



The Nature
School of
Central Indiana

Public Hearing and
Information Session



"All of nature begins to whisper its secrets to us through its sounds. Sounds that were previously incomprehensible to our soul now become the meaningful language of nature."

Rudolf Steiner





Our Team

The Nature School Team

Our leadership team is comprised of a few key members serving as our Board, the beginnings of our Educator Council, and an eventual Family Council. We genuinely look forward to serving our school, its learners, our families, and extended community.

- The Nature School Board
 - Courtney Ke - Board Chair
 - Sherina Lyons - Board Secretary
 - Karinda Holland - Board Treasurer



The Nature School Team

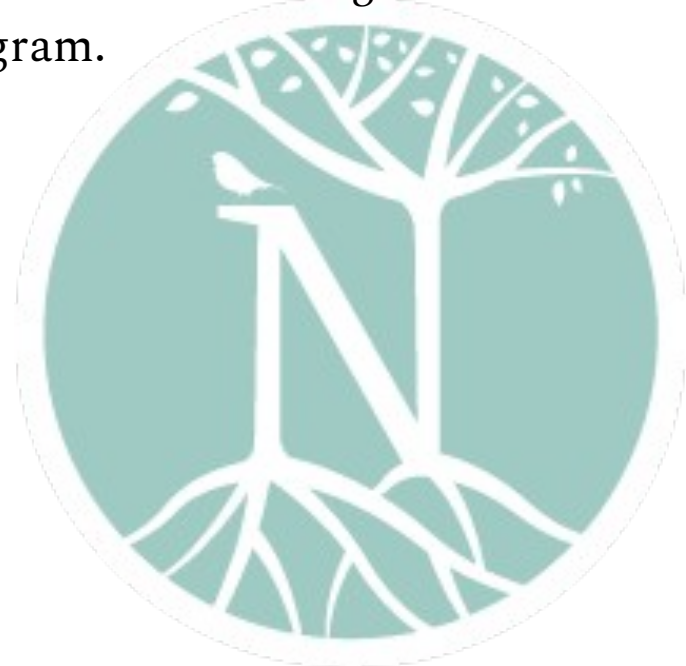
We are thankful and excited to have these other members on our leadership team:

- The Education Council
 - Danielle Brain
 - Alexandra Prassis
 - Meagan Messuri
- The Family Council
 - To be determined based upon enrollment



The Family Council

The Family Council will consist of member families at TNS. We will seek at least one representative from each classroom but welcome all who are willing to offer their skills and time toward the betterment of our program.



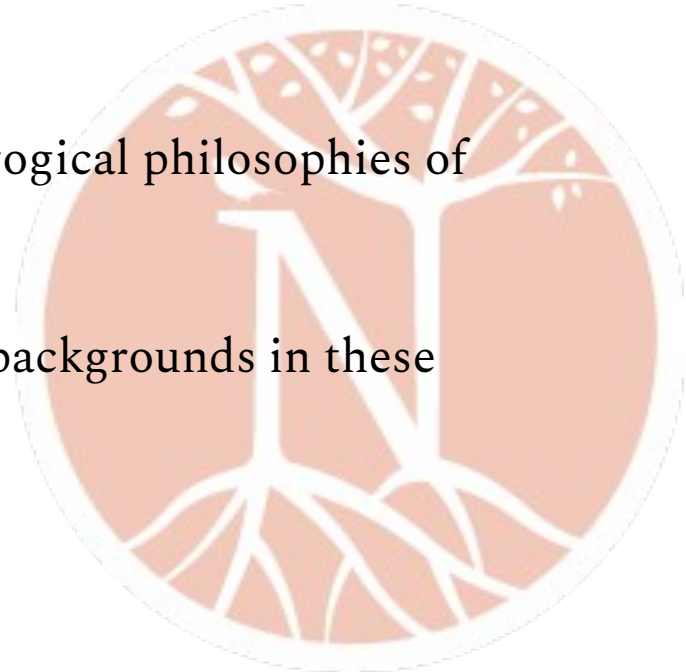


Our Proposed
School

Our Mission and Vision

The Nature School of Central Indiana aims to provide central-Indiana areas' learners with an exemplary education:

