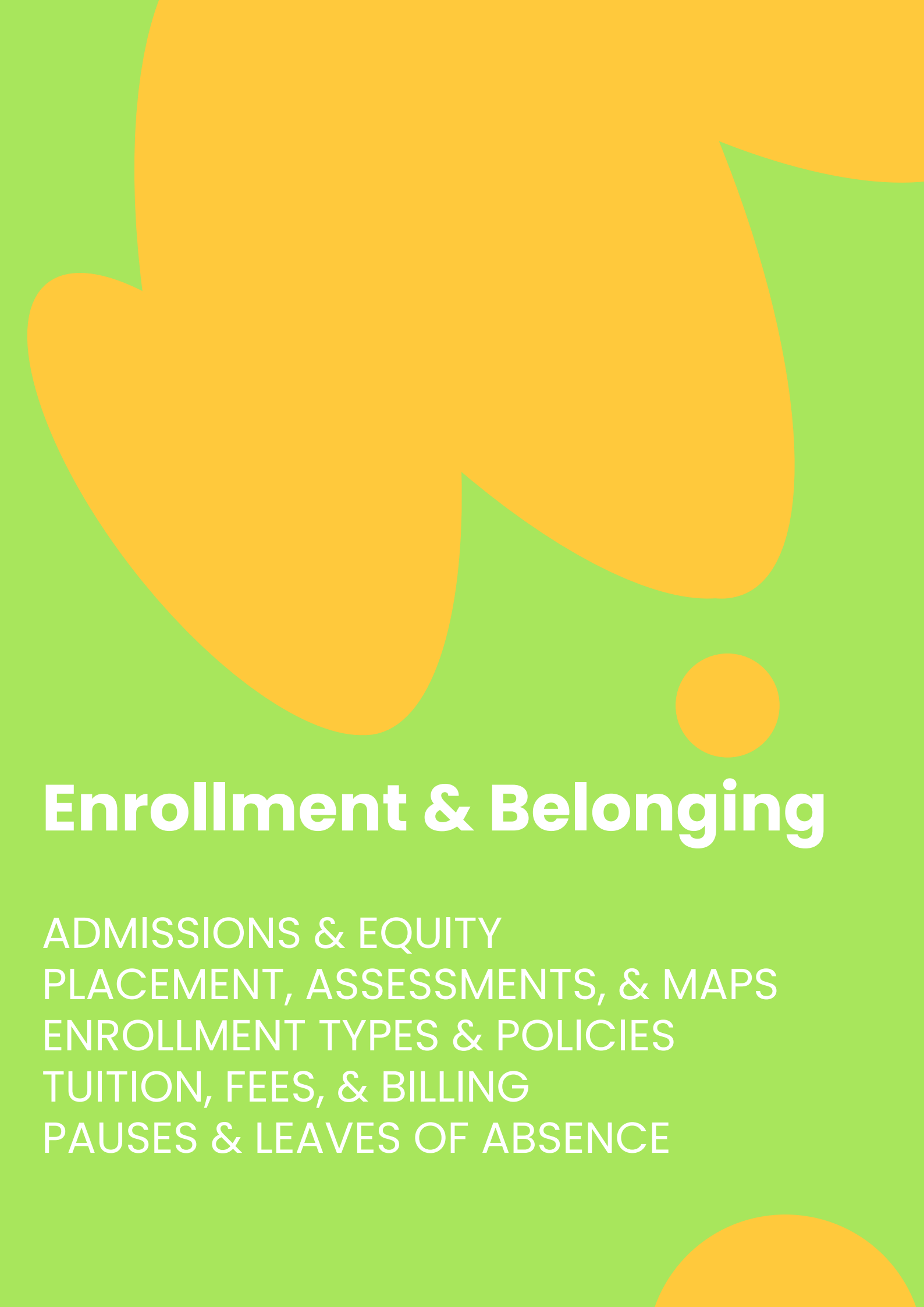
Ceiba Nova exists not to replicate a system, but to offer an **alternative**—a model that serves both learners and educators with **respect, humanity, and sustainability**.

We are not building a brand. We are cultivating a learning life. And we believe that **education should never come at the cost of dignity**—for students, families, or teachers.

Our mission is simple and steadfast:

To provide the highest quality holistic education to those who need it most—in a way that remains truly sustainable for both families and educators.





Enrollment & Belonging

ADMISSIONS & EQUITY

PLACEMENT, ASSESSMENTS, & MAPS

ENROLLMENT TYPES & POLICIES

TUITION, FEES, & BILLING

PAUSES & LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Welcoming with intention.
Honoring readiness.
Building relationships that last.

Admissions Philosophy

At Ceiba Nova, admissions is not about prestige, competition, or exclusivity. We are not trying to “select the best” students—we are working to **create a learning community where diverse learners can thrive together.**

Our approach is relational, thoughtful, and rooted in the same principles that shape all we do: dignity, curiosity, trust, and sustainability.

We welcome families who are aligned with our vision, excited about our model, and ready to co-create a learning journey centered on growth—not perfection.

Who Thrives Here?

Ceiba Nova is especially well-suited for students who:

01 Crave deeper connection and more meaningful work than traditional schools offer

02 Are neurodiverse, creatively gifted, emotionally sensitive, or otherwise under-served by one-size-fits-all education

03 Learn best through hands-on projects, interdisciplinary exploration, and intentional pacing

04 Benefit from strong relationships, consistent routines, and a low-stimulation, high-trust environment

We welcome families who:

- Value open communication, flexibility, and **true collaboration with their child's educator**
- Are willing to challenge outdated educational models and embrace purposeful, research-based alternatives
- Seek a consistent, long-term relationship with a learning community
- Believe in rigorous, standard-aligned academics grounded in **secular principles, scientific evidence**, and a **human rights-centered worldview**
- **Support dignity, equity, and intellectual integrity for all learners**—regardless of background, identity, or belief

Seeking Alignment, Not Elitism

Rooted in Relationship, Not Rankings

While we do not “select” in the conventional sense, we do take care to ensure that Ceiba Nova is the right match for each child and family.

Our admissions process includes:

- A family interview and student visit
- Collaborative reflection on needs, rhythms, and goals
- A clear and mutual understanding of what Ceiba Nova *is* and *isn't*

This approach protects the integrity of our environment and supports each student's long-term success—not just short-term accommodation.

Our Commitments

01 We NEVER screen by ability or disability, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

02 We actively HONOR neurodiversity, gender expansiveness, and cultural differences.

03 We meet students where they are—academically, socially, and emotionally—and grow from there.

04 We offer rolling admissions as space allows, and we take the time to ensure every placement is truly in the learner's best interest.

05 We offer flex schedules, alternative enrollment and attendance options, and will make honest recommendations to other academic institutions in accordance with learner and family needs.

06 While our rates are fixed and transparent, we will work with each family to help with their financial and resource needs. We track arrangements using an objective financial equivalency algorithm and make the agreement details (though not the parties' identifying factors) available for all enrolled families to view.

Students at Ceiba Nova are active participants in placement, planning, and self-reflection from the very beginning.

Equity & Access

We believe that **education is a right, not a reward**—and we work to make that belief real, one family at a time.

We are committed to offering Ceiba Nova's model to those who need it most. Our tuition structure is designed to be **transparent, flexible, and values-aligned**, and we actively seek to reduce barriers for families with financial need, systemic disadvantage, or past educational trauma.

Placement, Readiness, and Learning Profiles

Meeting each learner where they are—and building the right support to help them grow.

At Ceiba Nova, **we don't rely on traditional grade levels**, arbitrary benchmarks, or high-stakes testing to determine where a learner "fits." Instead, we begin with a **holistic picture** of the student—grounded in **reflection, relationship, and rigorous assessment**—to shape a learning experience that is both appropriately challenging and deeply supportive.

This is not a system learners are placed into. It is a process they are part of.

Pathway Placement

Each student is placed into one of Ceiba Nova's three developmental Pathways—**Wayfarer, Pathmaker, or Stargazer**—based on overall readiness, not just age. These Pathways reflect increasing levels of independence, complexity, and leadership capacity.

Placement takes into account:

- **Cognitive and emotional development**
- **Social fluency and communication style**
- **Executive functioning and stamina**
- **Learning profile, lived experiences, and academic fluency**

Progression through academic content is *responsive, subject-specific, and non-linear*. Students don't wait for a Pathway promotion to begin more advanced coursework. If a learner has mastered a Math or Science course aligned to their current Pathway, they begin the next level—whether or not that's typically associated with a higher cohort.

Comprehensive Readiness Assessments

In addition to deep listening and direct observation, Ceiba Nova uses **formal educational diagnostics** to support accurate placement and informed instructional design.

These include:

01 Screening for learning differences (e.g., dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, processing disorders)

03 Ongoing evaluation and goal-setting, in collaboration with both students and families, to adjust support and stretch zones as learners grow

02 Full educational psychology assessments reviewed by a **licensed, credentialed educational psychologist (California)** to identify learning types, attention profiles, executive function needs, and neurodivergence (including ADHD and autism spectrum characteristics)

In alignment with U.S. educational standards, **our evaluations are not medical diagnoses**, but they are **formal, research-based educational assessments** designed to inform instruction, guide planning, and support the development of each student's Mentored Adventure Plan (MAP) with rigor and clarity. These assessments are conducted with full family awareness and participation, and are included as part of core services for enrolled Ceiba Nova students.

For alternatively enrolled students—such as those receiving homeschool or mentor support—any assessment-related fees will be clearly disclosed and agreed upon in writing **prior to the start of any evaluation process**.

All assessments and evaluations at Ceiba Nova exist solely to support the student—they are used to identify strengths, learning needs, and the best strategies for success. Diagnosed learning differences or neurodivergencies never determine academic placement; they help us choose the right tools, environment, and teaching approach to empower each learner fully.

Learning Profiles & MAP Integration

Every student at Ceiba Nova develops a **Learning Profile** and a dynamic **Mentored Adventure Plan (MAP)**—tools that grow with them, shaped by:

- Their interests, goals, and reflections
- Family insights and feedback
- Learning assessments and project outcomes
- Self-advocacy and preferred modes of engagement
- Emotional, sensory, and executive support strategies

These tools are not created *for* students—they are co-created *with* students. Learners are expected and supported to **reflect on their needs, name their strengths, express their preferences, and help shape their journey.**

Beginning with Insight: The Ceiba Nova Survey

Before interviews are scheduled, all prospective families—students included—complete a **brief but intentional pre-interview survey**. This tool is designed to help us begin with depth: understanding each student's motivations, personality, fears, strengths, hopes, and needs.

This isn't a quiz. It's a conversation starter—one that honors the individuality of each child and helps us enter into relationship with clarity and care.

At Ceiba Nova, placement isn't something *done to* a student. It's a conversation, a collaboration, and a commitment—shared by student, guide, and family alike.

Tuition, Fees, & Billing

Transparent. Flexible. Designed to sustain dignity—for students, families, and educators.

At Ceiba Nova, our tuition model is built around real needs, real costs, and real flexibility. We believe that education should be both **sustainable and humane**—for learners, families, and the educator guiding their journey. That means no hidden fees, no rigid contracts, and no stress-inducing fine print.

We are committed to keeping costs clear, communication open, and expectations aligned from the start.

Tuition, fees, and billing methods are reviewed regularly, with all updates published on our website and in the Ceiba Nova Exploratory Handbook. When changes are anticipated, we begin with open dialogue—inviting families into the conversation to help shape solutions. Our tuition model is designed so that, at full enrollment, we can both build a future scholarship fund and even explore reducing tuition for families.

What Tuition Covers



For full-time enrollment, monthly tuition directly supports:

- Personalized teaching & mentorship
- Student meals & snacks
- Government compliance & operating expenses
- On-site extracurriculars (e.g., swimming, archery, creative intensives)
- Facility rent, utilities, & maintenance
- Foundational materials, technology & supplies
- Basic local field work & outings
- Professionally captured student portraits and group photos
- Student uniform (1 set)
- Personal water bottle for school use
- Proprietary technology and curriculum access
- Multilingual library access (print, digital, & audio)

There are NO application fees, re-enrollment fees, or surprise administrative costs. The Lead Guide (Director and Teacher on Record) makes approximately \$1-6/hr/child after expenses and before taxes depending on enrollment numbers. The ultimate goal is financial feasibility and sustainability for ALL FAMILIES involved.

Annual Technology & Facilities Fee

Each student is charged a **once-annual Technology & Facilities Fee**. This supports:

- Shared equipment & classroom technology
- Upkeep of learning spaces & safety supplies
- Long-term infrastructure to ensure continuity of service

This fee is assessed at the minimum required amount and re-evaluated annually to remain equitable and transparent.

Flexible Enrollment, No Legal Contracts

Upon joining Ceiba Nova, families sign a **Contract of Intent**—a shared commitment to student growth, open communication, and mutual trust. This is **not a legally binding tuition contract**. You may withdraw from enrollment at any time with no financial penalty beyond the current billing cycle.

We offer:

- **Enrollment pauses** for travel, transitions, or temporary relocation
- **Tuition adjustments** during extended absences
- **A no-stress approach** to flexibility and real life



Billing & Calendar Notes

Ceiba Nova operates year-round, with seasonal breaks built into our quarterly learning Phases.

To support consistency and quality of care:

- Tuition is not prorated during built-in breaks
- Tuition is billed monthly, in advance for each enrolled month
- Our automatic monthly online billing model offers convenience but is not required
- Manual billing and cash payments are also available

Enrollment Pauses & Tuition Reduction

We offer **enrollment pauses** for families who need to step away temporarily due to travel, dual-enrollment, health needs, or shifting circumstances.

