



Est. 2012



Homeschool Choice Program

Two activity days per week: T & F

TheBirchSchool.org

9 Vance Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575

845-645-7772

Homeschoolers at Birch

The Choice 2-day program for homeschoolers provides opportunities for creativity, collaboration and discovery in a community of learners. The focus is on hands-on activity with lots of room to experiment and expand interests. Our program offers student choice and delivers a combination of traditional learning with integrative, experiential activities that promote student engagement and understanding.



Student-focused

Choice Days at The Birch School

Classes offered include foreign language (Spanish & Italian), Computer Programming, Art, Physical Education, Learning Games, Engineering, Critical Thinking, Philosophy, Digital Arts, Economics, Forensics, Robotics, Handwork, Podcasting, Drama & Improvisation.

CHOICE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Stopmotion animation
- Game design
- Thinking skills
- Debate
- Watercolor painting
- Cooperative games
- Brain science
- Math & Art
- Intro to Electronics
- Nature writing and observation
- Team Games /PE
- Creative Writing
- Cooking
- Programming/Coding
- Teen philosophy
- Team building
- Character education
- Shakespeare
- Handcrafts
- Digital Arts
- History of Jazz
- Spanish/ Italian
- Finance and budgeting
- Outdoor Math

2 days per week-Tuesday & Friday

Trimester 1- September 18th – December 15th

Trimester 2- January 3rd – March 22nd

Trimester 3- March 23rd – June 15th



Flexible, Kind, Accommodating & Fun

Our homeschool program is designed to be flexible and fun. We offer lots of opportunities for collaboration and discovery in an environment of support and safety.

Birch School teachers have extensive experience working with homeschoolers and are kind and accommodating with students and parents. We honor each student and understand that every child is an individual with unique needs and challenges.

Our mixed-age community is welcoming and friendly. Happy and healthy students are of primary importance to us and we work hard to achieve that experience for everyone. We want our students to *want* to come to school each day. Our atmosphere is relaxed and flexible.



Community Circle, the talking stick and conflict resolution



At The Birch School, we utilize a community circle to unify our students and staff and allow each student's voice to be heard. The talking stick, a tool we learned from native people, symbolizes the attention of the circle: whoever has the talking stick has the floor to speak.

Sometimes the stick goes around the circle with students answering easy questions or speaking gratitude. Sometimes the talking stick allows students to voice concerns about school and their interactions and to point out problems and solutions to problems.

Even the youngest and quietest members of the community can influence the decisions we make together, speaking with the authority of the talking stick.

SCHEDULE

Our schedule gives students two one-hour morning activity periods, and one longer afternoon period (1.5 hours) per day. Students choose their classes at the start of each trimester. Classes run for the duration of the term. Class options available upon request.

9:45 - 10:00	Arrival – Snack – Check-in Social Free Time or Community Circle
10:00 – 10:55	Activity period 1
11:00 – 11:50	Activity period 2
11:50 – 12:50	LUNCH
12:50 – 2:15	Activity period 3
2:15 - 2:25	Clean-up, Pack-up, Pick-up

TUITION

2 days per week Choice Homeschool Days 9:45am – 2:30pm
trimester 1- \$1175; trimester 2- \$995; trimester 3- \$995

Options for a longer day.

Extended Homeschool Day – Later pickup 9:45am – 3:30pm
\$200 additional per trimester

(Last period 2:30 – 3:30 can be study hall, project time, club time, tutoring)



Student Responsibilities:

- participate in Community Circle, chores, and group decision-making
- attend regularly, prioritize attendance
- complete schoolwork, come to class prepared, ask questions when unclear
- students must request missed work when absent, and are responsible for completing missed work on their own time
- discuss with teachers and parents their learning track, and what is working for them as well as what is not.
- “Treat others as you would like to be treated”.
- Agree to Birch School social media behavior policy, and moderate interactions with other students via social media.

Shoe-Free - Tea – Water

We ask that students leave street shoes in the vestibule, and they wear slippers, crocs, or socks when inside the building. These can be left at school if preferred. Students should bring a lunch and a snack, as well as a Water Bottle that can be refilled. Hot tea is available for tea during the day, if you'd like bring a mug and teabags.

Computers, iPads, Cell-Phones and Devices.

If students bring cell phones they are required to leave them in the assigned pocket in the vestibule area. Sometimes phones are used during class, and if this true students will be asked to get their phones from the vestibule.

Computer use is not required for participation in classes, but when used properly and in moderation the tool delivers learning opportunities not available otherwise.

Field Trips

Periodically we will arrange for Field Trips that enhance and broaden our learning in a particular area. Several times per year we also take advantage of local live theater that is available to us. When Field Trips are arranged on a day that homeschoolers typically attend Birch they are invited to participate in the trip with the group, however transportation to and from the venue is not guaranteed and must be provided by the parent, and entry fees or ticket cost must be paid by the parent.

Students with Special Needs

Our teachers are designing a learning program for all of our students. Individual students are expected to progress at a pace similar to others in the learning community. Some student special needs can be accommodated, however we have discovered that there are limits to what works in this environment. If your student has individual needs or learning differences, or if you have had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) please make an appointment to meet with us to discuss your student's needs and learning goals and together we can decide if the program is a good match.



Behavior Code of Conduct/Discipline

At Birch we expect students to willingly attend and participate in program activities. If students are not participating appropriately a conference with parents will be requested. If after a conference students continue to resist participating with material they may be asked to leave the program.

Applications: We have limited openings in each learning level and will accept students on an individual basis following submission of a completed application, parent and child interview and student visit. It is important to us as educators to ascertain that we have the proper skills and resources available to meet each individual student's needs. The Birch School retains the right to determine student compatibility and assess each student's level of preparation for the Birch program. Our goal is to maximize success and we will ensure that each student accepted is a mutually beneficial match.

SNOW DAYS:

We use Valley Central School District as a guide as to whether school is open or closed due to weather. However, our students travel from a distance to attend school causing us to close at times that other schools may remain open. In the case of excessive snow days work is available to students via the Learning Management System and students may be responsible for schoolwork in this case.

Payment:

Payments can be made in one or two equal payments as spelled out in the tuition worksheet completed at time of enrollment. Monthly payments can be arranged by enrolling in our tuition management program (\$45 fee annually). See The Birch School Registrar for more information.

Tuition is non-refundable, except in the case of moving or major medical issue. At least 2 weeks written notice is required for any changes to program or withdrawal for above reasons. No makeup days are available. We are not responsible for school closings due to weather, or other emergencies. Students who do not abide by the student code of conduct will be dismissed with no refund.

Financial Aid

At this time Financial Aid is available only to students who are planning to attend Birch full-time.

School Supplies/Notebooks/Curriculum

\$70 per trimester per student
We charge a materials fee that covers all necessary materials, paper, copies, notebooks, folders, art supplies, craft materials, cooking supplies, pencils, markers, and project materials. This also covers expenses for textbooks, access to online resources, and spring water for drinking. Your student should not need any additional school supplies.