- Nature-based setting
- Academic principles heavily focused on the pedagogical philosophies of Montessori and Waldorf
- Experiential learning
- Highly skilled and trained educators with strong backgrounds in these disciplines



Our Mission and Vision

The Nature School of Central Indiana believes in addressing the needs of the child in the following manner:

- Holistic and individualized approach
- Instilling a lifelong love of learning
- Awareness of their role in and connection to both their local community and the world
- Deep understanding of their abilities and potential
- Nature is the best teacher
- Scaffold with both local and global partnerships with like-minded organizations.

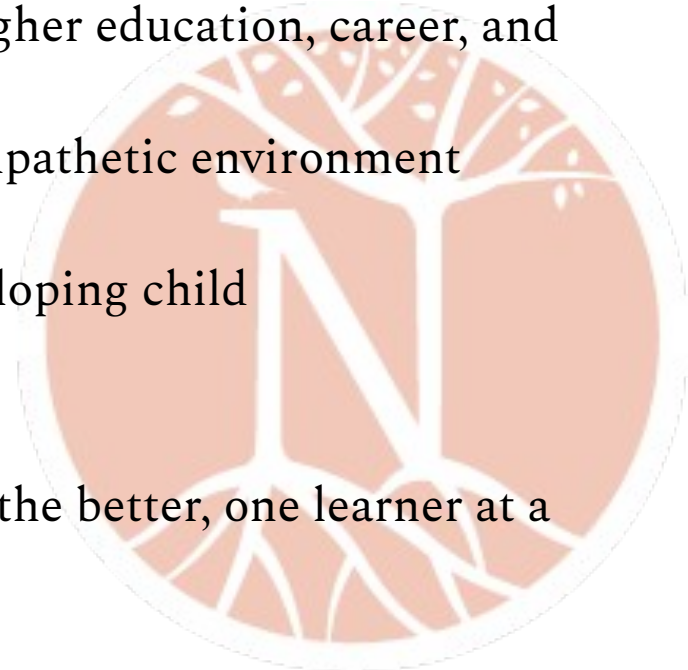


Our Mission and Vision

Our vision is to create a program that is successful in a number of ways:

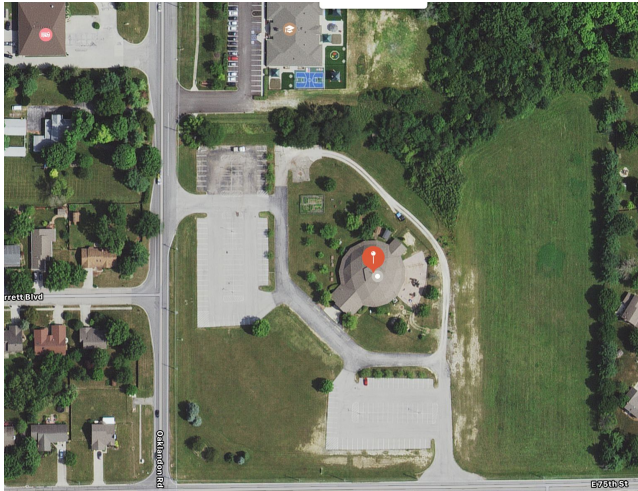
- Prepares learners for the rigors of high school, higher education, career, and life
- Maintains a loving, nurturing, welcoming, and empathetic environment
- Captures the whimsy and wonder of childhood
- Supports the inquisition and curiosity of the developing child

The Nature School believes in changing the world for the better, one learner at a time.



Our Location

The building at the corner of Oaklandon and 75th Street rests on several acres of land to be well-utilized by our program.