All families receive a built-in set of **Flex Days** per calendar year. For absences longer than this, families may choose from:

- **Minimal Retainer Option: \$100/month** or less
Maintains your child's active enrollment status, MAP record, LIS access, and communication link with their guide. Recommended for students temporarily attending other programs or needing low-maintenance continuity. Optional teacher check-ins for emotional support and maintaining community bonds.
- **Basic Virtual Support Option: \$200/month**
Includes weekly video check-ins and academic coaching while away. Ideal for students who want to maintain strong learning continuity or prepare for reentry.
- **Specialized Virtual Support Option: \$300–400/month**
Includes at least two weekly 1:1 video check-ins, once weekly virtual class chat, virtual teacher support for ongoing connection, continuity, and academic guidance while the student is away. May include collaboration with a teacher/educational team if student is temporarily enrolled elsewhere and other tailored supports. Ideal for students who want to maintain strong learning continuity and thrive with relationship consistency.

We'll work with you to determine the best pause structure based on your child's needs and your family's rhythm. There is **no penalty or loss of standing for requesting a pause**.

These options ensure that **your child's educational identity and personalized supports remain intact**—even if they step away from in-person participation for a season.

Remote, Hybrid, & Home School Support

Ceiba Nova offers customized **remote and hybrid learning models**, with pricing based on level of support and engagement:

- May include: curriculum bundles, custom lesson plans, assessments, feedback, and virtual instruction
- Designed collaboratively based on your child's needs and your role as a guide-at-home
- Hybrid options for homeschool support include engagement in our Extracurricular Activities for increased engagement with other children, shared field trips, specific subject drop-in, home visits, guide-at-home coaching, and more

Whether your child is traveling, dual enrolled, seeking a fully remote experience, or you just want to supplement the wonderful homeschooling you're already doing, **we'll co-create a structure that works** for your family at a price you can afford.

Withdrawal, Leaves & Re-Enrollment Policies

Clarity without penalties. Trust without pressure.

At Ceiba Nova, we understand that life is dynamic. Families move, needs shift, and students sometimes need to pause their learning journey or transition into new environments. Our policies are designed to honor those changes with **compassion, clarity, and consistency**—while supporting the long-term wellbeing of both the learner and the community.

Families may withdraw from Ceiba Nova *at any time*, for any reason, with **no financial penalty** beyond the current billing cycle.

- No withdrawal fees
- No multi-month obligations
- No pressure to explain or justify your decision

We ask only that you communicate your intent to withdraw in writing as early as possible (20 days minimum) so we can:

- Support your child in transitioning with dignity
- Provide helpful documentation, if requested
- Hold space for closure, reflection, and celebration of their time with us

We treat withdrawal as part of the learning journey—not a failure or exit from community.

Re-enrollment After Leave

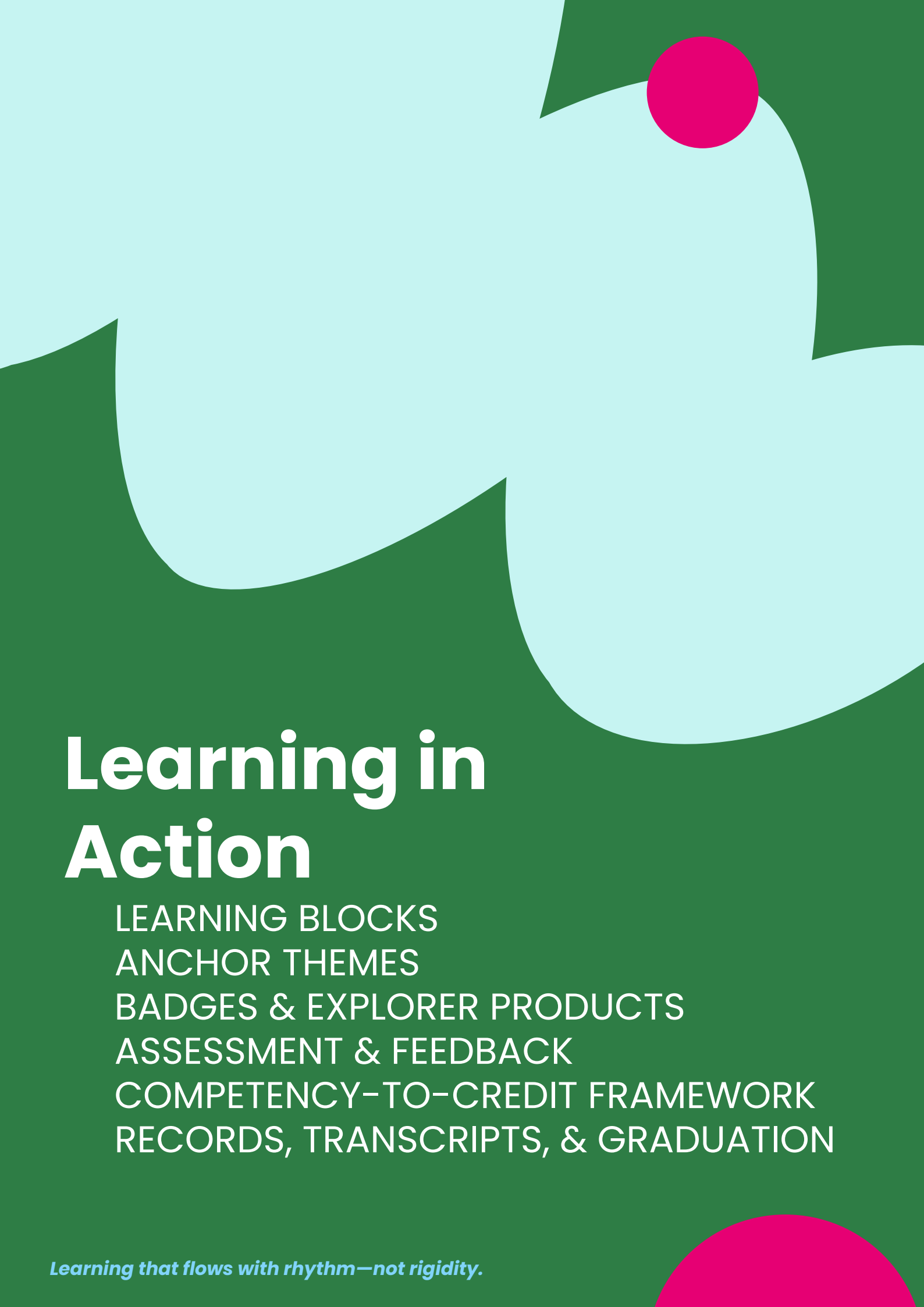
When a student is ready to return, we simply:

- Update their MAP and Learning Profile to reflect their time away
- Adjust pacing, supports, and placement if needed
- Reintegrate them into the current phase, project work, and community rituals

There are **no re-enrollment fees** or separate applications. Ceiba Nova was designed to be a **long-term learning home**, not a temporary program—so we always welcome returning students as part of our circle.



We do not hold families hostage through paperwork or penalties. Instead, we build trust through clarity—and welcome learners back with open arms when the time is right.



Learning in Action

LEARNING BLOCKS
ANCHOR THEMES
BADGES & EXPLORER PRODUCTS
ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK
COMPETENCY-TO-CREDIT FRAMEWORK
RECORDS, TRANSCRIPTS, & GRADUATION

Learning that flows with rhythm—not rigidity.

Learning Blocks

At Ceiba Nova, learning doesn't follow a script—but it does follow a rhythm.

Each day is anchored by two core learning modules, each consisting of **two rotating blocks** and **intentionally designed transitions**. One module centers on focused, **discipline-based study**; the other invites interdisciplinary, **purpose-driven exploration**.

This daily rhythm allows for depth, creativity, and connection without the chaos of fragmented schedules. It supports executive function and emotional well-being, creating space for **meaningful, sustained engagement** for even the most challenging and least-liked topics.

No rigid transitions, no rushed subjects—just steady flow, intentional pacing, and purposeful learning that honors both structure and discovery.

☀ Morning Block → 🌿 Midday Flow → 🌈 Afternoon Block → 🌀 Gentle Close

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Block A	Block C
Tuesday	Block B	Block D
Wednesday	Block A	Block C
Thursday	Block B	Block D
Friday	C or D*	C or D*

each day moves
WITH PURPOSE & POSSIBILITY
balancing core skills, personal growth, and real-world
exploration

Modules & Blocks

Block rotation allows for deep engagement without monotony, supporting both **continuity of skill-building** and **interdisciplinary integration**.

Module 1: Foundational Learning Blocks (A & B)

These blocks focus on core academic disciplines, providing students with structured, skill-building experiences in areas such as:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science & Scientific Thinking
- Social Inquiry
- Research & Reasoning
- Communication & Expression

Learning during A & B blocks is still **dynamic, hands-on, and inquiry-based**—but it begins from a **subject-specific lens**. Students engage with academic content through intentional exploration, guided instruction, collaborative discussion, and practice-based mastery. Projects may emerge, but *the discipline drives the learning*.

Module 2: Applied Learning Blocks (C & D)

These blocks prioritize interdisciplinary, purpose-driven learning aligned to each student's:

- Pathway identity and readiness
- Emerging Track interests
- Personal MAP (Mentored Adventure Plan) goals

In C & D blocks, students explore ideas, challenges, and creative pursuits where the **topic, project, or driving question comes first**. Core academic skills from A & B are applied within these contexts—woven into **real-world inquiry, meaningful production, and hands-on experimentation**. This is where curiosity leads and academic learning is made relevant, embodied, and transformative.

At Ceiba Nova, our A–D block rotation isn't based on fixed subject slots—it's built to offer flexibility without losing structure or accountability. While Blocks A & B form our Core Module and prioritize discipline-based learning (such as mathematics, language arts, science, or social inquiry), the specific subjects covered in each block may shift week to week. For example, one week Block A might focus on math and poetry; another week, it might center on Spanish and geography. Blocks C & D, within our Applied Module, are designed for interdisciplinary application—often tied to a badge project or Track-aligned goal. One may build directly from the week's core learning; the other might support a long-term creative or research pursuit.

We develop our schedule using government-supplied pacing guides as a foundational framework, ensuring that all required subjects are covered consistently and thoroughly. However, our interdisciplinary approach means that subjects are rarely taught in isolation. On a "math" day, for example, math may be the primary lens—but students might write in English and Spanish, apply concepts through gardening or art, or integrate measurement into a science or design activity. This structure balances deep focus with natural integration, allowing us to meet and exceed core standards while cultivating real-world thinking, connection, and creativity.

Anchor Themes

At Ceiba Nova, each day of the week carries a recurring theme that helps anchor learning, support engagement, and build meaningful connections across disciplines. These themes offer both structure and flexibility—allowing educators to design rich, responsive experiences while helping students anticipate the flow of their week.



Movement & Motivation **Mondays**

We begin each week by activating both body and spirit. Mondays often incorporate physical movement—like kinesthetic math games, yoga for focus, or creative dramatics. Other times, we center on internal motivation—setting personal goals, exploring resilience, or connecting with our “why.” Whether active or reflective, Mondays are about momentum.



Trees & Trails **Tuesdays**

On Tuesdays, learning extends outdoors. Students might map tree canopies in geometry, sketch leaf patterns in art, or explore local trails to investigate ecosystems. Even indoor lessons take on an explorer’s mindset—transforming timelines into hike maps or infusing writing with natural inspiration. Tuesdays nurture observation, curiosity, and environmental connection.



Water & Waves **Wednesdays**

Wednesdays immerse us in the study of flow and movement—across both nature and physics. Some weeks focus on water: from pond-life studies to river poetry and splash-based science. Other weeks, we explore wave phenomena like sound, light, and motion through hands-on experiments and cross-disciplinary projects. It’s a day for dynamic discovery.



Think & Thrive **Thursdays**

Thursdays help students stretch, grow, and thrive in every sense. Activities focus on critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and life skills—ranging from carpentry to budgeting, design challenges to empathy-building. Whether solving a puzzle or staging a play, students learn to navigate both practical problems and interpersonal growth.

Focus & Field Work Fridays

Fridays are set aside for:

- Outdoor adventures
- Field trips & community-based learning
- Studio intensives & science labs
- Deep work time for ongoing projects
- Student-led seminars & exhibitions
- Peer collaboration & catch-up

This flexible day is designed to **disrupt routine in all the right ways**—restoring attention, energizing engagement, and connecting learning to the world beyond our walls.



Fridays alternate between real-world adventures and focused exploration. Some weeks take us off campus for field work—visiting farms, museums, or community sites. Other Fridays focus inward, offering deep-dive time for passion projects, academic support, or guest-led workshops. It's a day for expanding horizons and envisioning the future.

When Fridays are spent on campus, we typically engage in both C and D Blocks, allowing extended time for applied learning, passion projects, or collaborative work. Even during off-campus adventures, we maintain the general rhythm of our daily schedule—honoring familiar times for snacks, meals, breaks, and transitions whenever feasible. All field work, excursions, and schedule shifts are clearly communicated in advance and reflected in our monthly calendars to ensure consistency and preparedness for families.

