



Parents, we are so excited about this upcoming school year! Can you believe we are beginning our seventh year of Homestead Montessori? We have made updates to our enrollment fees, contracts, and Parent Handbook. We have done our best to highlight our changes for returning families. Please, thoroughly review all documents and let us know if you have any questions. We have also included a summary of our vision and classroom methodology here at Homestead.

Our Mission:

Farm schools often don't have traditional "subject days" in the way a traditional classroom might. Instead, they integrate learning across subjects and allow for child-led exploration and inquiry. They may have themes for the week or specific areas of focus, but the curriculum is often designed to be flexible and adapt to the children's interests and the natural environment.

Here's a more detailed look at how nature schools approach learning:

Integrated Curriculum:

Subjects like reading, writing, math, science, and art are interwoven throughout the day, rather than being taught in separate blocks of time.

Inquiry-Based Learning:

Children are encouraged to ask questions, explore, and discover, with teachers guiding and facilitating their learning rather than directly instructing them.

Nature as a Classroom:

The natural world is the primary learning environment, and lessons are often tied to what the children are observing and experiencing outdoors.

Field Studies and Wilderness Skills:

Many nature schools incorporate field studies in natural science, and may also teach wilderness skills like navigation, shelter building, and fire starting, and survival skills.

Play-Based Learning:

Children are given opportunities for free play, both structured and unstructured, which supports their social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Seasonal Rhythms:

Some nature schools follow a seasonal curriculum, exploring different topics and themes based on the time of year.

Flexibility and Adaptability:

Nature school schedules and activities are often designed to be flexible and adapt to the weather, the needs of the children, and the opportunities presented by the natural environment.

Our Classroom:

Homestead Montessori Farm School is a type of educational institution that integrates the Montessori method of teaching with a farm setting. It provides a unique learning environment that combines academic study with hands-on experience in a natural, outdoor setting, often including opportunities for gardening, animal care, and other farm-related activities.

Here's a more detailed look at what Montessori Farm Schools do:

Key Features:

Montessori Method:

The core educational approach is based on Maria Montessori's principles, emphasizing self-directed learning, individualized instruction, and a prepared learning environment.

Farm Setting:

The school is located on or includes a working farm, providing opportunities for hands-on learning, real-world experiences, and connection to nature.

Curriculum:

We use many different curricula blending our own and including Waseca, The Good and Beautiful, Spectrum, Forest School and Elephant Math online. The curriculum often incorporates elements related to agriculture, gardening, animal husbandry, and sustainability, while still covering traditional academic subjects.

Student Roles:

Students may have roles on the farm, such as tending to animals, planting and harvesting crops, or helping with farm operations, harvesting honey and beekeeping.

Community

The farm environment fosters social interaction, responsibility, and a sense of community, while also providing opportunities to develop practical life skills.

Environmental Stewardship:

Our Montessori Farm School emphasizes stewardship of creation and teaches students about the importance of caring for the land, animals and our resources.

Benefits:

Hands-on Learning:

Provides students with opportunities to learn by doing, engaging in real-world experiences that complement classroom learning.

Nature Connection:

Fosters a love for nature and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Practical Life Skills:

Develops practical skills, such as gardening, animal care, and problem-solving, that can be applied in various aspects of life.