



## GRASSROOTS LEARNING

**Mission Statement:**

To educate our children in an environment that engages their innate curiosity, stimulates their connection with nature, and establishes a strong foundation built upon relationships, cross-curricular connections, and guided discovery.

**Vision:**

A group of like-minded families coming together to build our childrens' foundations of early childhood education in an environment that allows them to learn at their own pace (alongside their multi-age classmates) and develop a love of learning which grounds their understanding of academics in their connection to nature, family, and community. A homeschool experience centered around play-based curriculum, outdoor education, and Montessori-style practices that foster relationships, autonomy, and personalized learning.

**School Objective:**

Providing families with customized curriculum bundles that give parents the freedom to homeschool, at home or through a learning pod, without the responsibility of creating lesson plans and preparing curriculum and materials. We provide a low-cost, pre-made, custom homeschool program based on tenants of play-based learning, outdoor education, and Montessori principles.

**Personalizing the experience:**

Homeschooling is a wonderful way to be intimately involved in your child's education, but sourcing curriculum, planning daily lessons, and gathering materials gets expensive and time consuming. It is our goal to lighten the homeschool parent's workload by providing you with everything you need to educate your child at home. In Washington State, a parent must meet certain criteria to homeschool their child (1. Have completed a certain number of college units, 2. Have completed a state-approved homeschool educator training, or 3. Have your homeschooling be overseen by a Washington State Certificated Educator) Through our curriculum bundles, you will receive:

- A personalized curriculum customized to meet your child's learning needs
- n educational approach based on Montessori principles, play-based learning, and outdoor education
- A program that not only teaches the basics of reading, writing, and math but includes lessons and for outdoor activities and making meals together
- A Washington State Certificated educator advising and assisting in your homeschooling journey.
- A program that is easy-to-follow and removes most of the prep-work from your daily to-do list! Our program is centered around weekly curriculum bundles, but we have a few choices with the way you engage with the content. We have two plans that allow you to decide whether you would like to exclusively homeschool your child full time, homeschool part time and bring your child to a co-op a few days a week with the option to volunteer and help lead co-op daily lessons. Our plans are designed to allow you to personalize your experience:

### 1. Curriculum Bundle Plan-

Weekly homeschool curriculum bundles will be provided, customized for each student. Each weekly bundle will include daily learning activities, outdoor learning lessons, lunch recipes, and any supplies necessary to execute the learning plans from home.

Pricing plan options to pay by day, week, month, or year.

### 2. Curriculum Bundle + In-Person Combination Plan:

Includes curriculum bundle plan, with 3- 4 days of learning taking place in-person at the Grassroots Learning Room, run by a credentialed teacher and led by approved instructors and parent volunteers. A curriculum bundle will be provided for monthly homeschooling activities on days you don't attend co-op classes.

- In-Person learners will discover new things together through a mixture of play, teacher facilitated small groups, outdoor activities, and games.
- In-Person learners will eat a healthy snack and lunch on-site daily, growing food and preparing meals together as part of the learning experience when applicable.
- Monthly field trips are planned for families in the program and they will have first priority when signing up for weekend classes and summer camps.
- Rates are discounted based on level of parent volunteer involvement.
- Pricing plan options to pay by month or year.

#### **Curriculum:**

All curriculum bundles will be developed and prepared by a credentialed curriculum specialist with over fifteen years of experience. Each bundle will be created based on each child's learning path (a plan that accounts for the child's developmental stages, academic abilities, and learning needs).

Curriculum will include lessons and activities in the areas of Math, Writing, Language, Science, and Social Skills. All curriculum bundles will include weekly activities in nature and cooking.

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#### **Pricing:**

As a parent looking for a school that is right for your family, Mason and Pierce Counties have few public school options. Tuition rates at the local private schools are high. It is our intention to provide an innovative alternative that is more affordable and family-oriented than the other options in the area. All pricing for Grassroots Learning is based on the purchase of Curriculum Bundles, rather than tuition. In-person learning costs include the cost of the Curriculum Bundles and a small daily rate to cover additional expenses (i.e. rent, food, business insurance, etc) for students learning on-site.

\*Monthly outings will be offered for a fee, but that fee is included in the cost for students who participate in the in-person learning plan. However, some outings may be held in locations that charge parking or entrance fees, and those fees are not included.

**Family involvement:**

Family time is extremely important to a child's development and emotional growth. We encourage families to be as involved as possible in their child's education. If you choose to school in-home, send your child to our in-person co-op option, or a combination of both, we urge you to make family time a priority!

For in-person learners, we encourage you as parents to be present and engaged in your child's learning through volunteering. Worried that you can't commit because you have a baby or older homeschooled child at home? It won't be uncommon at the Grassroots school to see parents helping our little learners with a baby slung to their back or older siblings helping younger ones learn. This is the beauty of a multi-age classroom and homeschool co-op! We are all parents homeschooling our children together. As long as you can adequately perform your duties and care for your other little ones simultaneously, bring them along!