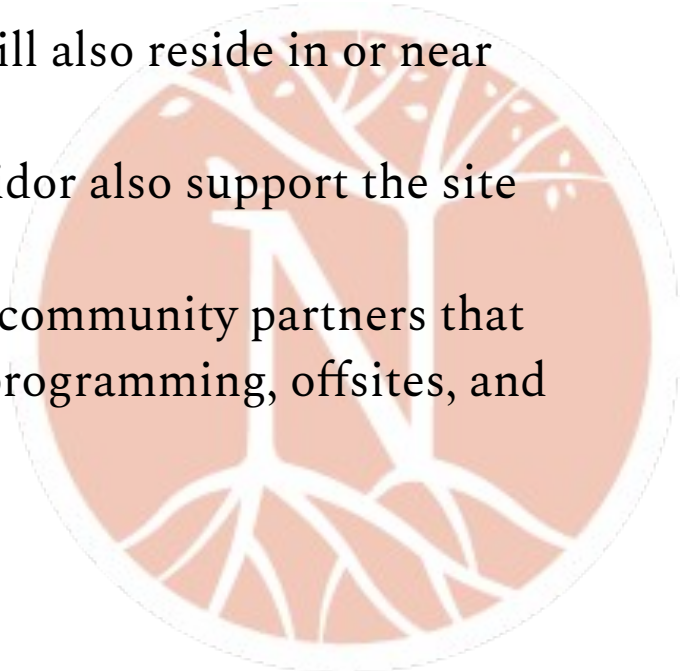
Our Location

Our satellite location at the Blue Sky Farmhouse in McCordsville will serve our kindergartners.



Our Population

1. Lawrence is a very vibrant community with close proximity to both Geist-area residents and Fishers.
2. It is anticipated that many prospective students will also reside in or near McCordsville.
3. Nearby communities along the State Road 67 corridor also support the site selection for TNS.
4. This location allows for easier access to the many community partners that have expressed interest in working with TNS for programming, offsites, and volunteer opportunities.





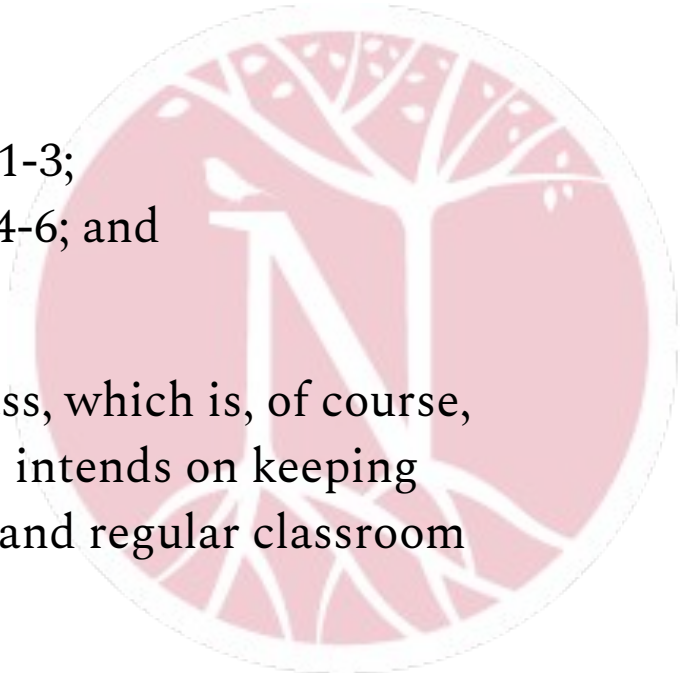
Our Students

Our Students and School Structure

We look forward to offering these classes to approximately 150 students our first year:

- one Kindergarten class;
- two classes of lower elementary, including grades 1-3;
- two classes of upper elementary including grades 4-6; and
- one middle school class.

Our initial numbers place about 30 learners in each class, which is, of course, subject to change based on enrollment. However, TNS intends on keeping student-to-teacher ratios low with teacher's assistants and regular classroom parent volunteers.