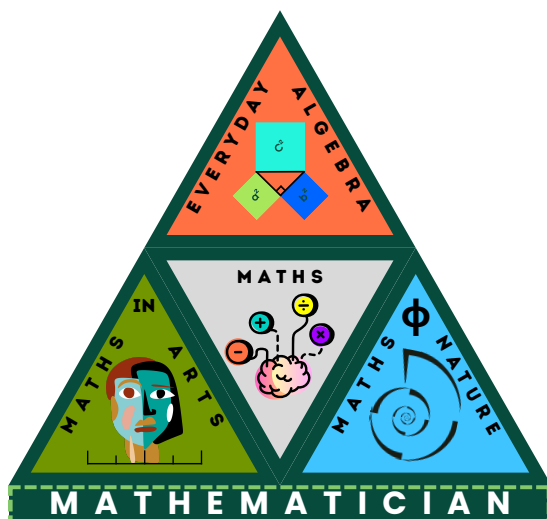
Badges & Explorer Products

At Ceiba Nova, learning isn't measured by worksheets or test scores—it's demonstrated through **Explorer Products** and earned **Badges** that tell the story of growth, effort, and mastery. Each Badge represents a meaningful learning arc aligned to core competencies, interdisciplinary goals, and real-world relevance.

Students earn badges at multiple levels to reflect deepening mastery over time. These are not participation trophies—they're hard-earned recognitions of skill, creativity, perseverance, and purpose. Badges are affixed to a student's Pathway Shirt, offering a wearable record of learning that honors their individual journey.

Explorer Products are the tangible, shareable outcomes of a student's work—models, designs, performances, publications, presentations, or builds—that emerge from weeks (sometimes months) of inquiry, feedback, and iteration. These are milestone moments: they show not just what was learned, but how it was applied, shared, and lived.

Explorer Products and Badges are visible proof that the work mattered—because the learner mattered.



Milestone moments:
BADGES ARE VISIBLE EVIDENCE
of growth, effort, and mastery.

Badges Portal: Your Guide to Mastery

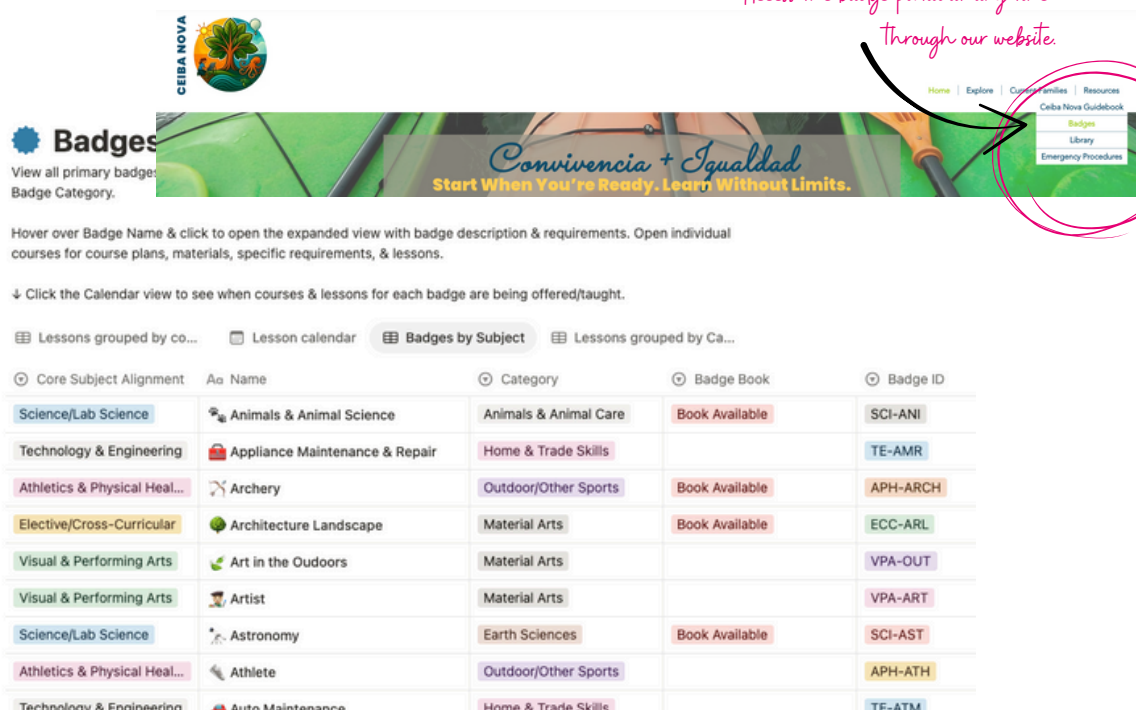
The Ceiba Nova Badges Portal is your launchpad into a world of discovery. Accessible to both students and families, the portal showcases all currently available badges and allows you to explore them by category, subject alignment, Pathway pairing, linked courses, and more. Whether you're seeking a Core Badge like Science or dreaming of earning a Specialist Badge like Trade Specialist, this is where your journey takes shape.

Each badge has its own dedicated page where you'll find:

- An **overview** of what the badge represents and why it matters
- A list of **related badges** to guide your next steps or deepen your focus
- A dynamic, student-friendly **checklist** to track your personal progress
- Links to the **Badge Book**
- Supplementary **resources** and connections to past, current, and upcoming courses that support your learning

This space is designed to help you make informed, empowered choices about your learning path, and to track your achievements with pride. Your progress is visible, your possibilities are open, and the path is always yours to shape.

Access the badge portal at any time through our website.



Hover over Badge Name & click to open the expanded view with badge description & requirements. Open individual courses for course plans, materials, specific requirements, & lessons.

Click the Calendar view to see when courses & lessons for each badge are being offered/taught.

Lessons grouped by co... Lesson calendar Badges by Subject Lessons grouped by Ca...

Core Subject Alignment	Name	Category	Badge Book	Badge ID
Science/Lab Science	Animals & Animal Science	Animals & Animal Care	Book Available	SCI-ANI
Technology & Engineering	Appliance Maintenance & Repair	Home & Trade Skills		TE-AMR
Athletics & Physical Heal...	Archery	Outdoor/Other Sports	Book Available	APH-ARCH
Elective/Cross-Curricular	Architecture Landscape	Material Arts	Book Available	ECC-ARL
Visual & Performing Arts	Art in the Outdoors	Material Arts		VPA-OUT
Visual & Performing Arts	Artist	Material Arts		VPA-ART
Science/Lab Science	Astronomy	Earth Sciences	Book Available	SCI-AST
Athletics & Physical Heal...	Athlete	Outdoor/Other Sports		APH-ATH
Technology & Engineering	Auto Maintenance	Home & Trade Skills		TF-ATM

Milestones, Mastery, & Earning Badges

Every badge at Ceiba Nova comes with a **syllabus-style roadmap**—a curated list of tasks, skills, projects, and experiences that help you build toward mastery. These are called milestones, and they are the heart of the badge journey.

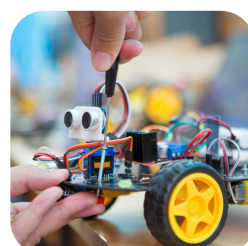
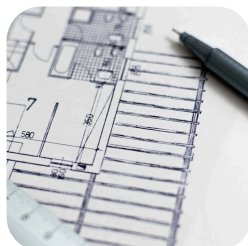
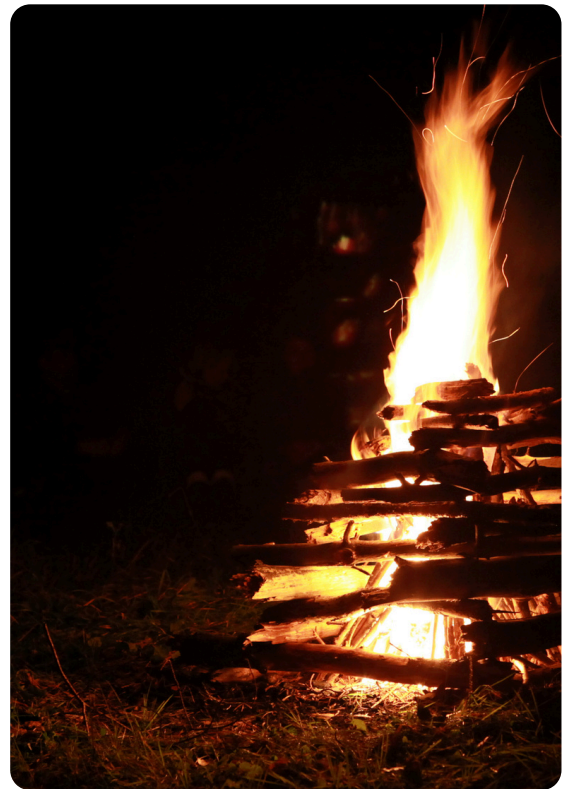
Each badge outlines a required number and type of milestones, but the list always includes more than the minimum. Why? Because choice matters. You get to select the challenges that fit your learning style, interests, and goals—while still hitting the mark for completion.

Every badge at Ceiba Nova comes with a Milestones might include things like:

- Reading a selected book
- Participating in a local cleanup
- Creating a prototype
- Demonstrating a physical skill
- Completing a written reflection

As you complete milestones, they're marked off one by one. When you've met all the badge requirements, you **earn your badge right away**—no waiting, no extra approval process. (Though your physical, sew-on badge might take a little time to arrive.)

ABadge ceremonies are scheduled separately and tailored to each student's preferences. Some explorers love a round of applause; others prefer to celebrate quietly or one-on-one. We honor them all.



Pathways & Progressions: How Badges Support the Process

At first glance, our badge system and student Pathways may look tightly linked—and that’s no accident. While badges are not assigned to specific Pathways, they mirror the developmental flow of each one, offering natural stepping stones that support growth in skill, focus, and independence.

This design acts as a **built-in safety net**: students begin with **foundational Core Badges**—like *Science* or *Creative Play*—and from there, they can launch into more specialized work in areas such as *Chemistry*, *Electricity*, or *Environmental Science*.

How quickly a student progresses through these early badges depends on many things: confidence, readiness, learning experience, executive function, and personal motivation. Some explorers move through their first badges quickly because the concepts are already familiar or the tasks feel manageable within their current context. Others take a more deliberate pace—and that’s exactly how the system is designed to work.

To support a wide range of learning journeys, Ceiba Nova offers a **diverse ecosystem of badge types**:

- **Core Badges:** Universally required foundational badges in subjects essential to global citizenship and lifelong learning
- **Competency Badges:** Tiered skill-based badges that deepen subject understanding (think Level 1 → Level 2 → Level 3)
- **Specialist Badges:** Mastery badges focused on advanced, topic-specific knowledge and production
- **Super Badges:** Thematic culmination badges earned by combining Core + Competency work in a subject area
- **Elective Badges:** Flexible badges that allow students to explore unique interests and cross-curricular connections
- **Leader Badges:** Recognition for mentoring, initiative, and guiding others within a project or domain
- **Badge Groups:** Thematic badge clusters designed for collaborative work or immersive experiences

Wherever you are in your learning journey, there’s always a next step waiting to be discovered—and plenty of space to blaze your own trail.

Core Badges: Foundations for a Bold Education

At Ceiba Nova, **Core Badges** represent the essential knowledge, skills, and values that ground every explorer's learning journey. These are not just academic boxes to check—they are **launchpads for curiosity, tools for global understanding, and anchors for lifelong growth.**

Core Badges align with the broad-stroke Core Subjects identified by international standards (such as Common Core and MEP), while also reflecting **Ceiba Nova's deeper mission:** to nurture informed, capable, and compassionate global citizens.

The Core Subjects:

Languages & Language Arts	Technology & Engineering
Social Sciences	Visual & Performing Arts
Maths	Electives & Cross-Curricular (ECC)
Sciences & Lab Sciences	Athletics & Physical Health

These subjects are not taught in isolation or from a single cultural perspective. Instead, we take a **world-lens approach**—one that honors diversity in knowledge, traditions, and methods of expression. Our math badges explore algorithms and patterns from across civilizations. Our literature includes authors from every continent. Our social science investigations go beyond national narratives to examine systems, movements, and histories around the globe. And our arts program draws inspiration from many cultures, mediums, and moments in time.

Core Badges are **required of every student**, and for good reason: they build the **foundation upon which all other learning and badge work rests.** Once completed, they unlock access to specialized, deeper, and more creative areas of study through Competency, Elective, Super, and Specialist Badges.

Core Badges are the beginning.

