

THE FARM SCHOOL



Main Campus
Peter Kindfield, Ph.D. Principal
151 Schoolhouse Road
Summertown, TN 38483
931.964.2325 (voice)
931.964.2362 (fax)
peter@thefarmcommunity.com

Satellite Campuses Office
Jacki Willard, Coordinator
3135 Lakeland Drive
Nashville TN 37214
615 889-4938 (voice & fax)
thefarmschool.satellitecampuses@gmail.com

THE FARM SCHOOL

The Farm School located in Summertown (about an hour and a half South-Southwest of Nashville) has been serving the Farm Community and selected students from outside the community since 1971. Established as a one-room school, we are now housed in a beautiful passive solar building serving grades K - 12. **The Farm School** has recently been recognized by the TN Department of Education as a Category IV Exempted School. Operating under the Jeter Memo **The Farm School** founded the *Farm School Satellite Campuses* program as an umbrella for off-Farm, home-based learners.

The Farm School Vision

The Farm School is an educational resource center and hub of activity making the knowledge and physical resources of The Farm available to an international community of lifelong learners of all ages.

The Farm School Mission

The Farm School seeks to support diverse individuals actualizing our unique potentials as we work and play toward personal, community and planetary wellbeing.

The Farm School Educational Philosophy

At **The Farm School** students learn as they apply basic skills and content to real-world problems with a focus on peace, equality and sustainability. We use responsive curriculum to connect what our students learn to their and our community's needs, interests, experiences and values.

THE FARM SCHOOL SATELLITE CAMPUSES PROGRAM

The Farm School is a community school, an umbrella for off-Farm home/community-based learners (*Farm School Satellite Campuses*) and a home & community-based learning resource center. We are very excited to be able to offer an alternative for *homeschool* families that, for whatever reason, are not comfortable registering with their Local Educational Agency (LEA) or with a denominational Church Related School (CRS). We require no statement of faith and are not interested in mandating curriculum or any other decisions. We believe in responsive education matched to the needs, interests and experiences of individual children. And we believe that the adults best able to negotiate curriculum with children are the adults spending time with those children on a daily basis.

Yearly registration fees for The Farm School Satellite Campuses Program are \$30 per year for grade levels K-8, \$70 for grade levels 9-12. We offer a 20% sibling discount. This fee covers the cost of:

- Centralized record keeping
- Reporting to students' LEA's (if requested by the student's family)
- Paperwork (*The Farm School Satellite Campus* diploma, yearly transcript, drivers license form)

This registration fee also entitles registered students to a 20% discount on ala Carte and intensive classes offered by **The Farm School**. Our classes are priced from \$5 per session for on-going 30-60 minute ala Carte classes to \$50 per day for full-day specialty intensives. Registration fees are not pro-rated or refundable.

Additional fees may apply for additional services such as curriculum consultation, portfolio planning and review, and transcript review.

Any legal information provided is for informational purposes only and should not be considered complete, professional legal advice.



Our program operates under what is commonly referred to as the Jeter Memo (see the section under "Additional Educational Option" at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/homeschool/>) When you enroll with *The Farm School* satellite campuses program your home will be designated as a classroom or extension of the Farm School and at least one parent/guardian will be considered to be a faculty member of *The Farm School Satellite Campus* under the direct supervision of our administration. Your children will technically no longer be *homeschoolers* — they will be students of *The Farm School* a non-public church-related school therefore you should **not** file a “Tennessee Department of Education Church-Related (Satellite) Home School Registration Form” with your LEA. If you have filed a “Notice of Intent to Home School” with the state through the LEA you will need to fill-out our “Transfer Request for Student Records” and return it to *The Farm School at Home Satellite Campus Program* office at

3135 Lakeland Drive Nashville TN 37214. (see: http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/Aug06/IVH_Cat_IV_Approval_FarmSchool.pdf#search=%22TN%20%22Category%20IV%20Schools%22%20%22The%20Farm%20School%22%22)

Attendance and progress / grade reports are required. The school year runs July 1 - June 30. First semester begins on July 1 and ends on December 31. Second semester begins on January 1 and ends on June 30. **Reports are due no later than 30 days after the end of a semester.** During any one school year the attendance requirement is at least 180 days.

The Farm School would like to help you find your own path to our high school diploma by:

1. Coming up with agreements with you and your family about what you want to accomplish;
2. Helping you create a path to accomplish your goals;
3. Providing resources to help you accomplish your goals (including: classes, seminars, workshops, an internet home-base, learning coaches, project advisors, topic experts); and
4. Helping you keep a portfolio that shows your progress towards your goals.

We believe that students should not be required to fit into a one-size-fits-all system. Yet most colleges and other schools require transcripts that list grades in classes in specified subjects with specified unit values. Students on a college path need to map their experiences onto a unit per course framework. This can be done in a number of ways.

Paths to *The Farm School Satellite Campus* graduation requirements

Portfolio Assessment:

Students document their accomplishments and create an index that maps from specific learning objectives (e.g., understands that most common American health problems result from excess not deficiencies) into their work (e.g., a project including a personal health plan).

Real-Time Credit Accounting:

Families can map experiences into courses as they occur. For example, a visit to the doctor for an annual check-up gets credited as 1-hour towards a 180-hour/1-credit biology class. Generally one credit is equal to 150/180 *clock* hours of study/activity in an area that would be the equivalent of a one-year course in high school. A half credit would be given for ~75 /90 hours or a semester-long high school course. The time spent in study/activity is not limited to time reading a textbook and taking exams. It can include anything the student does related to that academic subject.

Traditional Course Credits:

Families can structure learning experiences as subject area classes that meet regularly for a specified numbers of hours. For example, crediting a self-paced biology class that a student participates in 5-hours a week for 45 weeks as a 1 unit biology class. Grading scale A (100-94), B (93-87), C (86-77), D (76-70), F (69-0).

Below are the Tennessee high school graduation requirements (see <http://www.state.tn.us/education/gradreq.shtml>)

If you are following a traditional path for high school this information may help guide your course selections.

Core:

English Language Arts	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Wellness	1
Total.....	14

University Preparation Curriculum Units

Foreign Language	2
Fine Arts	1
Electives	3
Total.....	6

Technical Preparation Curriculum Units

Program of study focusing on a particular technical area	4
Electives	2
Total.....	6