



THE BEAGLE SCHOOL

History

The Beagle School was originally chartered in 1972 by the New York State board of Regents. Eight families seeking a more flexible education for their children, started with 13 pupils. Maintaining the high educational standards of those first families, while continuing to grow in success and spirit, we now have an enrollment of 102 children.



The Beagle School offers classroom experiences in an emotionally and physically rich environment, which hopes to foster a life-long love of learning. Our school is dedicated to exploration, discovery and the sense of wonder that belonged to Charles Darwin and his ship, The HMS Beagle.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Beagle School is to provide a quality preschool educational program, which fosters the sense of wonder, and discovery that naturally exists in all children. Through a variety of enriching experiences children will be supported in all areas of development with a particular emphasis on such traits as self-motivation, responsibility and creativity.

This will be accomplished through the Beagle School working together with families to assure a safe and nurturing environment for each child.

Administration and Staff

At the heart of our school are our teachers: trained professionals with preschool experience. Most important is their love for the uniqueness of children. Volunteers, student teachers and parents further enrich classes.

Our office is staffed by the curriculum director who oversees the educational programming at The Beagle School. The office manager handles the secretarial and bookkeeping responsibilities. The Board of Trustees sets policy and oversees the general operation of the school.

Parent Involvement

The Beagle School is committed to encouraging family participation in all aspects of the children's education. We welcome parents in the classroom as participants or observers. We rely on parents to drive for our field trips and as substitutes when a staff member must be absent. Our committees tap the skills and talents of parents to support the overall functioning of the school.



Our School

The Beagle School offers a friendly and casual environment with open but carefully planned classrooms. As children listen, observe and manipulate materials, they build a strong foundation for future learning. Emphasis is placed on developing a sense of community with respect and trust for one another.

- ▶ The Beagle School programs run from September through June and follow the Saratoga Springs public school schedule in regard to snow days and vacation days.
- ▶ In addition to a morning or afternoon program for 3 & 4-year olds, a program for 2 year olds emphasizing socialization and play is also offered.
- ▶ All children have snack at school. Each Family takes turns providing snacks and drinks for their class.
- ▶ Field trips are scheduled to enhance the curriculum. Outings are planned to the park, library, museums and live children's productions in nearby communities. A one-time activity fee covers the expense of all excursions. Parents have opportunities to help out in the capacity of driving and chaperoning.
- ▶ Our outdoor play area is a large fenced-in playground with a variety of structures that develop large motor skills while also encouraging creativity and fun. Weather permitting; the children are able to play outside on most days.
- ▶ Time is set aside for parent conferences.
- ▶ The Beagle School welcomes children of all races and ethnic origins and does not discriminate in the administration of any of its policies.



Two-Year-Old Program

A warm, cheerful, non-academic introduction to the school experience is the emphasis of this program. Through group play, art, activities, poems and stories, the children are encouraged to share and discover. Classes meet two days a week from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday). The maximum number of children per class is ten, with a teacher and an assistant. Children must be two years old on or before September 1.

Morning and Afternoon Preschool

The children's natural curiosity helps us to develop a theme approach to learning where they are given opportunities for creative play, stories, field trips, art projects and time to play outdoors.

The daily schedule is flexible to accommodate the needs and interests of the children. Choices are arranged so that the children can develop their motor skills while continuing to have opportunities to socialize. Our pre-reading and early math skills are open-ended so that each child can achieve success according to his or her abilities.

Our student/teacher ratio is 7:1. Morning classes meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon classes meet from 12:40- 3:40. Children, who are 3 years old on or before December 1, are eligible for our Tuesday/Thursday morning or afternoon classes. Children, who are 4 years old on or before December 1, are eligible for the Monday/Wednesday/ Friday morning or afternoon classes.



Registration

Applications are available beginning February 1 for the following September. Please see the program description for the appropriate ages. A visit to the school is recommended prior to submitting an application and can be arranged through the office. Information regarding our annual January open house can also be obtained by calling the office or going to our Web site.

Currently enrolled families are given first option to continue at The Beagle School. Remaining spaces are filled by a lottery system.

Summers at The Beagle School

Our summer programs runs for ten consecutive weeks beginning the end of June. Class is held in the morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Parents may register their children for two, three or five mornings per week in any combination of weeks. Children may range in age from 2-1/2 to 5 years of age.

The summer program focuses on socialization and having fun, with much of the program held outside in the schoolyard. This mixed age group is involved in walks to the park and library, crafts, painting, stories and dance. Each week is planned around a different theme. Applications are available in the spring.



OUR SCHOOL IS DEDICATED TO EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY AND THE SENSE OF WONDER THAT BELONGED TO CHARLES DARWIN AND HIS SHIP, THE HMS BEAGLE.





The Beagle School



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