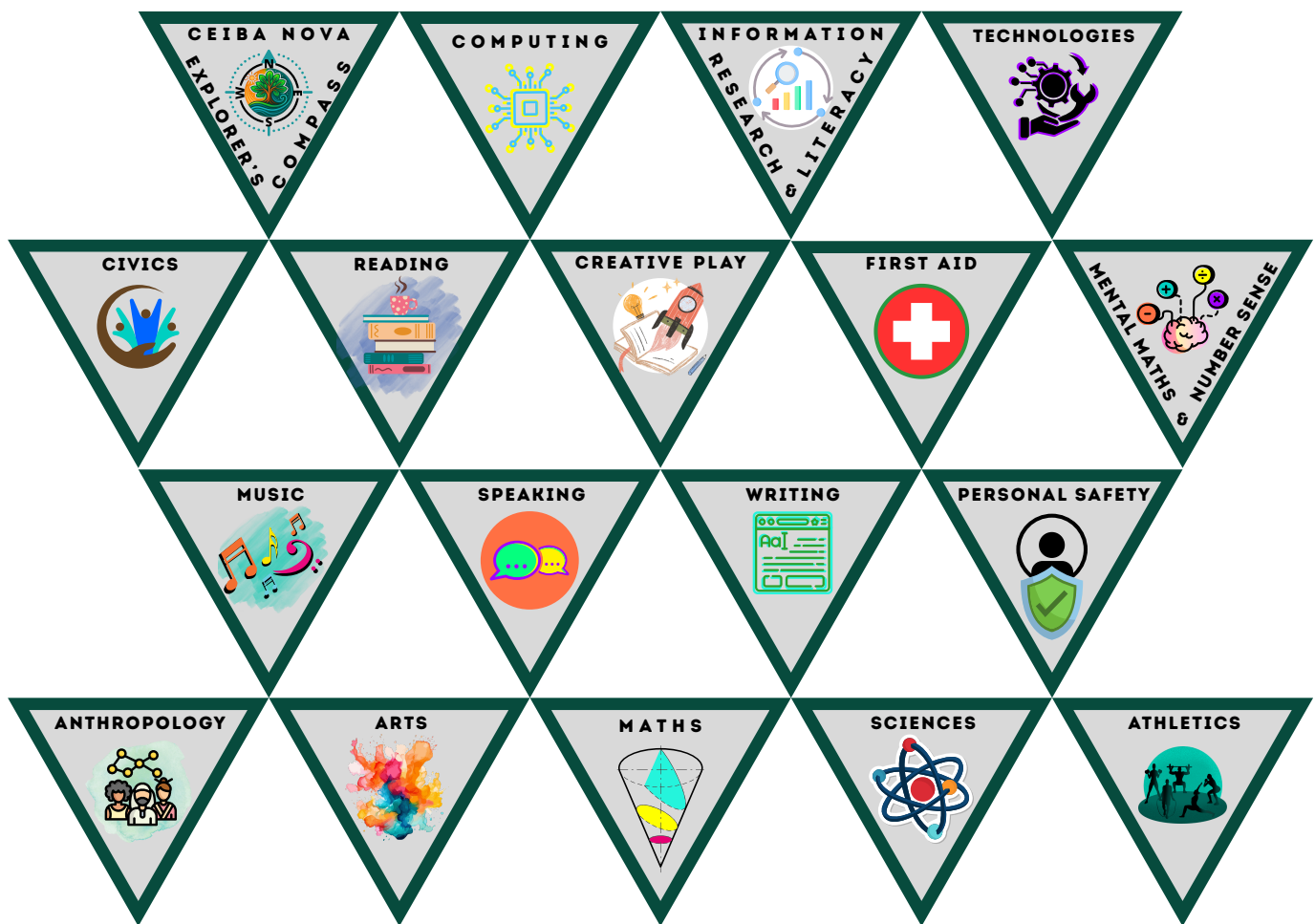
AN EXPLORER'S TOOLSET, THEY PREPARE YOU

to ask bigger questions, take bolder steps, and dive into learning that's entirely your own..

Core Badges In Action

Our Core Badges form the essential toolkit of every Ceiba Nova explorer. These are the first badges students pursue—and for good reason. They lay the groundwork for deeper learning, more complex challenges, and greater independence.

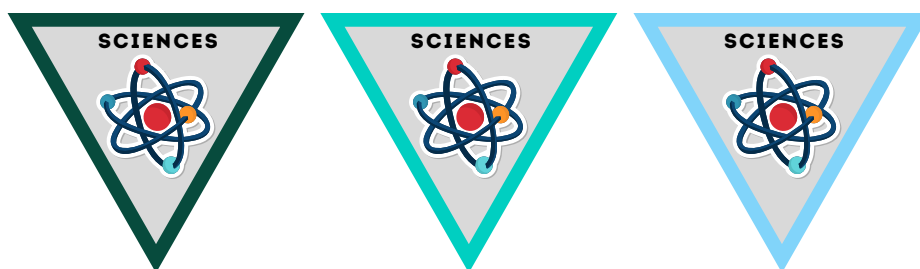
Our Core Badges are:



Completing a Core Badge is more than checking off tasks—it's a **rite of readiness**. These badges are often **co-requisites or prerequisites** for advancing into more specialized work. For example, before a student can pursue the Electricity badge or Environmental Science, they must first complete the Core Science badge. This ensures explorers have a shared foundation and a clear sense of the landscape before venturing further into their chosen fields.

To help understand the breadth and purpose of our Core Badges, let's take a look at the **Science Badge as an example**. Earning this badge means that a student:

- Understands what science is and how it works
- Can document observations and investigations with clarity
- Knows how to write a basic lab report
- Is familiar with key science terms, instruments, and data collection tools
- Follows safety procedures confidently, both in and out of the lab
- Begins to explore the ethics, responsibilities, and mindset of a scientist



It's not about memorizing every scientific fact—it's about **building the habits, language, and thinking** that real scientists use every day. That's the spirit of every Core Badge: to **equip each explorer with the confidence, competence, and curiosity** to take on whatever comes next.

Competency & Elective Badges: Sharpen Your Skills, Follow Your Curiosity

Once Core Badges lay the foundation, it's time to go deeper. That's where **Competency Badges** and **Elective Badges** come in—designed to help students refine skills, explore interests, and produce meaningful, real-world work.

Competency Badges

Competency Badges are **structured in intentional learning progressions**, often built in three tiers to reflect a student's growing mastery:

- Tier 1: Foundations and fundamentals**
- Tier 2: Applied understanding and practice**
- Tier 3: Mastery, leadership, or precision-level skill**

Think of these tiers as progressions equivalent to

Novice → **Apprentice** → **Tradesperson** OR **Beginner** → **Proficient** → **Advanced**.

These tiers often align with the increasing complexity and independence found within our student Pathways.

Some badges also include **pre- and co-requisites**—related badges that must be completed alongside or prior to beginning a series. For example, *Safety & Maintenance for Archers* must be completed before beginning Archery 2 and is a co-requisite for Archery 1. This ensures students are prepared, responsible, and confident as they engage in more advanced or equipment-based learning.

Competency Badges are where **students hone their craft**—whether they're learning to track wildlife, design digital games, or compose music for performance. This is **learning that's active, hands-on, and rooted in purpose**.

Elective Badges

Elective Badges offer a **flexible, interest-driven pathway** for explorers ready to branch out or dive deep. These badges often **cut across disciplines**, connect to passion projects, or provide **specialized training**.

Some Electives are light and exploratory. Others are rigorous and challenging—like *Bow Building* or *Criminology*—and may have specific prerequisites, co-requisites, or project-based requirements. These badges are powerful opportunities to customize your journey while still contributing to broader badge goals.

For example, *Typing, Dictation, & Editing* fulfills a Specialist Badge requirement for Researcher, Historian, Linguist, and Trade Specialist, and also counts toward the Super Badge for Writer. **One badge—many connections**.

Electives are a space to follow your curiosity, build new skills, and forge unexpected connections. Whether for enrichment or to support a future Super Badge, every Elective is a chance to learn something new about the world—and yourself.

Super Badges & Specialist Badges: Mastery with Purpose

At the peak of each explorer's badge journey are Super Badges and Specialist Badges—**earned through dedication, deep study**, and the kind of **authentic mastery** that can't be faked.

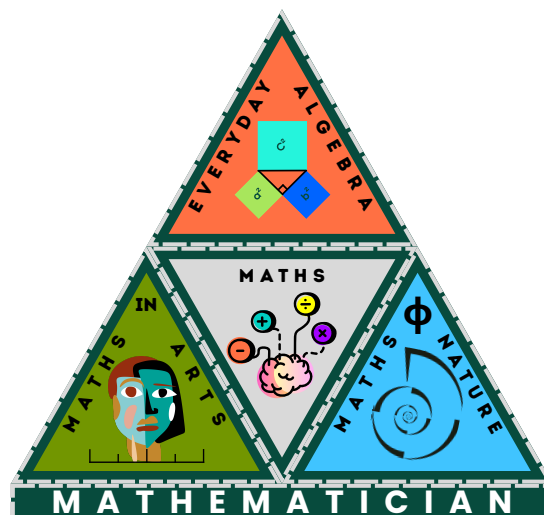
While they share a similar structure, these badges celebrate **two distinct kinds of achievement**:

Super Badges: Subject Mastery

Super Badges are awarded to students who demonstrate breadth and depth in a subject area. Each one is **anchored by a required Core Badge**, plus **three additional badges** from within the same subject family.

For example, to earn the **Scientist** Super Badge, a student must first complete the **Science Core Badge**. From there, they **choose any three additional badges in the Science Inquiry, Fieldwork, & Stewardship domain**. One student might choose Conservation, Environmental Science, and Naturalist. Another might pursue Electricity, Energy, and Magnets & Magnetism. Both earn the Scientist Super Badge—each through a path that reflects their unique interests and strengths.

Super Badges are visually formed by **four triangular badges**—the Core in the center, surrounded by the three supporting badges—creating a **symbolic “super triangle.”** The earned title, like Scientist or Artist, forms the solid foundation underneath.



Super Badges reflect **sustained work, interdisciplinary thinking**, and the ability to connect knowledge across projects. They are **required for graduation** from Ceiba Nova.

Ceiba Nova Super Badges are: **Anthropologist, Artist, Athlete, Citizen, Explorer, Reader, Mathematician, Scientist, Speaker, & Writer.**

Specialist Badges: Precision & Passion

Specialist Badges represent the **highest degree of topic-specific expertise** in our badge ecosystem. Like Super Badges, they **require a primary badge plus three related supporting badges**—but with a deeper focus and often more advanced or technical work.

In some cases, earning a Specialist Badge even requires a Super Badge as the primary badge, signaling that the student has already achieved subject mastery before diving into specialization. These rare Specialist Badges feature a custom-designed center badge to mark the honor.

Specialist Badges allow students to carve out a niche, **showcase advanced production or scholarship**, and contribute to their community of practice in meaningful ways.

Occasionally, it may be appropriate for us to add new Specialist Badge options & our Badge Portal is always up-to-date. We update our current list with each guidebook reprint.

Our **current list of Specialist Badges** includes:

- Designer
- Economist
- Engineer (placeholder – may specify)
- Geographer
- Historian
- Humanitarian
- Information Specialist
- Language Specialist
- Linguist
- Manager
- Material Artist (placeholder – may specify, e.g., Digital Artist, Painter)
- Musician
- Researcher
- Responder
- Sociologist
- Survivalist
- Trade Specialist
- Wellness Specialist

To **graduate with Honors** from Ceiba Nova, students must earn at least one Specialist Badge. For many, this final achievement marks not just the end of a learning arc—but the beginning of a calling.

Assessment & Feedback

Our approach to assessment is **reflective, strengths-based, objective, and transparent**.



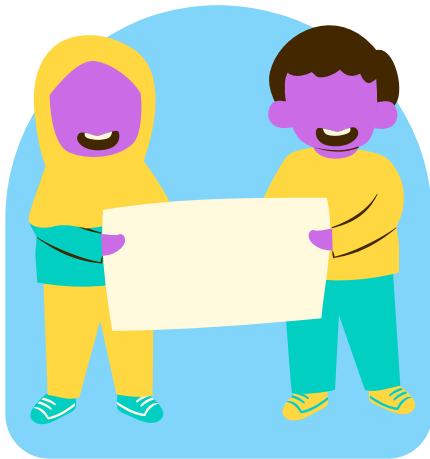
Narrative Feedback

that highlights **growth, strengths, and next steps**



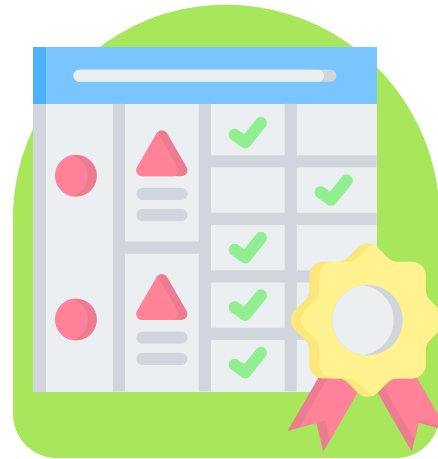
Portfolios

curated throughout the year to **show process and progress**



Exhibitions

allow students to **present, explain, and celebrate** their work publicly, *adapted for sensory and disability needs*



Mastery Scales

Tied to **international standards** and *adapted for personalized pacing*

We don't rank, label, or penalize students. Instead, we use **rubrics** and reflection tools that foster **clarity, confidence, and ownership**. Students are regularly invited to assess themselves and their peers, building **metacognition, empathy, and accountability**.

Feedback loops are embedded in every phase of the learning cycle.

Students don't just receive assessments—they co-create them.

Competency-to-Credit Framework

There are **two components** that factor into competency definition & weighting: Common Core **Standards** (CCSS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), & relevant/supplement MEP & EU Standards & **Competency Products**.

Ceiba Nova Exploratory **objectively and consistently convert competencies to credits** that meet Costa Rica, United States, & EU Standards by applying the following steps:

STEP	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1	Clearly define competencies	Break each course & badge into 6–12 discrete, measurable outcomes that are specifically aligned and mapped to Standards (e.g., “Analyze primary sources,” “Solve linear equations”).
2	Assign weight to competencies	Decide if all are equal, or if some warrant more credit (e.g., major capstone projects). Generally, standards are equally weighted unless pedagogy or complexity dictates elevated weighting.
3	Set consistent proficiency thresholds	Determine what “Proficient” (and above) looks like for each competency. This is directly guided by Standards, which explicitly state proficiency thresholds.
4	Identify credit value per competency	If a 1.0-credit course has 10 competencies, we award 0.1 credit per competency mastered (unless some competencies are weighted differently due to complexity).
5	Record progress continuously & robustly	We use physical & digital portfolios, LMS gradebook entries & badge progress to track each competency’s status.
6	Convert to transcript credit	When a student achieves ≥ Competent on all required competencies, award the full credit. Partial mastery can translate to partial credit.

Common Core & Other Government Standards (70%): Each course aligns to a set of CCSS standards. Generally, standards are equally weighted unless pedagogy or complexity dictates elevated weighting (e.g., critical thinking standards may carry 1.5× weight).