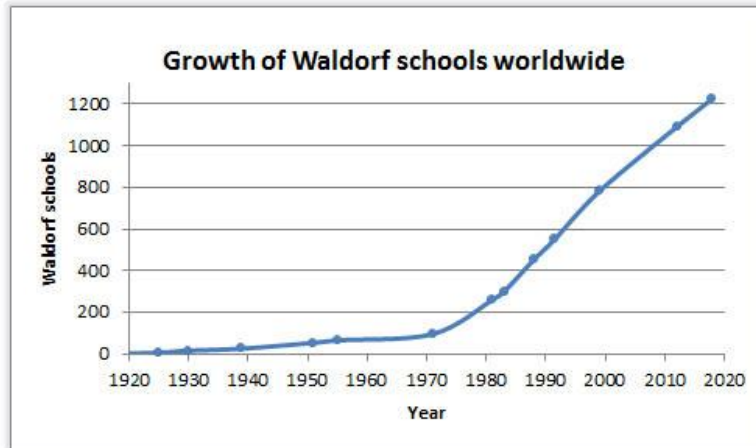
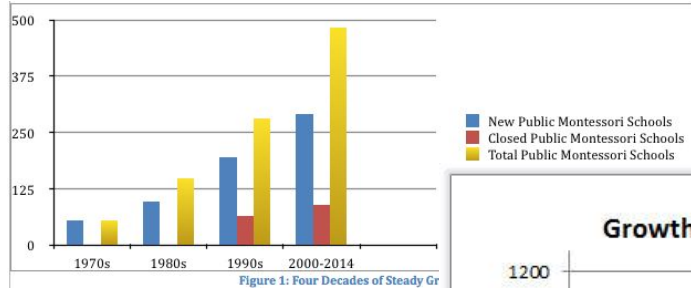




Our Program

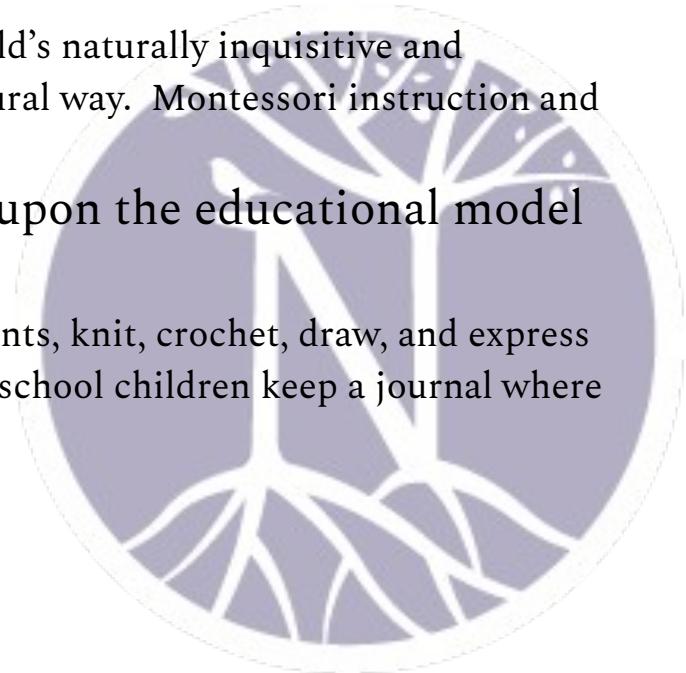
Our Program

The Nature School of Central Indiana is offering an educational program based around nature.



Our Program

- Student-centered instructional methods, scientifically based on Maria Montessori's observations.
 - The fundamental principle of this method is to value a child's naturally inquisitive and developing mind to foster learning in an intuitive and natural way. Montessori instruction and materials place learning in the hands of the student.
- The Waldorf method, on the other hand, is based upon the educational model created by Rudolf Steiner.
 - Children are encouraged to learn to play musical instruments, knit, crochet, draw, and express their imagination and creativity. Additionally, elementary school children keep a journal where they record their experiences and what they have learned.



