

Lakeside School Faculty

Our teachers are experts in the social, physical and emotional development of young children. They are committed to the inner work of the teacher—honoring the children individually and as a group in an effort to truly support the needs of each child. The teachers at Lakeside understand the importance of their own self-development and are dedicated to their ongoing professional and personal growth.

Our faculty brings experience in early childhood development, Waldorf teacher training, natural history, the arts, outdoor education, and farming.



Board of Directors

Brian DeGroat
Kyle Grimes
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Richard Robbins
Carolyn Sicher
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Contact us for more information, to attend an observation day, or schedule a classroom visit.

Supporting Lakeside School

Lakeside School is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Since our beginning in 2006 the number of North Country families we serve has more than tripled. We are putting down sturdy roots, deepening our commitment to preserving childhood and building strong, healthy individuals and communities.

Please consider supporting Lakeside School and helping children meet the world in an engaged, confident and positive way.



Lakeside School

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Lakeside School at Black Kettle Farm

*A developing member of the Waldorf Early
Childhood Association of North America*



Champlain Valley
Essex, New York

Welcome to Lakeside School

Lakeside School at Black Kettle Farm is a unique, Waldorf inspired childhood experience for children birth to grade three in the heart of the Champlain Valley. Our holistic, developmentally based approach to education nurtures each child in a loving, home-like environment. From animal husbandry to planting, tending, and harvesting their produce, children experience the seasonal food cycles of agriculture first-hand.

At Lakeside, children learn about themselves and the world around them. It is a place where children can still be children as they learn to be contributing members of a community. The experiences at Lakeside lay a strong foundation for success in all areas of life by fostering confidence, self-reliance, independence, a genuine interest in others, and a life-long love of learning.

Parents and community members are invited to participate in our parent education evenings, work parties, community events and rich festival life.



Early Childhood

Lakeside's play-based early childhood curriculum stimulates a child's natural interest in his or her environment and fosters powers of concentration, imagination, creative problem solving, social skills, and foundations for life-long learning. Interwoven within the play are opportunities for the children to assist teachers with activities such as cooking, cleaning, snack preparation, hauling firewood, building projects, animal husbandry and farming. Our three Early Childhood programs build on each other as children move through their early years.

Mountain Tots ages birth to 3 (and parents or caregivers)

MountainTots is an opportunity for families to meet and support each other during their children's early years. Children and their caregivers gather once a week to experience a simplified morning inspired by the Waldorf philosophy, sharing snack, play, circle songs, farm chores & outside time together.

Sprouts ages walking 1 to 3^{1/2}

Monday through Friday, 8:15am to 2:15pm

The Sprouts program has a predictable and steady rhythm in a home-like environment. Sprouts children have ample opportunities for movement through outdoor play, farm exploration and animal care. The multi-age experience afforded by our connections with teachers and children in other classes at Lakeside add dimensions of community and caring to the Sprouts. The program includes a healthy, whole-food lunch and snacks.

Pre-K/Kindergarten ages 3^{1/2} to 6

Monday through Friday (or Thursday), 8:15am to 12:15pm

In our Kindergarten program language arts are brought to the children orally through stories, songs, poems, and puppet plays—awakening a love of language and laying a key foundation for literacy. Sensory integration takes place through joyful movement, farm and domestic chores, and physical activities. Artistic opportunities include painting, drawing, sewing and beeswax modeling as well as seasonal crafts.



Elementary School

During these early academic years, children will form good work habits as they explore language arts, mathematics, history and science. They expand their abilities in the practical, visual and performing arts while continuing to engage with our farm and forest at Black Kettle. Subject classes in all grades explore foreign languages, music, eurythmy, watercolor painting, form drawing, beeswax modeling, knitting, movement-games, nature walks and farming.

First through Third Grades ages 6 to 9

Monday through Friday, 8:15am to 2:15pm

Lakeside offers enriching multi-age elementary classrooms for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades.

The First Grade offers the children a gentle transition into a new phase of development while providing enlivening lessons that appeal to the student's vibrant and pictorial imaginations. The First Grade curriculum is engaging and diverse, including an introduction to the alphabet and writing, arithmetic, fairy tales, folk tales, handwork and nature stories.

The second grade curriculum reaches deeper into language and literacy, mathematics, nature studies, fables, and hero and heroine stories from around the world. The Third Grade curriculum offers practical experiences in mathematics, further exploration of food and farming, shelter-building, archetypal stories and Native American tales, as well as a strong focus on reading and writing.

Extended Day

At Lakeside we offer **extended day care options for all ages** until 5pm, with a 2:15pm dismissal option for Kindergartners.