LEADERSHIP EFFECTING CHANGE:
RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION IN THE BAHAMAS

www.islandschool.org www.ceibahamas.org www.dcmsbahamas.org www.puttingschoolstowork.org

BESS
Bahamas Environmental Steward Scholars

In 2007, The Island School launched the BESS Program targeting the next generation of Bahamian leadership who will be most important for the social, environmental, and economic stability of this island nation.

BESS students enroll in a year-long, high school post-graduate program that includes a semester at The Island School and a six-month internship at a conservation-related organization such as Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation, the Bahamas National Trust, or the Cape Eleuthera Institute.

The internship gives students real-world work experience and helps them develop an understanding of the environmental and conservation issues that are of primary importance to The Bahamas.



Scholars have been involved hands-on in shark and aquaculture research, and become educators themselves for visiting students.

DEEP CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Deep Creek Middle School is an independent school for Bahamian students in grades seven through nine located on the southern end of the island of Eleuthera. DCMS offers an experiential approach to the Bahamian curriculum. It is fully endorsed and recognized by the Bahamian Ministry of Education

Middle-school students learn to understand the natural environment and how every one of our choices and actions have an impact on it. Each year during the Field Trip series students explore and learn that things are interconnected and that when changes occur in one area of a system it impacts and affects other areas of that system.



Students diving into the marine habitat during Field Trip Series to discover the beauty and value of The Bahamas' greatest resource.

They ask what it means to live a "green" lifestyle and walk away with the knowledge and skills to lead their communities towards positive change.

By looking behind the curtain they see the real impact of our daily choices as consumers and citizens and search for ways to improve our current systems to help protect our environment for future generations.

Deep Creek Middle School students explore their local coastal environments, learn to swim, snorkel and scuba dive, and go into the field with researchers from the Cape Eleuthera Institute. The sustainable systems around our campus are their classroom.

THE ISLAND SCHOOL

The Island School is a mind, body, and spirit journey that takes students away from traditional high school curriculum and invites them to confront authentic challenges. Classes are designed to allow first-hand engagement with the people and environment of The Bahamas. English, math, environmental art, history, applied scientific research, human ecology, and marine ecology are offered; each course focuses on the application of knowledge to real-world problems.

The Island School research program is a unique opportunity for students to apply what they learn across disciplines to a field-based project of local and regional significance.


Students learning and conducting marine surveys on SCUBA and assisting in the wet-lab with aquaculture.

How do scientific data generate scientific knowledge?

Each semester, students and teachers from The Island School work side-by-side with staff at the Cape Eleuthera Institute, visiting graduate students, and visiting scientists to address focused research questions related to larger programmatic themes. In this way, primary research quickly becomes application-based experiential education that has direct benefits to students and as well as the local community and the environment.

How do the environment, society, and scientific research impact one another?



Students discussing the conservation of recreational fisheries with local stakeholders, conducting fish surveys in tidal mangrove creeks, and assisting in fish dissections.

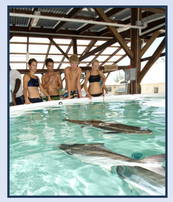
By charging the students with designing, implementing, and communicating results from real scientific research initiatives, the research program epitomizes the school's vision and mission of creating opportunities for students to produce work that has important consequences for the local, scientific, and global communities.


Students learning how to draw blood from a fish during a physiology study and assessing reef health on SCUBA.

How do I know what to do when I don't know what to do?

What are the essential qualities of a well-designed research question?





Students assisting in predator telemetry studies, learning about local fisheries and sustainable offshore aquaculture as a potential solution to depleted wild fisheries.

CAPE ELEUTHERA INSTITUTE
RESEARCH EDUCATION OUTREACH

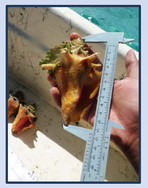
The mission of CEI is to promote the conservation of the tropical marine and coastal ecosystems of Eleuthera, The Bahamas, and the greater Caribbean by facilitating the research of resident and visiting scientists, supporting the education of students at all levels, and promoting outreach efforts to enhance the conservation awareness of local and global communities.

In-house research programs at the Cape Eleuthera Institute reflect initiatives undertaken by our staff as they work to address environmental and socioeconomic issues on a local, regional and global scale.

In this process, we partner with a variety of government and non-government organizations, as well as scientists from universities and other organizations.


Research topics include apex predator ecology, the impact of invasive lionfish to local ecosystems, tidal creek and flats ecosystem ecology.

Our partnerships help us to develop long-term research projects that have 'real world' application that also allow for hands-on learning for visitors of all ages to learn about tropical environments and sustainable living.

Research addresses local fishery issues and the need for sustainable aquaculture and food security.

Education takes place with middle-school, high-school, college and post-graduate students, for a few days to several weeks, semester programs, and through internships.



Students exploring tropical coastal ecology, interns assisting in field data collection, and working with sustainable food systems on our campus.