Competency Product (30%): A culminating artifact demonstrating mastery, evaluated across *three sub-dimensions*:

Planning 15%

Research
Proposal
Design

Execution 70%

Implementation
Process & Logs
Iterative Development

Delivery 15%

Final Product
Presentation
Reflection

A competency product is the **tangible demonstration of a student's understanding and applied skill** in a specific learning target or standard.

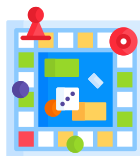
This product may take **many forms**—such as a written article, multi-episode podcast, student-designed lab, constructed object, performance, annotated diagram, fieldwork log, or multimedia presentation—depending on the badge requirements, the subject area, and the student's personal learning style or goals. All products are **highly structured, student-driven, and layered**.

All competency products are **guided by clear criteria and must demonstrate mastery**, not just completion. Students may revise and refine their product as they grow in understanding, and most badges allow for choice between **multiple formats or interdisciplinary expressions of competency**.



Podcast Series: Strong Voices, Brave Hearts

As part of the **Media Badge**, this student-created podcast empowers girls around the world through honest interviews, inspiring stories, curated song lists, and affirming messages. It demonstrates **mastery of digital production tools, communication standards, and English speaking skills** while centering emotional literacy, empathy, and advocacy.



Past Forward: A History-Based Board Game

This fully-conceived game—**designed, prototyped, funded, and marketed** by the student—brings critical historical moments to life through interactive storytelling and strategy. Created for the **Inventor Badge**, it fulfills **business, math, research, and historical inquiry standards**, showcasing a powerful blend of innovation, analysis, and enterprise.



Elders Among Us: A Photojournalism Exhibition

Through poignant **portraits and personal narratives**, this student explores the **lived experiences of community elders**, capturing their histories, wisdom, and challenges of aging. Created for the **Volunteer & Community Service Badge**, the project meets **arts, language, and presentation standards** while honoring intergenerational connection and civic empathy.

Competency Weighting to Credit Earned

In our system, each course or badge is made up of a series of **discrete, tiered competencies**—individual building blocks of knowledge and skill. Mastery of each competency contributes proportionally to the full credit value of the course, and partial credit is awarded immediately once a competency is met. This ensures **student progress is visible, portable, and cumulative**.

Importantly, students are not locked into a traditional course sequence. **Because competencies are shared across multiple badges and courses, a student can advance to the next tier of a specific skill while still working to master others.** For example, a learner who has fully grasped data interpretation and function transformations can begin engaging with advanced applications of those concepts—even if they are still developing proficiency in related areas like exponential functions or proof-writing.

This approach **eliminates the artificial boundaries created by conventional course titles** (e.g., Algebra I, Geometry, Trigonometry) and instead **focuses on mastery of the standards themselves**. By organizing learning through a continuum of competencies rather than static courses, **students can move forward in specific areas of strength while continuing to build skills where they need more time and support**.

Area	Competency	Distributed Competency Adjusted	Mastery	Credit Earned
The Number System	Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
Expressions and Equations	Work with radicals and integer exponents.	0.05	Developing	
	Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.	0.05	✓ Distinguished Mastery	0.05
	Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.	0.05	✓ Distinguished Mastery	0.05
Functions	Define, evaluate, and compare functions.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
	Use functions to model relationships between quantities.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
Geometry	Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.	0.05	Beginning	
	Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
	Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
Statistics and Probability	Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
Mathematical Practices	Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
	Reason abstractly and quantitatively.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
	Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.	0.05	Developing	
	Model with mathematics.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
	Use appropriate tools strategically.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
	Attend to precision.	0.05	Developing	
	Look for and make use of structure.	0.05	Developing	
	Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.	0.05	✓ Competent	0.05
Competency Product	Planning	0.025	✓ Competent	0.025
	Execution	0.05	Developing	
	Delivery	0.025		0.025
TOTAL		1		0.7

This example illustrates how this works in practice. The student has **mastered 13 of 18 competencies** from badges aligned with US 8th grade Maths but have not completed their competency product. They have **earned 0.7 credits**. Once the remaining 5 competencies are mastered & product delivered, the final 0.3 credits will be awarded.

Proficiency Thresholds & Rubrics

At Ceiba Nova, our **standards-based grading scale** serves as the **foundation for all rubrics and assessment tools**. Each competency or product is assessed using clear, specific criteria that align with this scale, and rubrics are customized to reflect the context of each project or subject area.

The **purpose of a rubric is to provide clear, unambiguous guidelines and expectations**—not just for what a student must demonstrate, but also for the range of methods, mediums, and approaches by which those expectations can be met. Rubrics are **shared with students and parenting adults in advance**, ensuring transparency and shared understanding.

They are **reviewed regularly with students, and students are invited to propose revisions** when appropriate, so long as the revisions align with our core standards and grading logic. This process ensures that assessment is not only **consistent and objective**, but also **empowering and responsive** to individual learners.

1	Insufficient Data	Turned in but cannot evaluate (e.g., name only, off-topic).
2	Beginning	Emerging understanding; significant gaps.
3	Developing	Partial competence; growing consistency.
4	Competent	Meets all proficiency criteria independently and reliably— earns standard course credit.
5	Distinguished Mastery	Consistently exceeds proficiency—innovative, exemplary work—earns standard course credit, on-transcript badge, special opportunities, and early access to next-level content.

Threshold for Full Credit (0.25 per Phase):

- **≥ Proficient (4) on all** Common Core standards AND each Product dimension.
- **Distinguished Mastery (5)** elevates recognition but **does not alter base credit** value.
- **Partial Credit:** Proportionally allocated based on number of competencies at ≥ 2, 3 at time of matriculation or transfer
- **Seat-Time Minimum:** Equivalent to estimated time to complete Competency Product (e.g., **20–30 hours per Phase**), documented via SIS

Advanced/Honors Bonus: Students achieving all 5s across competencies in a course receive an additional 0.25 advanced/honors credit on top of the standard credit.

Records, Graduation, & Transcripts

All academic progress, enrollment records, and transcripts are managed through our secure Student Information System (SIS), powered by OpenSIS.

Because we track standards-based learning using traditional grade-band groupings—aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and other international frameworks—in our Learning Records System, each student's progress is mapped in a way that is easily understood and transferable across educational systems. This allows us to generate transcripts that clearly show which competencies have been mastered, which grade-band standards they fulfill, and how those align with typical course expectations.

By organizing mastery data in this way, we ensure that even though our learning structure is customized and interdisciplinary, students can still demonstrate academic progress in the language and format most schools and institutions expect. This level of transparency and alignment makes Ceiba Nova transcripts fully transferrable and internationally recognized, supporting students in applying to other schools, programs, or universities with confidence.

Students receive **formal transcripts, credit equivalencies, and portfolio documentation** that are:

- Recognized by US and European K–12 schools and universities
- Aligned to grade-band expectations, international benchmarks, and core standards
- Backed by narrative evaluations and badge-based evidence of competency
- Flexible enough to reflect alternative pathways, hybrid learning, or interdisciplinary credits

Students work to build a **personalized Portfolio** over time and create a web-based version for graduation. The Portfolio demonstrates not just academic readiness, but also **personal growth, creative output, applied learning, and community impact**. This portfolio travels with them—whether into secondary school, entrepreneurship, travel, apprenticeships, or higher education.

graduation from Ceiba Nova
IS NOT A FINISH LINE
It's a launch point.

A large, abstract teal shape with organic, wavy edges occupies the upper half of the page, partially overlapping the orange background.

Daily Life at Ceiba Nova

DAILY SCHEDULE

ARRIVALS, TRANSITIONS, & DEPARTURES

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MEALS & SNACKS

SUPPLIES & TOOLS

DRESS CODE & UNIFORMS



Daily Schedule

Monday–Thursday Daily Schedule (8:30 AM – 3:30 PM)

TIME	ACTION	DETAILS
8:30–8:45	MORNING DROP-OFF ARRIVAL WINDOW	No drop-offs prior to 8:30.
ARRIVAL– 9:00	BREAKFAST, FREE PLAY & SELF-PREPARATION	Light breakfast options, free-play, & student-led transition time to ease into the day.
9:00–9:15	WARM-UP	Group-centered transitions to start the day—movement, mindfulness, mini-challenges, or storytelling.
9:15–10:15	MINI-LESSON + STATION ROTATIONS #1	Whole-group instruction followed by targeted stations —students engage in hands-on exploration, skill practice, and differentiated learning opportunities.
10:15–10:30	SNACK & MOVEMENT BREAK	Time to refuel and reset—students enjoy a healthy snack and free movement to support focus, regulation, and physical well-being.
10:30–11:45	MINI-LESSON + STATION ROTATIONS #2	Second learning block with direct teaching, creative application, and small-group support tailored to student needs.
11:45–12:45	LUNCH MAKING & RECREATION	Students participate in lunch prep, community responsibilities, and unstructured outdoor play
12:45–1:00	CLEAN-UP & TRANSITION	Restoring shared spaces, personal reset, and preparing for afternoon learning
1:00–1:15	STATION & SAFETY REVIEW	Daily overview of station options, expectations, and safety reminders—ensuring clarity, readiness, and accountability before afternoon learning
1:15–2:15	STATION ROTATIONS	Student Choice & 1:1, Small Groups, Pull-Outs
2:15–3:00	ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL WELLNESS	Themed physical education & focused athletics(e.g., Yoga, Archery, Swimming, Mixed Games)
3:00–3:15	CLEAN-UP & REFLECTION	End-of-day group reflection and classroom reset.
3:15–3:30	SOCIAL TIME & PICK-UP WINDOW	Light play, socializing, and departure.

Fridays at Ceiba Nova

Fridays at Ceiba Nova offer **flexible, high-impact experiences** designed to extend learning beyond the classroom or deepen it from within.



Field Work or Field Trips

Students venture off campus for **place-based learning, community service, nature study, or arts and cultural exploration**. Field experiences are planned with attention to weather, stamina, and relevance to current learning themes.



Inward Focus Days

On-campus Fridays use **Block C & Block D** to revisit Badge Projects, engage in **1:1 check-ins**, pursue **independent work**, and build essential skills through **workshops** or **academic support** stations.

All Fridays include movement, hands-on activity, and space for reflection.

Social & Free Play and Optional Early Pickup begin at 2:30 PM.
Campus closes at 3:30 PM.

Annual Calendar | 2025

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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FEBRUARY

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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 WEEKEND

 INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

 HOLIDAY (NO SCHOOL)

 PHASE BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

In addition to the holidays & phase breaks scheduled above, each student is entitled to schedule 15 additional family-selected days off (see How We're Structured: Flex Days for specifics) & to treat their birthday or nearest weekday as a personal holiday.

Annual Calendar | 2026

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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27	28	29	30	31		



WEEKEND



INSTRUCTIONAL DAY



HOLIDAY (NO SCHOOL)



PHASE BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

In addition to the holidays & phase breaks scheduled above, each student is entitled to schedule 15 additional family-selected days off (see How We're Structured: Flex Days for specifics) & to treat their birthday or nearest weekday as a personal holiday.

Arrival, Transitions & Closing Rhythms

Our daily rhythm at Ceiba Nova begins and ends with thoughtful transitions that support social connection, emotional regulation, and readiness for learning. To preserve these essential bookends to the day, we ask families to follow the **guidelines** below.



01

Facility Access & Drop-Off

The school grounds **open at 8:30 AM**. The entry gate is locked before this time, and **no drop-offs are permitted prior to 8:30** for any reason. Ceiba Nova's small size and private access mean drop-off is smooth and timely, with no external traffic concerns.

02

Morning Transition (8:30–9:00 AM)

As students arrive, they ease into the day with optional breakfast, free play, and self-preparation activities. **We strongly encourage arrival by 8:45 AM** so students can fully participate in this transition window. **Core learning begins promptly at 9:00 AM.**

03

Afternoon Transition & Pickup (3:00–3:30 PM)

Our closing block includes whole-class reflection, light play, and social connection. To protect the integrity of this time, **early pickups before 3:15 PM are strongly discouraged** unless previously arranged.

Drop-Off Policy

- Adult must sign in their child upon arrival.
- Children must be escorted through the gate by an adult.
- If arriving after 8:55 AM, parenting adults should notify in advance.

Pick-Up Policy

- Only authorized individuals listed on the child's emergency contact form may pick up the child.
- Late pick-up fees of \$1/min apply after 3:30 PM
- Parents must sign out their child before leaving the premises.

At Ceiba Nova, food is more than fuel—it's a foundation for learning, responsibility, and community care. Students actively participate in **meal preparation, serving, and clean-up**, guided by their **MAP goals, Badges**, and individual needs. Mealtime becomes an opportunity to **practice communication, executive functioning, and meaningful contribution**.



Food, Meals, & Shared Responsibility

Tuition includes **daily meals and snacks**, made on-site using whole ingredients and seasonal availability. Our focus is on **nutritious, well-balanced, minimally processed foods** that students can help prepare and understand.

Meals often include:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Whole grains (quinoa, oats, rice, millet)
- Wraps, sandwiches, and burritos
- Salad bowls and warm grains with toppings
- Tapas- or charcuterie-style small plates
- Smoothies with whole fruit and no added sugar (some include honey or pineapple)

We avoid artificial dyes, chemical additives, and highly processed ingredients. When baking or decorating, we use plant-based, all-natural dyes.



We also prepare a variety of **house-made items**, including:

- Greek yogurt, made in-house with pasteurized milk
- Fresh breads, including sourdough, flatbread, and gluten-free varieties
- Special seasonal dishes tied to cooking lessons or cultural learning

Our garden harvests are used in meals whenever possible, allowing students to experience the full cycle of planting, growing, harvesting, and preparing their own food.



