

***“Where Learning Begins with Wonder”***

# Carolina School for Inquiry

*A Public Elementary Charter School*

**7405-A Fairfield Road**

**Columbia, South Carolina 29203**

**Phone: 803-691-1250**

**Website: [www.carolinaschoolforinquiry.org](http://www.carolinaschoolforinquiry.org)**

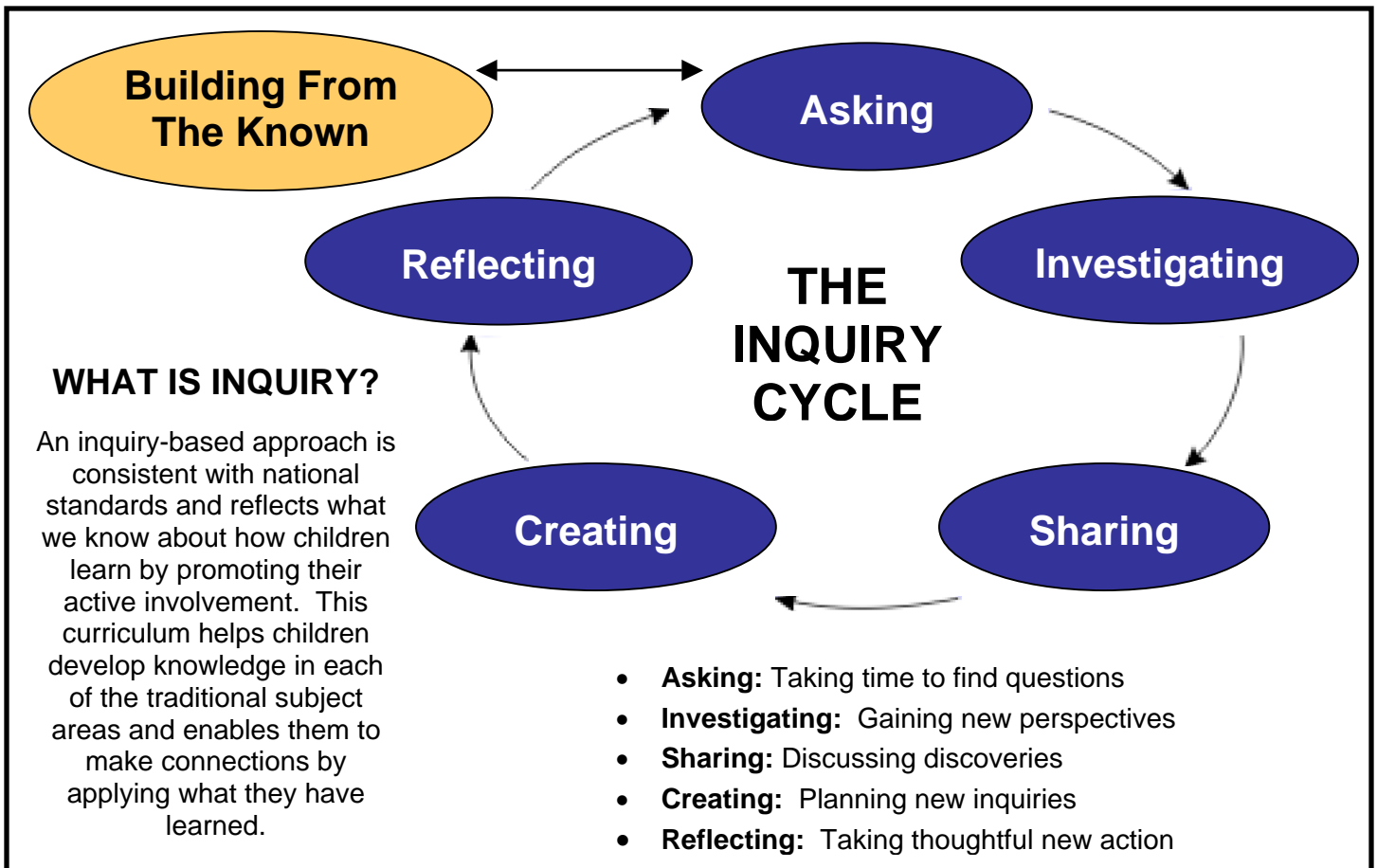
**School Location: Crane Creek Community Center**

The mission of the Carolina School for Inquiry is to teach a diverse population of children in an atmosphere of kindness that encourages active inquiry, fosters individual growth and promotes respect for self, others and the world in which they live.

## VISION

Carolina School for Inquiry cherishes children’s natural curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and their desire to cooperate with others in work and play. The curriculum is structured to tap into the children’s inquisitiveness, and use their interests to lead them to the joys of exploration and discovery. By fostering self-motivation in this way, children become inventive and independent thinkers who are confident in their ability to learn and to master challenges. We will strive to provide children with real life experiences that further their understanding of the basics of reading, mathematics, science, history, and writing while learning to do what scientists, authors, historians, and mathematicians do, explore.

Children will be engaged in rigorous units of study that require an understanding of the concepts in individual subjects as well as the interrelationship among subjects. This will take place in individual study, small group and whole group inquiry projects, strategy lessons that focus on skill development, and direct instruction.



# CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR INQUIRY EXPECTATIONS GUIDE

## What NOT to Expect at CSI

## What TO Expect at CSI

Report cards with letter grades	Detailed individual assessments with checklists and narrative or conference
Textbook driven curriculum	Curriculum designed by teachers using a variety of resources including student ideas, field study, teacher resource books and Internet sources that support and extend the S.C. Standard Course of Study
Competition	Cooperation
Homework repetitive of day's activities	Homework designed to extend skills/concepts learned at school
Limited parental involvement	A <u>high level</u> of parental involvement is expected
Quiet classrooms	Classrooms filled with a "learning hum"
Limited arts programs	Integrated arts education and classes with a specialist
Whole-class instruction targeted to the "average" student	A variety of groupings for learning: whole class, small group, and a great deal of individualized instruction
Teacher-controlled classroom	Student-centered classrooms with high levels of student self-direction
Subject areas taught in isolation	Integrated curriculum: connections are made between subject areas

### Student Application

Admission to the school is non-discriminatory. If more applications are received than CSI can accommodate, a lottery will be held. Classes are multiage (primary (K-1st), early (2nd-3rd) and upper (4th-5th) elementary) and class size is limited to 18 students (9 for each grade). Each level has two classes with a total student school population of 108 students. Once a student has been admitted, formal enrollment is required. Please refer to the Student Application Web Page for submittal deadlines. All applications should be mailed to the address on the front page.

### Lottery

The lottery is open to the public, but it is not necessary for applicants to be present. All students' parents will be contacted about the result of the lottery. Students whose names are selected will be placed on class lists and other students will be placed in order on a class wait list. Once admitted, a student does not have to re-apply each year.

### Transportation and Lunch

Founders of CSI had to set priorities about how resources would be utilized, and chose to emphasize quality teachers and learning materials over providing an elaborate transportation system. That means we do not provide bus transportation, but encourage neighborhood car pools. Cold breakfasts and hot lunches are available. For assistance with transportation or lunches, arrangements can be made through the administrator. All requests will be kept confidential.

### Afterschool Program

CSI partners with Richland County Recreation Commission in providing an afterschool program.

## Community Partners

Carolina School for Inquiry is proud to work with these community organizations, creating extraordinary partnerships to enhance our students' learning.



*The Carolina School for Inquiry is a public charter school and does not discriminate in its admission procedures nor charge for enrollment. The charter school must administer all required state tests and comply with S.C. educational requirements.*