All volunteers must pass a background check. School will pay for one per family.

**What you will see in our Grassroots Learning Classrooms:**

- Children working on age and developmentally appropriate activities. The state standards are not necessarily developmentally appropriate, so rather than teach to common core standards, students will be learning based on their levels and abilities
- Multi-age classrooms (3 years in each cohort) have been proven to have many benefits for children. The older ones help the younger ones learn appropriate behaviors and lessons, which instills for them a sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of content
- Parents and teachers will be working together, supporting learning and social interactions with all students (not just their own)
- Students working out social interactions together with adults as a "guide" so they learn to handle conflicts, sharing, and correcting one another appropriately and independently
- Montessori (and some Waldorf) principles and materials integrated as an integral part of the learning spaces and activities.

**Week-at-a-glance:**

**Monday-** Homeschool Day. Open up your daily bundle and have fun learning as a family!

**Tuesday-Friday-** In-person learners will participate daily in social lessons, play based discovery in math and reading, gardening, outdoor play, weekly meal-prep and community lunchtimes, a daily music or arts activity, free play, and journal/reflection.

Homeschool day curriculum bundles will include lessons similar to those being done in person, as well as all materials needed to execute learning, nature learning plans, and family recipes.

### **Sample Daily Schedule:**

- 9:00-9:30- Welcome Time and Free Play
- 9:30-10:00- Community Time
- 10:00-11:00- Sensorial and Practical Life Lessons
- 11:00-12:00- Community Meal and Outdoor Play
- 12:00-1:00- Student Led Work Time (teacher guides small group math, writing, and reading, parents guide learning games and shelf activities)
- 1:00-2:00- Snack and art/music
- 2:00-2:30- Closing Activities and playtime as children are picked up

### **Before/After care offerings:**

For families who want to participate in the school community but have more traditional work hours that prohibit them from dropping off/picking up students from the co-op at the times school is happening, we will provide the option of before/after school babysitting for \$10/hr until 5pm.

### **Health Memorandum:**

Students are not required to wear masks, but parents may choose to send their child to in-person classes in a mask at their discretion. As a school community, we all agree to keep our children home if they have any symptoms of sickness so that we contain illness and prevent spreading contagious viruses within our co-op. As the school leader, if I am sick I will attempt to call in a substitute but in the event that we have to cancel classes, I will notify parents with as much notice as possible. In addition, if there is an emergency of any sort that calls for school cancellation (i.e. inclement weather), we will notify parents via text message.

We reserve the right to 7 cancelled days in a school year without modifying payment plans or curriculum distribution. If we need to cancel more than 7 regularly scheduled in-person days, we will pro-rate the days missed on your next payment due (Pro-rating will be determined by number of school days within the month, not number of days a specific child attends). If your child misses in-person class for any reason, payment will not be modified, but you may request additional homeschool work via email.

### **Monthly Outings:**

The co-op will offer an outing approximately once a month, planned, led and directed, by a credentialed teacher. Pic-Nic lunch will be brought by students on these outings (ranging from pumpkin patch trips, to hiking excursions, to museum or zoo field trips, etc).

These trips will require parent attendance (unless otherwise arranged) and are planned by Grassroots Learning for our co-op families.

\*The location of the outing may charge admission or parking fees above and beyond your co-op fee.

**Weekend offerings:**

Weekend classes may be offered from time to time. These classes will range from music, to art, to dance, to tumbling. Students signed up for in-person learning plans will get priority for enrollment in weekend classes.

**Summer camps:**

Summer day camps will be offered during summer breaks. These camps will focus on music, art, dance, STEAM, and outdoor learning. Students signed up for in-person learning plans will get priority for enrollment in summer day camp offerings.

**November, 2021 Parent Forum Notations:****Future Growth Ideas:**

- Grassroots Learning will begin in August, 2021 for its inaugural year, starting in-home at 111 E Fairway Dr for up to 12 students, ages 3-5. This will be our founding cohort.
- As years go on, that cohort will remain together as they age.
- Each incoming cohort will span ages of 3 years. We intend to add preschool in the 2023 school year, which will become cohort 2. 3 days a week, shorter school day.
- Preschool will follow Montessori and Waldorf practices in social/emotional learning with limited explicit academic instruction until age 4. Children will learn to move in a structured environment, care for their materials and peers, build attention span ability, and focus on practical life/sensorial learning.
- We will eventually move into a larger school room location as cohorts are added, as we will need more classroom space. The intention is to remain in Allyn, but we are open to the idea of expanding to surrounding counties eventually.
- We would like to begin adding a dedicated “outdoor learning/forest school” day either at a local farm, state park, or nature preserve. On outdoor learning days, children will be hiking, learning about the nature around them, doing crafts using natural materials, practicing letters/shapes/math by writing in the dirt or using natural manipulatives. This plan should be in place by 2022 school year.
- Homeschool “Flexibility Weeks” where there are dedicated homeschool weeks built into the calendar to offer families more flexibility during high-travel times. To be implemented by 2022 school year.