Allergies, Dietary Needs, & Limitations

Ceiba Nova is **not an allergen-free facility**, but we **take allergies seriously**. If a student has a life-threatening allergy, we will:

- Remove that ingredient from our meal plans
- Screen all products for trace ingredients
- Keep an EpiPen on-site with staff trained in emergency response
- Work directly with families to build a safe, sustainable food environment

If your child has a life-threatening allergy, please work with the school to create an Allergy Action Plan. Please note that EpiPens & Emergency Medication must be provided if the child has a severe food allergy.

Families are required to **report allergies, sensitivities, and medical dietary restrictions** in full. We aim to accommodate where possible, and will always notify families in advance if a request exceeds our ability to guarantee full safety.

We strive to minimize dairy and gluten, but we are not able to offer fully individualized or gourmet meal planning.

Food Safety & Learning

Our kitchen is a space for hands-on learning.
Students explore:



Safety, Sanitation,
Kitchen Procedures



Meal Planning &
Preparation



Nutritional Awareness
& Balanced Eating



Food Systems,
Transport, & Regulation



Cultural & Ecological
Perspectives on Food



Media Literacy &
Impacts of Food
Marketing



Before handling tools or ingredients, students complete **food-safety training appropriate to their age and ability**. All kitchen activities follow standard food safety protocols and staff supervision.

At Ceiba Nova, we equip students with what they need to learn, grow, and explore—without placing unnecessary costs or burdens on families. Our approach to supplies and dress reflects our values: **function, flexibility, and respect for individuality**.



Dress Code & Uniform

We follow the basic **MEP uniform guidelines**, but with **flexibility** that reflects our learning philosophy and minimizes cost. Our Dress Code & Uniform are **gender-inclusive**. Here's how it works:

Shirt (Top Half)

- All students are expected to wear an **official Ceiba Nova uniform shirt daily**. This includes any school-issued or approved shirt with the Ceiba Nova logo.
- **To reduce cost** for families, **we also offer iron-on logos** for those who wish to apply them to solid-colored shirts they already own.

Bottoms (Lower Half)

- Students may wear **any style of bottoms** (shorts, pants, leggings, skirts, etc.) that are **comfortable** and appropriate for the day's activities, in one of the **Ceiba Nova colors**. Skirts must be worn with bike shorts or skirt shorts underneath to ensure maximum level of comfort and engagement in all activities.
- This requirement is **flexible in brand and style**—we source the most affordable options and provide **direct links for easy ordering of pre-approved bottom options in a range of styles, Ceiba Nova colors, and prices. We do NOT profit off links or sales of required clothing.**
- On **Field Work or Field Trip days**, we ask students to wear their **Official Ceiba Nova uniform shorts**.

Free Dress Days

- We celebrate individuality with occasional **Free Dress** and **Thematic Celebration Days**, announced in advance. The only dress codes rules we have on these days are that **a student should feel safe, respected, empowered, & comfortable in their clothing** of choice.
- For the health & well-being of all students, clothing **may not display logos or images referencing age-specific or illegal substances or substance use, or sexually explicit or suggestive content.**
- **Their bodies, Their values, Their choice – that's the dress code.**

Durability & Mess-Friendly

- Our **students move, build, explore**, and sometimes **get messy. Uniforms reduce clothing stress** and help students focus on their work—not what they're wearing. Additionally, our badges can be re-applied as needed, depending on the student's display choice (sash, vest, shirt).

Shoes

Students should wear **comfortable, functional footwear** appropriate for active, outdoor, and hands-on learning. However, Ceiba Nova maintains a **shoeless indoor environment**—students remove their shoes upon entering the classroom and may remain **barefoot or wear socks** during indoor learning time.

For outdoor and active use:

- **Open-toed shoes** (e.g., sandals) are allowed but each student must also have a pair of **closed-toed shoes available on-site** for activities where safety is a concern (e.g., tool use, building, hiking, or athletics). Muck/rain boots may meet this criteria or a pair of closed-toe shoes may be sent with students on days they choose to wear open-toed shoes.
- Each student should also keep a pair of **muck boots or rain boots at school** to use during:
 - Creek exploration and water play
 - Gardening or muddy projects
 - Rainy-day outdoor lessons and transitions

This ensures students stay comfortable, safe, and fully able to participate in all aspects of our program—without ruining everyday shoes or missing out on learning.

Spare Clothing Requirements

Each student should keep a **full set of backup clothing** at school, including:

- **1 pair of pants**
- **1 pair of shorts**
- **2 shirts**
- **2 pairs of underwear**
- **2 pairs of socks**
- **1 swimsuit (see guidelines below)**
- **1 towel**

These are for comfort and care in the event of water play, art projects, mud, or unexpected messes. All students have access to a **private, locking bathroom** for changing.

Swimwear Guidelines

Swimming is part of our weekly rhythm. Students should have a swimsuit that:

- Offers **t-shirt and shorts-style coverage** (for **sun protection**, not modesty)
- Can be put on and taken off **independently** by the student
- Is paired with a **towel** (kept & laundered on campus), and preferably:
 - **Goggles** (Froggles or similar, easy to self-manage)
 - Fabric **swim cap** for students with longer hair

We apply sunscreen before all swimming activities, but due to our location **close to the equator**, we emphasize **physical sun protection** in addition to sunscreen. Additional swim and activity-related information can be found in the **Athletics & Physical Wellness** section.

Additionally, we do have on hand extra goggles but it is more challenging to achieve a perfect, personal fit with shared equipment.

Community & Culture

AGREEMENTS

SUPPLIES, TOOLS, & DRESS CODE

CONFLICT, REPAIR, & NATURAL CONSEQUENCES

CELEBRATIONS, RITUALS, & SHARED JOY

STUDENT VOICE

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY



At Ceiba Nova, consequences are not punishments—they are learning moments that restore integrity.

Conflict is not avoided. It's navigated. Accountability is not imposed. It's co-owned.

Agreements for Learning & Living Together



At Ceiba Nova, we don't manage behavior with rigid rules or punitive systems. Instead, we build **community agreements**—collaborative commitments that reflect our shared values, lived experiences, and mutual care.

These agreements are not static policies. They are **living conversations**, shaped by the real needs of our group, revisited often, and held together with consistency, reflection, and trust.

Why Agreements?

Community agreements are part of our larger commitment to **positive behavioral supports and relationship-centered growth**. They reflect a belief that all learners—children and adults—are capable of self-regulation, self-awareness, and repair.

We use agreements because they:

- Honor the **dignity and agency** of every member of our community
- Create a framework for **clear expectations and consistent care**
- Prioritize **self-regulation over external compliance**
- Make space for **growth, not shame**

Our approach is deeply informed by the **Nurtured Heart Approach** and **PBIS** (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) practices.

This means we focus on:

- **Recognizing and energizing success**
- **Naming positive choices with specificity**
- Creating **meaningful boundaries** with warmth and clarity
- Reinforcing **connection over control**

How Agreements Are Made (and Remade)

✧ We co-create agreements through:

- Community circles and group discussions
- Reflections on real-life scenarios
- Developmentally appropriate scaffolding of ideas like consent, space, empathy, and repair

And we revise them through:

- Group check-ins and self-assessments
- Restorative conversations
- Reflection after moments of friction, harm, or misunderstanding

Importantly, when conflict occurs, we *always ask questions*—even when a student takes responsibility voluntarily.

Because:

- **No situation is ever one-sided**
- **Communication styles, tone, and timing often shape how a moment is interpreted**
- Taking responsibility is important—but **understanding the *full context* is essential** to restoring trust and learning from the experience

At Ceiba Nova, discipline doesn't mean punishment—it means deepening understanding and restoring connection.

We don't ask "Who's to blame?"

We ask "What happened, and how can we move forward—together?"

Examples of Living Agreements



Agreements often emerge in age-appropriate language, and may include:

- We treat others—and ourselves—with care.
 - We speak honestly and listen with our full attention.
 - We ask before taking, touching, or joining.
 - We give space without shaming.
 - We clean up what we use and help others when we can.
 - We take responsibility—and explore the full story.
 - We use our voice to protect, not to harm.
 - We repair relationships, not just behavior.
-

Conflict, Repair & Restorative Practices

Accountability with dignity. Consequences without punishment.

At Ceiba Nova, we teach students to navigate conflict with clarity, courage, and care. We do not treat missteps as infractions to punish—but we also don't pretend that harm has no weight. Our approach is grounded in truth: **actions have natural consequences**, and our role as educators is to help students understand, process, and take ownership of those consequences **without shame or avoidance**.

We don't rely on reward charts or behavior contracts.

We rely on **relationships, reflection, and real-world relevance**.

Our Approach

We are guided by:

- Clear, **co-created community agreements**
- The **Nurtured Heart Approach**, which emphasizes **emotional regulation, strength-based feedback, and consistent boundaries**
- **Trauma-informed practices** that protect psychological safety while encouraging self-awareness
- The belief that **restoration is not a goal—it is a result** of meaningful accountability, not a shortcut or script

Natural Consequences, Not Punishment

At Ceiba Nova, no student is ever punished.
But that doesn't mean there are no consequences.

When harm is caused—whether to people, materials, space, or trust—students are supported in understanding:

- The **natural repercussions** of their actions (e.g., lost trust, broken materials, time lost to repair)
- The **impact** on others' emotional or physical safety
- The **interruption to the community's shared rhythm or agreements**

These consequences are not imposed—they are explored together through conversation, reflection, and supported action.

For example:

- A student who breaks materials through carelessness may be asked to repair or replace them
- A student who consistently disrupts others' focus may lose the privilege of choosing a certain workspace until trust is rebuilt
- A student who uses hurtful language may need to step away from group activity to reflect and work on making amends before rejoining

Consequences are always:

- **Proportional**
- **Related to the action**
- Focused on **repair and responsibility**, not shame



This is how we build critical thinkers,
not compliant rule-followers.

What Happens When Conflict Arises?

Whether it's a peer disagreement, a breach of trust, or repeated disruption, we approach each situation by asking:

- *What happened?*
- *What were you needing or feeling at the time?*
- *What impact did it have on others?*
- *What happens now to repair and to rebuild trust?*

Restorative conversations are a common tool—but they are just one piece of a larger process that may include:

- Loss of certain privileges (temporarily and clearly explained)
- Increased scaffolding or adult support
- Structured opportunities for skill-building
- Practical follow-up actions aligned with the harm caused

We do not pretend every conflict can be resolved in one circle. We work **over time** to restore trust, not just settle a moment.

Voluntary Responsibility ≠ the Full Story

Even when a student takes ownership quickly, we continue asking questions. Why?

- Because communication differences often shape how events are experienced and interpreted
- Because power dynamics (age, language, neurotype) matter
- Because we care more about understanding the whole truth than assigning blame

What Students Learn Through Consequences

- Emotional regulation
- How to **take responsibility** without collapsing into guilt or defensiveness
- How to **identify and express** needs
- How to **notice the impact** of their behavior on others
- How to **make amends** meaningfully
- That **boundaries are acts of care** not rejection

Neuroscience confirms what children have always known: **laughter, music, movement, and wonder accelerate learning and well-being**. Joy regulates the nervous system. Ritual creates psychological safety. Celebration solidifies memory.



Joy Is Developmentally Serious

At Ceiba Nova, we don't wait for joy to happen—we **make space for it on purpose**. Because every learner deserves not just to grow, but to **feel glad to be growing**.

Why We Celebrate

- Mark progress and transitions with intention
- Recognize effort, growth, and contribution—not just outcomes
- Anchor the year in meaningful traditions
- Foster connection across ages, abilities, and identities
- Infuse our learning rhythms with beauty, movement, and collective pride

Our celebrations are never performative or obligatory. They're **authentic, student-centered, and often beautifully imperfect**. What matters most is that they're felt.

Celebrations in Motion

- **Project showcases** and creative exhibitions
- **Festival days** tied to student cultures, stories, or seasonal themes
- **Joyful dress-up** days or themed explorations (math in pajamas? yes please.)
- **Field-based milestones** like first swims, new hikes, or completing a full field journal
- **End-of-Phase celebrations** to reflect, rest, and look ahead together
- **Birthdays**

Our celebrations are intentionally **small in scale and large in meaning**. We don't strive for Pinterest-perfect—we strive for **connection, expression, and shared delight**.

Student Voice & Collective Responsibility

Everyone has a voice. Everyone has a role.

At Ceiba Nova, students are not just participants in their education—they are **co-creators** of the environment we all live and learn within. We believe that young people are capable of deep thought, ethical leadership, and meaningful contribution—**not someday, but right now.**

Student voice is not reserved for feedback surveys or special occasions. It is woven into our daily decision-making, learning design, and community culture. **Every student, regardless of age or communication style, is invited to speak, reflect, question, and lead.**

What Student Voice Looks Like

- Helping shape project directions and thematic studies
- Reflecting on classroom agreements and suggesting revisions
- Participating in peer and self-assessment
- Giving input on fieldwork, events, and classroom design
- Raising concerns and proposing solutions in community meetings
- Leading exhibitions, read-alouds, workshops, or collaborative sessions
- Advocating for personal needs and supporting peers in doing the same

Voice is expressed in many forms—spoken, written, visual, kinetic. We work with each student to find **the channels that feel authentic to them**, and we help them grow in confidence, clarity, and self-trust.

As students grow through the Wayfarer → Pathmaker → Stargazer journey, they also grow in their capacity to **lead with integrity** and **listen with compassion**. Collective responsibility expands alongside independence.



We frame responsibility as **a form of belonging**. To be part of something meaningful is to have a role in protecting and nurturing it.

What Collective Responsibility Looks Like

In a small, relationship-based community, **everyone's choices matter**. Students are not managed—they are invited into mutual care and contribution.