Our Program

On a given day, you can expect to see the following in our classrooms:

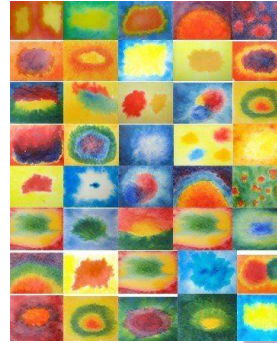
- Thoughtfully prepared environments
- Healthy development based on learner readiness
- Carefully considered materials
- Varying instructional styles
- Regular observations and assessments



Our Program

You can also expect to see a lot of imagination at work through some of the following that reinforce learning objectives:

- Storytelling
- Hands-on Activities
- Movement and Circle Activities
- Art Expression
- Class Plays
- Block Rotation
- Main Lesson Recording



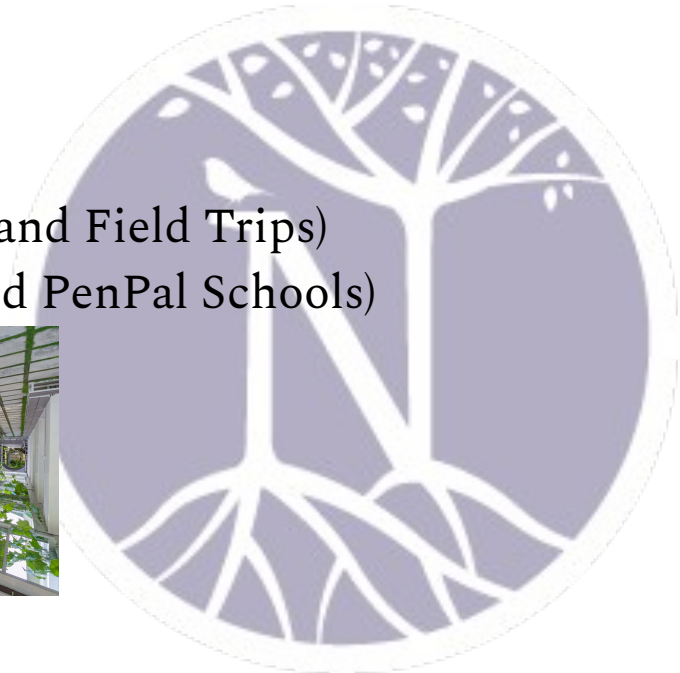
Our Program

Our classroom isn't defined by walls, however. Our educational program revolves around our most celebrated component: nature.

- Indoor Learning Environment
- Outdoor Learning Environment
- Off-sites (including Wilderness Days, Farm Days, and Field Trips)
- Home Learning/eLearning (including Duolingo and PenPal Schools)



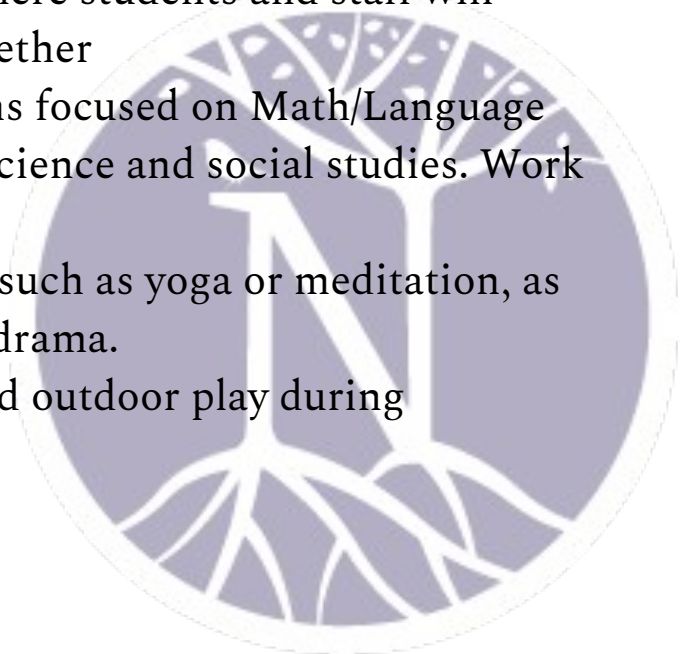
This will be true for each grade to varying degrees.



