



What is Castle School?

Castle is a year-round, co-ed, residential school and treatment center. We serve 12 adolescents, ages 13-17, whose emotional and behavioral problems have made it impossible for them to function at home or in public school.

Students at Castle become part of a small and personal, yet highly structured environment with a range of learning experiences geared to their special needs. A full-time school program is carefully meshed with a residential living experience, where the focus is on success and achievement and learning the tools for reality-based problem solving. Students usually stay between 1 and 2 years, with the goal of moving back into a more "normalized" setting—their own home, an alternative family, or independent living.

How Did Castle Start?

Castle grew from a broad community effort coordinated by the Cambridge-Somerville Mental Health Center to create a residential program for youth as an alternative to state hospitals or institutions. Forming an independent, non-profit corporation in 1977, this group, with much hard work and few dollars, opened the doors of the school in October 1978.

Castle's Educateur Program

Castle's program is modelled after the "psycho-educateur" approach in residential treatment developed in Montreal. This approach views the troubled adolescents we serve as those whose life experiences have prevented them from gaining the coping skills they need to function responsibly. So, our focus is on helping them to learn those skills—and to change a self-image of failure and incompetence to confidence based on real achievement.

Castle emphasizes the *normal process* of development as a tool for growth. Structured program activities move our students gradually from simple to more complicated skills in a sequence patterned after normal child development.

success, not failure. Building on strengths, students are given many opportunities for achievement in a supportive atmosphere where limits are clear, but not punitive.

learning by doing. Hands-on, structured activities during the entire day are a foundation of the program. Each activity—in school, recreation, chores, meals and self-care—is one more step toward growth.

teaching *planning and problem solving*. The key idea is that there is a fundamental approach to solving problems that can work to give youngsters some control over their own lives. For those fighting years of a failure identity, this idea is not easy to grasp. Much time and practice in every phase of living and relating is needed before they can trust and use their new skills themselves.

What Is Included in the Program?

SCHOOL: a daily program of academics, arts, gym, and vocational activities is mandatory for all residents. As a Chapter 766 approved school, Castle can work with the student's local school to see that credits earned are applied to high school graduation. Classes are small, and learning is tailored to individual needs.

VOCATIONAL: including job readiness classes, skill training, and job placement. Every student participates in a volunteer work placement program in the community before taking on a paying job.

COUNSELING: individual, group and family. Each youngster is assigned a counselor from our staff, responsible for counseling, planning and primary contact with the student's family. Outside therapy is also available.

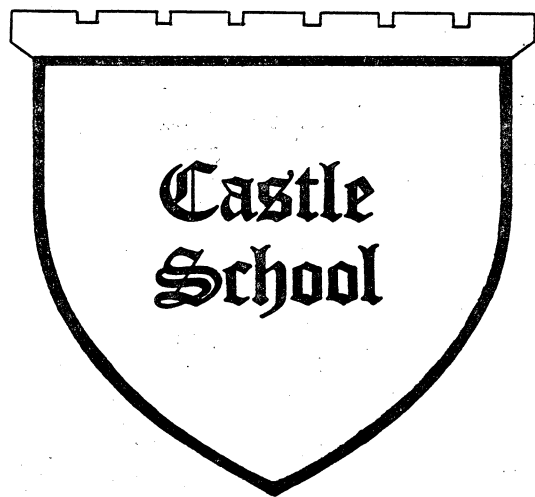
RECREATION: a variety of leisure time activities are encouraged to teach students ways to enjoy themselves constructively. Two major camping trips are scheduled each year, as well as activities at home and in the community.

LIFE SKILLS: The concrete skills of daily living—knowing how to make a bed, care for clothing and laundry, shopping and cooking, good study habits—are all seen as part of the educational program, not just as chores. So we put a real emphasis on teaching these properly.

Who Pays For Castle School?

The basic costs of operating are covered by tuition payments set by the state and made by the agencies that place youngsters at Castle. However, given our tight budget, private donations have always played an important role, often making the critical difference in the quality of treatment.

If you would like to help Castle School—with services or contributions—please contact one of the school's administrative staff at 354-5410. Contributions are tax-deductible.



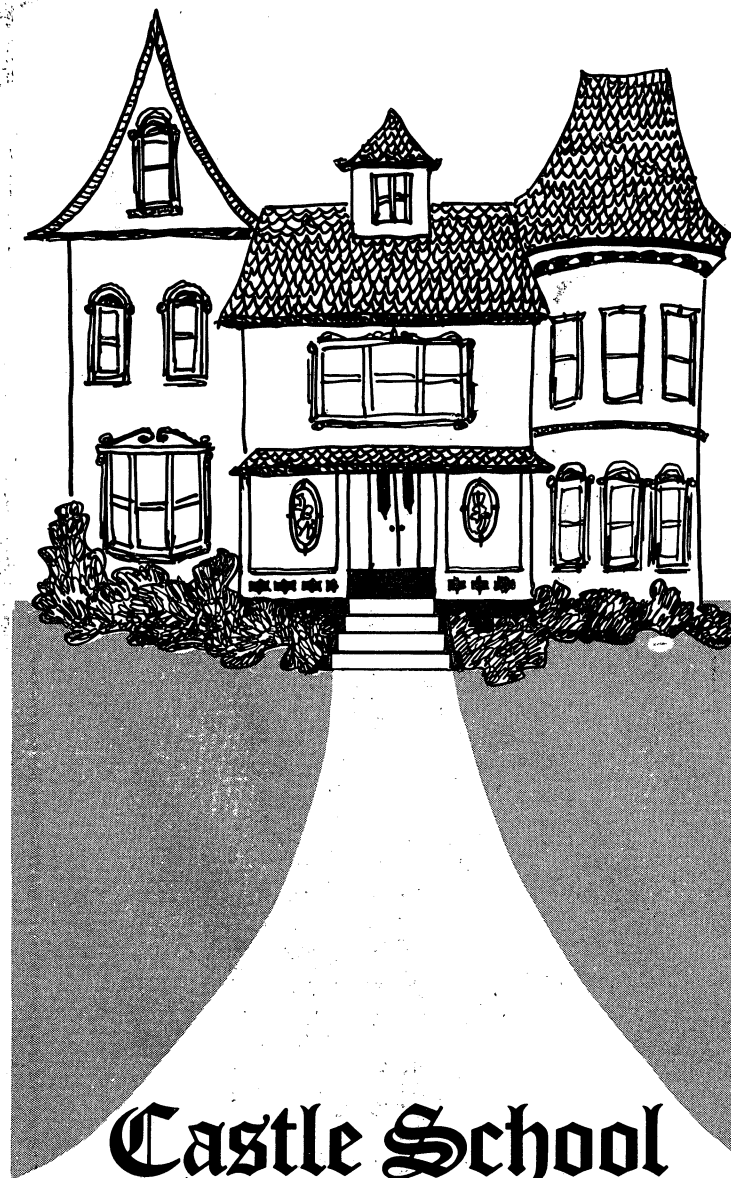
Castle School is a treatment and educational facility licensed by the Massachusetts Office for Children and approved by the Massachusetts Division of Special Education as a 766 school. It is a member of the Massachusetts Association of 766 approved Private School (MAAPS) and the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers. Its policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, or national ancestry.

Castle School
298 Harvard Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

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Castle School

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298 Harvard St.
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The 5th
Birthday Party!!

October 28, 1983 4-6 pm
CASTLE SCHOOL
298 Harvard Street
Cambridge
Slide Show!!

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