This includes:

- Taking part in community upkeep and classroom routines
- Supporting younger or less-experienced peers with kindness and respect
- Identifying needs or patterns in the group and offering solutions
- Following through on commitments (projects, agreements, group work)
- Practicing repair when harm occurs
- Giving and receiving feedback as a gift—not a judgment

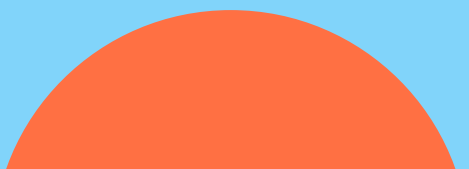
Learning to Lead, Learning to Listen

Leadership at Ceiba Nova isn't about being in charge. It's about:

- Holding space for others
- Making decisions with impact in mind
- Learning when to speak, when to step back, and how to bring others with you

At Ceiba Nova, student voice isn't just heard—it's **honored**. And responsibility isn't a burden—it's **the heartbeat of belonging**.





Exploration Beyond the Classroom

FIELDWORK, EXCURSIONS, & EXPEDITIONS

NATURE-BASED & OUTDOOR LEARNING

STUDIO & LAB INTENSIVES

APPRENTICESHIP & COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Real Learning Doesn't Sit Down



At Ceiba Nova, exploration doesn't begin and end at the classroom door. The world is our co-teacher—alive with systems to study, communities to serve, and mysteries to uncover. Through fieldwork, intensives, and real-world experiences, students not only apply their learning—they expand it.



Fieldwork, Excursions, & Expeditions

We don't just talk about ecosystems, economies, or culture—we go out and encounter them. Fieldwork and excursions are integrated into our learning rhythm and tailored to deepen ongoing studies. From tidepool mapping and botanical sketching to visiting local farms or historical sites, students practice observation, documentation, and connection in real-world contexts.

Longer expeditions are sometimes offered for older students, deep-diving into specific topics, survival skills, or regional studies. These are **journeys of curiosity, challenge, and shared discovery**—always rooted in safety, trust, and student readiness.

Whether a 1-hour local walk or a multi-day journey, our off-site learning is grounded in the belief that place shapes knowledge—and that knowing where you stand changes how you move.

Nature-Based & Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is not a special occasion at Ceiba Nova—it's a vital part of our pedagogical core. Students regularly learn under the trees, beside the creek, or out in the open sky. Nature offers **unmatched multisensory engagement, emotional regulation, and authentic inquiry**—especially for neurodiverse learners.

From constructing rainwater catchments to studying leaf morphology or tracing animal tracks, students use the natural world as both subject and setting. We also integrate **land stewardship, climate literacy, and ecological thinking** throughout.

This isn't just about being outside. It's about **belonging to a place, understanding it, and caring for it in return.**

Studio & Lab Intensives

Focused time. Real tools. Deep-dive learning.

Studio & Lab Intensives are immersive periods where students hone skills, build projects, or explore a discipline in depth. These may span a few days or a few weeks, and are often hands-on, interdisciplinary, and portfolio-based.

Intensives may include:

- Carpentry and construction workshops
- Environmental science labs
- Theatrical or music productions
- Visual arts and design sprints
- Engineering & invention challenges
- Coding, digital storytelling, and systems thinking

Each intensive blends creativity, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving, supported by tools and mentorship that match the task at hand.

Apprenticeship & Community-Based Learning

Learning from those who live it.

As students grow in self-direction and skill, they may engage in **mentorships, apprenticeships, or community learning placements**—either formally through Specialized Tracks or informally through family and local connections.

This might include:

- Working alongside a local artisan or engineer
- Supporting a conservation project or research initiative
- Documenting oral histories or cultural practices
- Interning at a business or nonprofit
- Teaching younger learners or leading workshops

We believe young people deserve the opportunity to **make real contributions**, not just simulations. That's why our learning connects to **people, purpose, and place**—so students can see themselves not only as learners, but as doers, makers, and community members.

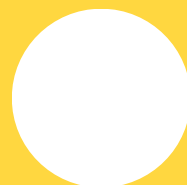
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Health, Wellness, & Safety

PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNICATION
WELLNESS PRACTICES & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS
INCLUSIVE HEALTH POLICIES



**Because thriving minds need safe,
supported bodies—and whole
humans need care, not control.**



Ceiba Nova approaches health and safety as a shared responsibility grounded in clarity, compassion, and community trust. Our protocols are not just procedural—they're relational, responsive, and rooted in respect for the diverse needs of every learner.



Physical & Emotional Safety Protocols

Protection without fear. Structure with flexibility.

We maintain clear, developmentally appropriate safety protocols for all activities—whether indoors, outdoors, on campus, or in the wider community. These include:

Regularly reviewed safety walk-throughs

On-site risk assessments for learning environments and materials

Clear adult-to-student ratios for supervision

Designated safety zones for physical activities and tool use

Boundaries and expectations communicated in age-appropriate ways

Active, compassionate adult presence to de-escalate and support

Clear safety training, guidelines, & protective gear for labs & construction

Emotional safety is equally prioritized. Our approach is proactive, not punitive. We build safety through **relationships, trust, and the reliable presence of a stable adult guide**. This creates the kind of environment where students feel secure enough to take intellectual and social risks—and to return to connection when challenges arise.

Emergency Preparedness & Communication

Prepared, not panicked.

Ceiba Nova maintains emergency protocols for common scenarios including injury, fire, weather events, and natural disasters. Students regularly engage in **calm, trauma-informed safety drills**.

All **staff are trained in emergency response, first aid, and communication chains**. Families receive a copy of our **Emergency Response & Communication Plan** upon enrollment and as part of annual updates.

In the event of any emergency or unexpected closure, we communicate with families immediately via multiple channels, prioritizing **accuracy, transparency, and timely updates**. Emergency contact forms are updated quarterly, and families are encouraged to notify us of any changes as they arise.

Our goal is to ensure that **every student knows**:

- **What to do**
- **Who to trust**
- **Where to go**

—without increasing anxiety or fear.



Wellness Practices & Mental Health Supports

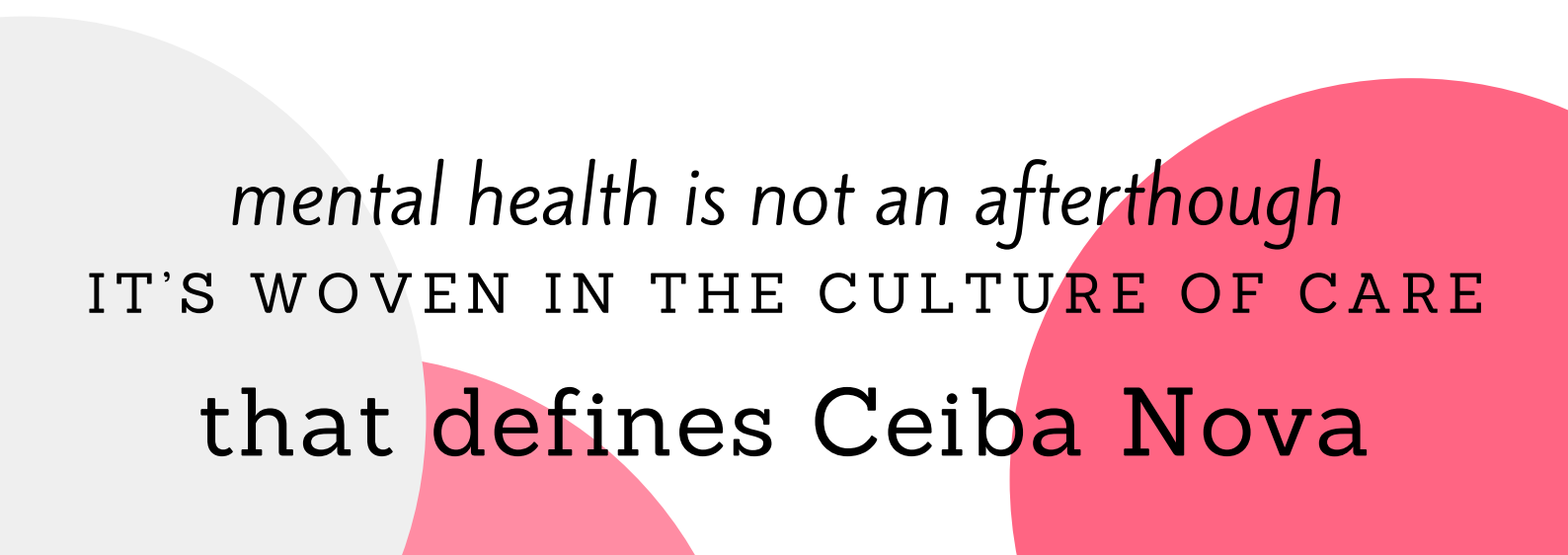
We care for the whole child, not just the symptoms.

Ceiba Nova integrates **wellness and mental health into our daily rhythms**—not as separate lessons, but as living practices. This includes:

- Daily grounding routines and mindfulness practices
- Movement and sensory breaks
- Flexible workspaces for regulation and comfort
- Individual check-ins and emotional literacy support
- Optional journaling, visual processing, or private reflection spaces
- Access to an on-call, licensed school counselor for additional guidance

When deeper support is needed, we collaborate with a credentialed school counselor (PPS), a licensed educational psychologist, and local specialists to provide consultation, design appropriate interventions, or facilitate referrals.

If a student requires ongoing individual support or intervention through a paraprofessional or specialist, we will explore solutions as a community, such as cost-sharing or offering training opportunities for family volunteers, when appropriate. Although we cannot guarantee coverage of expenses associated with hiring a specialist or paraprofessional, we commit to actively partnering with families to ensure every student receives consistent support, compassion, and stability.



mental health is not an afterthought
IT'S WOVEN IN THE CULTURE OF CARE
that defines Ceiba Nova

Inclusive Health Policies

Neurodiverse. Gender-affirming. Trauma-informed. Always.

At Ceiba Nova, we don't treat inclusion as accommodation—it's a baseline.

Our policies are not static—they're **living commitments** to meet each child as they are, without forcing them to conform to a system that wasn't built for them.



For transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive students:

We affirm identity with respect, not red tape. Students are called by their chosen names and pronouns, use the restrooms and uniforms that match their identity, and are protected from any form of discrimination or exclusion. Gender inclusion is not negotiable—it's fundamental.



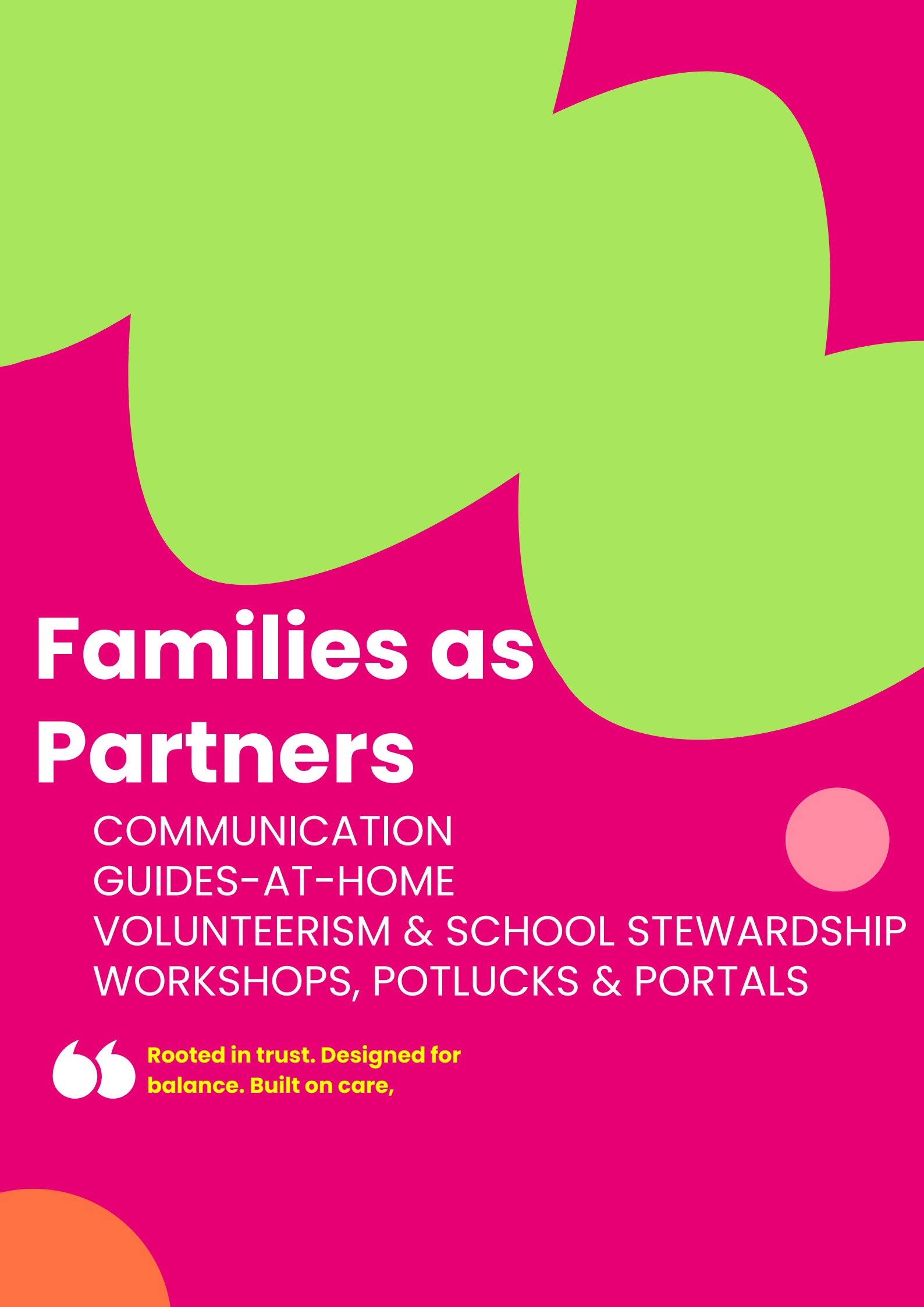
For neurodivergent students:

Our environment is already designed with sensory variation, flexibility, and co-regulation in mind. Movement, fidgets, noise-canceling tools, alternative seating, and visual schedules are normalized. We collaborate with families and specialists to personalize support when needed.