A Day in the Life

A day at the Nature School looks something like this:

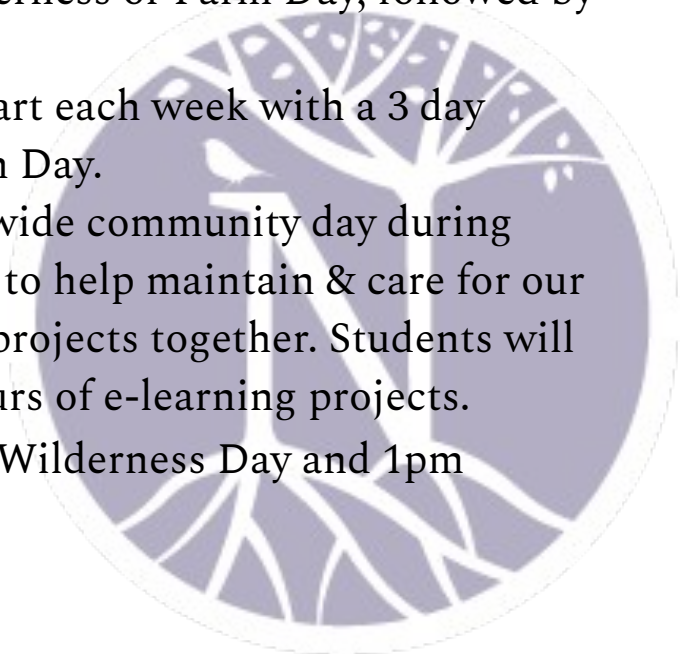
- The day will begin with a school-wide morning circle where students and staff will greet the day and each other and set their intentions together
- Each day, students will have two 90-minute work sessions focused on Math/Language and one 30-min (60 for middle school) work session for science and social studies. Work sessions will take place outdoors if possible/applicable.
- Students will participate daily in mindfulness practices, such as yoga or meditation, as well as special courses, such as handwork, art, music, & drama.
- All grade levels will be given ample time for unstructured outdoor play during lunch/recess. (1-6: 60 min & 7-8: 30 min)
- Each Day will end with a school wide closing circle



A Typical Week

A week at the Nature School looks something like this:

- The Lower Grades (1-3) will start each week with a Wilderness or Farm Day, followed by a 3 day rhythm of course work on campus.
- The Upper Grades (4-6) & the Middle School (7-8) will start each week with a 3 day rhythm of course work followed by a Wilderness or Farm Day.
- On Fridays all of the grades will participate in a school-wide community day during which parents and families will be encouraged to attend to help maintain & care for our schools indoor and outdoor spaces and work on special projects together. Students will be released at 1:30 from campus, and will complete 2 hours of e-learning projects.
- Kindergarten will have a four day rhythm, followed by a Wilderness Day and 1pm release on Fridays



A Wonderful Year

And a year at the Nature School will look something like this:

- Waldorf Ceremonies and Festivals, such as Michaelmas and Lantern Walks
- Montessori International Day of Peace and Birthday Rotations
- Art and Science Fairs
- Orchestra, Choir, Drama practices and performances
- Planting and harvesting our garden
- Community cultivation

These are just a few of the experiences and opportunities we plan to offer our learners and our community.





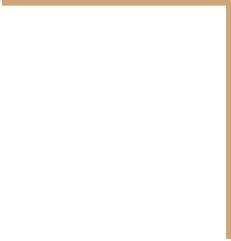
Our Financials

Our Financial Plans

Based on our projected numbers, we hope to serve approximately 150 students within our first year beginning Fall 2021. This translates into a funding scenario that will keep our program sustainable and healthy and comes from tax dollars. This makes our school accessible to the public at large—your tax dollars are paying for it.

Here's a closer [look](#) at our projected budget and financial plans.





“There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature.”

Maria Montessori





Final Thoughts



Thank You!

Questions?

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