



Prospect Hill Farm Connection LLC
“Farm School”
HANDBOOK

Farm Connection (“Farm School”) Contact Information

Owners/Educators: Ami and Ijme Zijlstra

Address: 5021 Prospect Hill Road Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

Notice: Google Maps MAY take you to the wrong address. We are one driveway north of Easudes. (GPS will sometimes take you south of Easudes.) Address is on the green mailbox.

Telephone or TEXT: (734) 649-2969

Email: prohillfarm@gmail.com

Website: www.prospecthillfarmmichigan.com

Program Description

Prospect Hill Farm and the Farm School program includes 15 acres of pasture and wooded areas. Students will explore and investigate the science and beauty of agriculture and nature, find opportunities to build confidence, develop foundational skills, and make connections with others.

Mission Statement

We provide agriculture education and experiences for all ages with three goals in mind:
to increase agricultural and environmental literacy;
to foster personal growth and skills development;
to build individual and community connections.

First Day

On the first day of class, we will take some time for introductions and a brief orientation. You will be able to take care of any emergency and medical forms that still need to be filled out.

Parking and Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

Please be timely with dropping off and picking up. Parking is limited. You may park on the gravel or the grass along the fence on the driveway. Be mindful of other vehicles - try to leave room for everyone to move in and out. Walk your child from the parking areas to the classroom, where you will sign-in with your child.

If you are going to be late picking up your child, notify Ami, via call or text to the Farm School phone number (734-649-2969) If no one answers, LEAVE A MESSAGE. Only adults that have been put on the emergency contact list will be allowed to take the child from the farm property. If there needs to be a change, call and talk to Ami, directly.

What Do Parents Do During Class?

This is a drop-off program, so you have the opportunity to leave and return at pick-up time. You are also welcome to stay on the farm during your child's class. You may either wait in the classroom (we have WIFI), relax in your vehicle (read or nap!) or go for walks down the road or on one of the nearby hiking trails.

Parents: If you choose to hang out in the classroom, PLEASE please please....do not visit and have conversations among yourselves while the class is also in the classroom. This is extremely distracting and makes it much more difficult to get the kids to focus if we are teaching a lesson or trying to guide a group conversation.

**For liability reasons, and in order to provide the most beneficial experience for your child, it is not allowed for waiting adults and families to walk around other parts of the farm. You may walk up and down the driveway to go for walks on Prospect Hill and Easudes roads.

Attending class with your child: If your child needs a more gradual transition to attending class on their own, we will work together to do what is best for your child. Our goal is to eventually work towards independence in the class, but we are in no rush.

Siblings and Other Children

We understand that older and younger siblings will sometimes need to come along. Unfortunately, It is not allowed for waiting adults and children to walk around other areas of the farm. We understand that this may be difficult if you have another child with you, but we appreciate your cooperation and help with this! Our responsibility is to make sure our students are able to experience every benefit of their class time, without distraction.

AM Program Routine

10:00 a.m. Drop-Off/Sign-In
Snack
Animal Care and Farm Chores
Activities, Exploration, Play
12:00 p.m. Pick-Up/Sign-Out

P.M Afternoon Routine

2:00 p.m. Drop-Off/Sign-In
Snack
Animal Care and Farm Chores
Activities, Exploration, Play
4:00 p.m. Pick-Up/Sign-Out

Clothing

Please expect that your kids will get wet and dirty. Dress your kids in clothes that are ok to be ruined...forever. (Goats can chew holes in clothing pretty quickly.)

Children should wear (or at least bring) mud/rain/chore boots year-round. Tennis shoes in warmer seasons and winter boots in cold seasons are fine to wear, but may not keep their feet dry or comfortable. Easy to slip on/off shoes (like crocks or sandals) in the summer are really nice to have, so they can run in and out of the play yard easily between activities and to the bathroom. (Putting on rubber boots is difficult when you've been playing in a sprinkler!)

Dress in (or bring) appropriate clothing for the day/season. This may include; a weatherproof jacket, mittens, hats, layers, snowpants, bathing suit and towel, and a full change of clothes. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray prior to drop-off, in the summer. Each child should arrive with a backpack/bag to hold their gear, including a water bottle.

Weather

We are an outdoor program. We will only cancel in the case of severe weather conditions. Class will still be held during rain and snow and even during mild thunderstorms. We have shelter to use when necessary.

NOTE We do not have an area to shelter during a tornado, so in cases of possible conditions for tornados, we will cancel.

Restroom

There is an outhouse on the farm. It is professionally serviced, as needed. Unfortunately, it is not handicapped-accessible. Our new classroom (currently under construction) will have a restroom that will be accessible to all, in the near-future.

Preschoolers do NOT have to be potty-trained to attend Farm School, but teachers will not be able to change diapers during the class period.

Snack / Food

Students are provided with a (no added sugar) snack (i.e., fruit, veggies, etc...).

We may sometimes serve special treats during special occasions or popsicles on hot summer days. If you would like to arrange something special for your child's birthday, contact Ami. If your child has an allergy please talk to Ami ahead of time. We will make every effort to provide foods all children can eat.

Because our focus is agriculture, food is an important part of our curriculum. As a group we eat and discuss a variety of foods that are grown and produced in different regions of the world. We don't allow snacks from home, unless absolutely necessary.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency at the farm, we will call the contact on the emergency form that you provided. You will be required to provide at least two emergency contact phone numbers. If you are planning to explore the immediate neighborhood (hiking trails, etc...), we will need a number for someone who will be available to answer their phone and in a good service area, during the time of class.

Medications

All routine medications should be given prior to arrival. If your child requires medication during the program, we ask for compliance with the following standards:

1. All medications must be in their original containers bearing the pharmacy label and child's name—and have specific instructions for use.
2. Medications must be current, not expired
3. All medications must be registered with Ami, who will monitor each dose

All children with severe allergies must provide an emergency action plan. This should include the triggers of the reaction, signs of the reaction, and necessary steps if a reaction should occur. If your child requires an Epi pen, a lead teacher will have it on her person at all times. An action plan form will be provided by Prospect Hill Farm Connection, if needed.

What to Bring to Farm School

- ___ On First Day: The Following Signed Paperwork;
 - ___ Media/Photo Release (optional)
 - ___ Emergency form
 - ___ Medical Forms, if applicable for your child
- ___ Apply sunscreen and bug spray before dropping off (seasonal)
- ___ Appropriate Clothing (boots, coat, hat, mittens, snowpants, bathing suit and towel, full change of clothes, slip on shoes for the play yard in the summer)
- ___ Medication/EpiPen labeled and with instructions, if needed for your child
- ___ Water bottle for your child, **year-round**. (In the winter, try a warm water thermos)

What Not To Bring to Farm School

- ___ Toys from home. If this causes a significant problem, we can work something out. Please talk to Ami.
- ___ Food from home, unless otherwise arranged for special occasions or medical needs.

If You Have Concerns or Questions...

We ask that you always come directly to us with any concerns, grievances, or questions you may have. We ask that you do not turn to social media before coming to us, first. We want to have the opportunity to talk, learn, and make improvements. We value and appreciate direct communication and this kind of approach in resolving conflicts.

Thank you for being a part of the Farm School program. We are looking forward to getting to know each and every family! See you at the farm! - Ami and Ijme Zijlstra