For trauma-affected learners:

We use trauma-informed practices, including predictable routines, clear transitions, and a culture of curiosity over judgment. All responses to behavior prioritize **nervous system safety, relational repair, and student dignity.**



Families as Partners

COMMUNICATION
GUIDES-AT-HOME
VOLUNTEERISM & SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP
WORKSHOPS, POTLUCKS & PORTALS



**Rooted in trust. Designed for
balance. Built on care,**

At Ceiba Nova, education doesn't stop at the edge of the classroom. It lives in our relationships—with children, families, community, and place. We see families not as bystanders, but as vital collaborators—holding deep wisdom, history, and insight that enrich the learning journey.

We also know that **family life is full**, and no one should feel pressure to do more than they can. That's why we design for **flexibility, inclusion, and ease**, offering opportunities to connect, contribute, and stay informed—****never as obligations, always as open invitations**.

Communication & Shared Decision-Making

We prioritize clear, respectful, two-way communication between caregivers and educators. Whether we're setting goals, sharing concerns, or adapting learning paths, families are included as trusted partners. Regular updates, collaborative planning, and informal check-ins help ensure that **no one is left in the dark, and everyone is treated as a valued part of the team**.

When major decisions arise—whether about curriculum rhythms, student needs, or community practices—we engage in meaningful dialogue to **co-create solutions** aligned with our shared values.

Supports for Guides-at-Home

Families are not expected to be teachers. But we **honor their role as steady, compassionate guides**.

We provide simple, practical tools to help parenting adults:

- Understand weekly rhythms and learning blocks
- Track badge progress and celebrate growth
- Support reflection and transitions at home
- Ask questions and request support at any time

Whether through printed guides, chats, family meetings, or digital updates, our approach is to **equip, not overwhelm**—meeting families where they are and offering real help, not hidden homework.

Volunteerism & School Stewardship

Our learning community belongs to all of us. When families lend a hand—whether planting a garden, donating a book, mending materials, or sharing a story—it **strengthens our shared ecosystem**.

There are **no volunteer quotas, expectations, or judgments**. Opportunities to contribute are always **opt-in, interest-based, and warmly welcomed**, but never required.

Stewardship at Ceiba Nova is about **connection, not performance**. We each **offer what we can, when we can—and it's enough**.

Workshops, Potlucks, & Portals

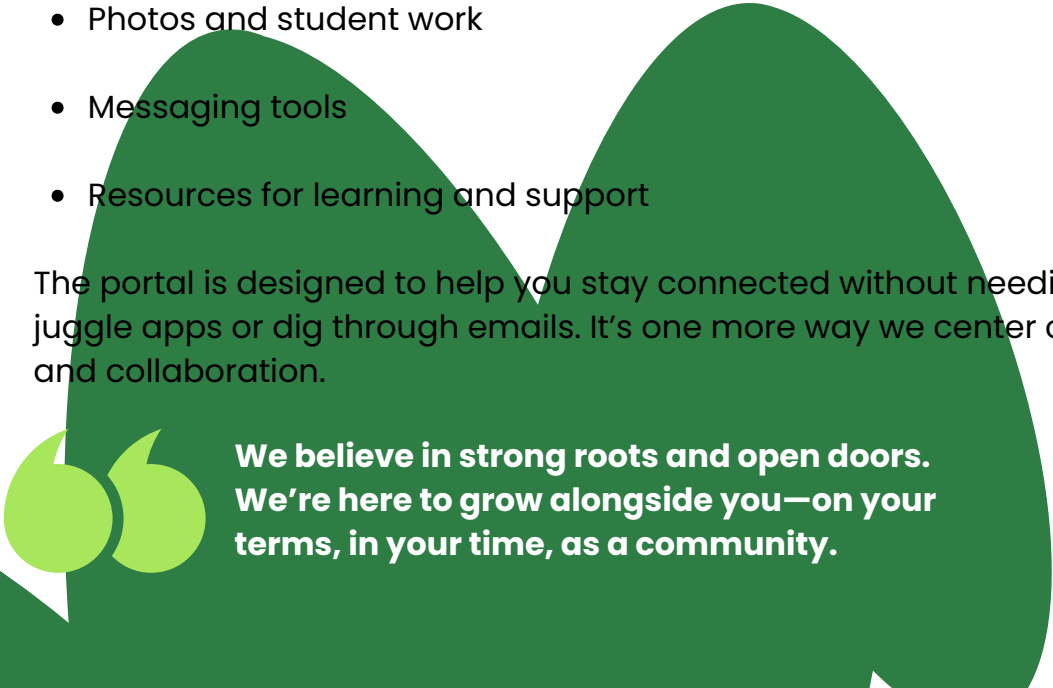
We gather throughout the year for shared joy, learning, and community celebration. From seasonal potlucks to parent-led skill shares, from evening storytelling circles to collaborative workshops, our events are designed to build relationships and honor our diversity.

Every gathering is optional—an invitation, not an obligation. Join when it fits, rest when it doesn't. You belong either way.

Each family also receives access to a **private digital portal** where you'll find:

- Announcements and calendars
- Photos and student work
- Messaging tools
- Resources for learning and support

The portal is designed to help you stay connected without needing to juggle apps or dig through emails. It's one more way we center clarity, care, and collaboration.



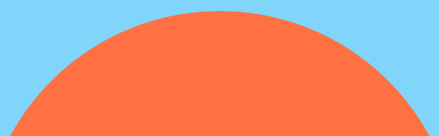
**We believe in strong roots and open doors.
We're here to grow alongside you—on your
terms, in your time, as a community.**



School Policies & Practicalities

DATA, PRIVACY, & CONSENT
DIGITAL DEVICE & MEDIA USE
INTENTIONAL TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA
SCHOOL-PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY
TECH BADGES & DIGITAL MILESTONES
EQUITY, ACCESS & ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
GRIEVANCE, FEEDBACK & POLICY REVIEW

Clarity. Protection.
Accountability. Integrity.



Ceiba Nova is rooted in trust. That trust depends on transparency, clear agreements, and principled action. Below are key policy areas designed to protect students, guide community expectations, and uphold our shared values of equity, dignity, and care.

Data, Privacy, & Consent

We take student and family privacy seriously. Ceiba Nova collects only the information necessary to support student learning, safety, and well-being. Personal data—including educational records, learning profiles, photographs, and assessment results—is stored securely and never shared with third parties without explicit, informed consent.

Our media release policy is opt-in only. By default, we do not publicly share student photos or videos. In situations where we wish to **highlight student work or learning processes** through photos or videos that are completely **free of identifying details** (such as names, faces, voices, or other personal information), we may use such materials in our handbook, website, programs, or promotional content. If appropriate, students and families will be asked whether the student would like to receive credit (such as a byline) for their featured work.

For any **sharing of student images or identifiable work, we require explicit consent from both the student and their parent or guardian.**

- **Photos, video, and student work** are only shared *publicly* (e.g., on our website or social media) with active written permission from parenting-adults and students.
- **Private family portals and student portfolios** contain photos, video, and student work as a record and are not accessible to the public.
- Parenting adults may update or revoke media permissions at any time.
- Health records, diagnostic reports, and learning profiles are kept strictly confidential and reviewed solely by authorized professionals, in accordance with **HIPAA regulations and applicable ethical and legal standards.**

Consent is not a formality—it's an ongoing agreement rooted in respect.

Digital Device & Media Use

At Ceiba Nova, we use technology **intentionally, not habitually**. Screens are tools—not replacements for hands-on experience, human connection, or wonder.

- Most daily learning is **screen-free or minimally tech-dependent**.
- When digital tools are used (e.g., for research, documentation, coding, or publishing), they serve a **clear purpose and are integrated with care**.
- **Personal devices (phones, tablets, etc.) are not authorized on campus** and will not be used during learning hours unless previously identified in writing for specific learning needs or support plans.
- Students are taught to **approach media with discernment, curiosity, and care**—including conversations about **digital safety, representation, and boundaries**.

We teach not just how to use tech—but when and why to use it.

Intentional Technology & Media Practices

Tools, not toys. Purpose, not distraction

At Ceiba Nova, technology is treated as a **powerful tool—not an automatic default**. Our approach is intentional, gradual, and rooted in deep respect for both the benefits and risks of digital devices.

Screen-Free Foundations First

At Ceiba Nova, **technological thinking and safe, intentional screen use** are woven throughout our Core Badges in **Personal Safety, Technology, and Research & Information Literacy**. We introduce these concepts through a diverse range of hands-on activities, lessons, and real-world applications tied to each badge milestone—never as a one-size-fits-all module.

For example, we've invested in a **licensed, evidence-backed, screen-free coding and robotics system** to reinforce foundational logic, systems thinking, and problem-solving skills. This isn't the sole entry point for tech learning, but it illustrates **our commitment to sourcing rigorous, research-supported tools that minimize "convenient" screen time without compromising depth or quality of instruction**.

As students master these off-screen foundations, we then introduce screens and devices in a purposeful, project-based way—always aligned with developmental readiness and the learning goals of each badge.

Tech Badges & Digital Milestones

Our badge system includes **tiered badges for technology use and media safety**. Students work toward milestones in areas such as:

At every level, **students engage with discussions and lessons** on:

- Digital citizenship
- Coding and programming
- Social media discernment
- Research ethics
- Online collaboration
- Cybersecurity basics

These badges emphasize both **technical skills and ethical awareness**—ensuring students become not just capable users, but also conscientious digital citizens.

Our goal is not to produce more screen users. It's to raise empowered, intentional toolmakers and media-literate thinkers.



Equity, Access, & Anti-Discrimination

Ceiba Nova is a place where **all children belong**, and **all identities are respected**.

We do not tolerate discrimination based on race, ethnicity, language, neurotype, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, socioeconomic status, or family structure.

- Our curriculum reflects diverse histories, cultures, and voices.
- Classrooms are physically, emotionally, and sensorially inclusive.
- We adapt instruction to honor access needs—not just accommodate them.
- Gender-affirming and trauma-informed practices are built into daily routines.

Equity isn't just a value—it's a **daily practice** embedded in everything from seating choices to curriculum design.

Grievance, Feedback & Policy Review

We value open communication and community trust. To standardize submissions—and allow anonymous reporting—we offer an online feedback form. Concerns may also be raised verbally or in writing, and all reports are acknowledged promptly.

- We respond to every concern with open dialogue, not defensiveness, as well as transparency, respect, and a collaborative spirit.
- All complaints are documented, reviewed seriously by leadership, and addressed in a timely manner.
- Regular community check-ins and anonymous surveys provide additional opportunities for reflection and input.
- Policies remain living documents: we review them annually and refine them based on community feedback, evolving needs, and best practices.

Non-Negotiable Equity Commitments

Our human-rights and equity policies are absolute. We affirm every individual's identity—across gender, relationship diversity, and neurotype—and include global perspectives in our curriculum. **We do not censor or ban books, nor teach revisionist histories.** Grievances rooted in personal or religious objections to another's inherent rights or identity will not be discussed but not advanced. All feedback and policy review must align with our commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and respect for every member of our community.

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Acknowledgment & Agreement Form

We require all parenting adults to review and acknowledge the policies outlined in this Handbook. This ensures that families understand the expectations, procedures, and commitments necessary for a positive learning experience.

Parenting Adult Agreement

I, _____, the parenting adult of _____, have read and reviewed the Ceiba Nova Exploratory Guidebook 2025 .

I acknowledge and agree to the following:

☐ I understand and agree to abide by the drop-off and pick-up policies.

☐ I acknowledge and will follow the health and illness policies, including immunization and medication requirements.

☐ I will comply with the school's dress code and personal belongings policy.

☐ I understand the tuition, fees, and payment deadlines and agree to fulfill all financial obligations.

☐ I acknowledge the field trip and special activities policy and will provide permission as required.

☐ I agree to communicate with the school regarding any concerns, absences, or emergency situations.

☐ I understand that failure to comply with school policies may result in a meeting with the administration and, in severe cases, impact my child's enrollment status.

Emergency Contact & Authorized Pickup Confirmation

The following individuals are authorized to pick up my child from Ceiba Nova Exploratory & events (include yourself):

Primary Contact:

Name:

Relationship:

Number:

WhatsApp Number:

Email Address:

Secondary Contact:

Name:

Relationship:

Number:

WhatsApp Number:

Email Address:

Additional Authorized Pickup

Person: (if applicable)

Name:

Relationship:

WhatsApp Number:

Additional Authorized Pickup

Person: (if applicable)

Name:

Relationship:

WhatsApp Number:

Parenting Adult Signature

Parenting Adult Name:

Signature:

Date:

Parenting Adult Signature

Parenting Adult Name:

Signature:

Date:

Any changes to authorized pickup persons must be communicated to the school in writing. We will follow up with a photo request for each authorized pickup person.

Ceiba Nova Exploratory

Breaking educational norms so you
can shatter glass ceilings.

Contact

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Ceiba Nova Exploratory

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