

Fresh Air, Fresh Approach!



We are excited to welcome you to the Outdoor Classroom, **Take It Outside, Outdoor Classroom!** Your child has been selected to be a part of the program due to their age, and will be heading to Kindergarten in September.

Not every classroom needs to have four walls. An outdoor classroom can be just as effective and instrumental as an indoor classroom because the outdoors offers a wide variety of fun learning opportunities. Your child will continue to learn using The Goddard Schools FLEX learning program, using select activities and materials they can discover, explore and invent within their own imaginative and creative ways.

From gardening, campfire circle time, and fitness; your child will continue to explore music, movement, creative arts, cognitive skills, mathematics, language arts, reading readiness, science, nature studies, sensory, self-help skills, social sciences, yoga, chess, sign-language, and Spanish.

Language Arts & Reading Readiness

Outdoors is going to provide a great opportunity for students to keep a journal on the developmental progress of the outdoor classroom. Children may also want to sit in the natural area and write about their surroundings, along with reading and researching various aspects of nature.



Science / Nature Studies

The outdoor classroom is a natural science lab. Science students can conduct experiments that should only be attempted outside. Children will study soil, animals, air, weather and plants and watch how living organisms interact with each other, as well as biology, chemistry, ecology and geology.



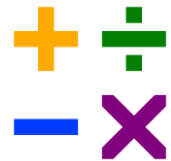
CREATIVE ART

Children will have the opportunity to explore multiple mediums while creating art, including using leaves, flowers, and other textural features or for creative art projects.



MATHEMATICS

The outdoor classroom is a prime area to study mathematics, especially in the developmental stages. Children will measure, cut, construct, weigh, and calculate items in the outdoors, along with map and gage temperatures and rain falls.



YOGA

The children will continue their yoga practice outdoors. Physically, it enhances their flexibility, strength, coordination, and body awareness. In addition, their concentration and sense of calmness and relaxation improves.



Special Enrichments

Special visitors will be visiting the school sharing their expertise on animals, literacy, music, magic, planets and fire safety. Wacky Water days will also be an exciting part of the children's week, being able to explore waterplay more than just on Wednesdays!



Characteristics of the Outdoor Classroom

- Most activities that can be done indoors can be done outdoors. Some activities occur best outdoors; some can only occur outdoors.
- Children spend substantial periods of time outside, and it is easy and safe for them to get there; they are free to move easily between the indoors and outdoors.
- There is a full range of activities for children to participate in, including many activities that are traditionally thought of as “indoor activities.”
- The outdoor space offers a balance of areas for physically active and less active play.
- While outside, children frequently have the opportunity to initiate their own learning experiences and activities, with teachers available to support them.
- The outdoor curriculum evolves from and changes with children’s changing needs and interests.
- Children experience nature in as many ways as possible.

Benefits of the Outdoor Classroom

Physical:

- An increase in physical development, capability, and activity
- Setting up patterns for an active, healthy lifestyle

Cognitive:

- Stronger language, problem-solving, and communication skills through projects and group activity
- Developing an interest in science and math through connecting with nature
- Fostering learning through self-initiation, control, and personal responsibility

Psychological:

- Happier
- Higher, more positive self-esteem
- Effective relationship building in a cooperative, non-competitive environment
- Building a healthy and balanced internal psychology from time spent alone
- Manifesting classroom harmony
- Social-emotional mastery

Understanding:

- Familiarity with and appreciation of nature
- Wide, expansive view of how the world works
- Building stewardship skills for the environment