



Dear Teachers, Administration, Students, Parents/ Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to review our updated packet. The guiding principle of kindness has been the foundation of the Farm School and the Program for Visiting Schools for over 30 years. The recent updates to this packet help us work toward cultivating that space deeply and intentionally in various ways and are a natural outgrowth of The Farm School's desire to deepen our understanding and awareness around race, equity and liberation; how each of these intersections show up at the farm, for visitors to the farm and for us as individuals connected to the broader society.

Our 4 goals around this work are to build and strengthen our relationships, begin developing a shared language and analysis of systemic oppression, power and privilege, deepen our historical understanding as to how race and racism intersect with other forms of oppression and practice together in real time the work of equity and liberation. Among many agreements that hold us in this work, we aim to keep each other and our partners in grace, to push beyond our growing edges and to recognize the need for depth without drowning, knowing there are no quick fixes and trusting the process. This letter reflects where we currently are and is an invitation for you to know we are in this work.

Many thanks, Carmen Mouzon (PVS
program director)
carmen@farmschool.org

Honoring Gender Identity

The Farm School began a process in the 2019-20 school year of making our bunk room space non gender specific, working directly with partner schools to customize use of the bunkhouse space in ways that honor the identities of the youth, in partnership with school administration and parents. Please look for more information once we are able to re-open overnight programming.

English Language and interpretation

Please inform us if English interpretation will be needed for any youth, if that child's peers are supporting in English interpretation or if a designated teacher will accompany the child/ren for interpretation support. If no peer or teacher support is available and you have a child in need of English language support please let us know so we can discuss a plan to make sure the



student is aware of where things are around the farm and what we are doing each day.

Ability and Mobility around the farm

We have 1 ADA approved shower and bathroom. Main/floor level sleeping bunks are available on the west side and east side bunk rooms. Wheelchair and ramp access is available on the west side bunk area. A mobile ramp is also available.

Work is spread out across the farm and navigation and travel across gravel roads and woody trails may be needed to access work areas and various parts of the farm. Please notify us if any mobility considerations are needed.



Hello!

It's been such a thrill to have kids back on the farm for overnight trips this summer and we can't wait to continue sharing the farm with you this Fall.

With the announcement of the Massachusetts State of Emergency ending June 15, COVID-19 restrictions being lifted across the state and after consultation with the State Department of Health, we plan to reopen at our full capacity for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

We understand that each of our partner schools will be back to school this year with COVID -19 guidelines that are unique to their school community and we'd like to work with you to offer an experience on the farm that matches the health and safety precautions that you will have in place when kids return this fall. Here's what we can ensure will be in place on our end for your visit:

- The bunkhouse will only be entered by your students/teachers and fully vaccinated and/or masked Farm School personnel during your visit.
- A separate space will be provided for any students that present COVID-19 symptoms while on the farm.
- New air filtration units will be in each of the bunkrooms.
- As always, the vast majority of our programming and meals (as weather allows) will happen outdoors.
- Showers and bathroom areas, sleeping areas, bed surfaces and any shared items will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC Guidance.
- Farm School staff will perform regular health screenings and will not report to work/engage in any programming if at all symptomatic.

As has always been the case, The Farm School will rely on its partner schools to arrange for parental permissions and to administer all medications to their students while they are at the farm. In accordance with this, any and all COVID-19 testing practices for schools attending The Farm School will be the responsibility of the schools themselves. At a minimum, as we put into practice ourselves for our overnight programs this summer in order to decrease the risk of sleeping unmasked in the bunkrooms, The Farm School will request that sending schools have unvaccinated students obtain a negative PCR test within 72 hours of coming to the farm and a negative BinaxNow test, administered by the sending school staff, upon arrival at the farm and if any symptoms arise while at the farm. We will, of course, be happy to go over any and all of this with you ahead of your visit, if you like!

We also appreciate your understanding that The Farm School's programming and capacity is subject to change based on any future COVID-19 guidance and directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and local boards of health.



We are so grateful to have you as a partner in making the amazing Farm School experience a reality for your students this year and every year; thank you so much!

Warmly,

Patrick Connors & Ayla Gavins
Co-Directors

Please pack the following items for your child:

- ☐ A water bottle
- ☐ Multiple Masks or face coverings due to COVID 19 protocols
- ☐ A Packed Lunch
- ☐ Clothes that you don't mind getting very dirty
- ☐ Plastic grocery bags (or something to put muddy boots in)
- ☐ An OLD sweatshirt and a warm jacket/coat
- ☐ Boots or **close-toed** shoes that you can get dirty (waterproof if possible)
- ☐ A second pair of **close-toed** shoes
- ☐ Extra pairs of socks
- ☐ Rain coats and rain pants (we will be outside in all types of weather)
- ☐ A good book
- ☐ NO video games, iPods, cell phones/electronics

For cold weather (September- mid-April) bring

- ☐ A warm winter hat
- ☐ A warm coat
- ☐ A scarf
- ☐ Gloves/Mittens
- ☐ Long underwear, if you have it (tight-fitting pajamas work well)
- ☐ Snow pants/ Rain pants and coat

Please let your child's teacher know if your child:

- **Has any allergies, physical limitations, or other needs** that might impact the work they can do outdoors or around large animals
- **Has any medications that are necessary for the trip**

Program for Visiting Schools Participation Registration



488 MOORE HILL ROAD
ATHOL, MA 01331
978.249.9944
www.farmschool.org

Please fill out this form and return it to your child's teacher prior to the trip. We are looking forward to working with your child!

Student Info:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Child's Pronouns: _____ School Name: _____
Grade: _____ Date of Trip: _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Contact Info:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Street Address: _____	Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____	City, State, Zip Code: _____
Email address: _____	Email address: _____
PHONE	PHONE
Cell: _____	Cell: _____
Home: _____	Home: _____
Work: _____	Work: _____

Please list a designated person that can pick your child up should they become sick/COVID-19 symptomatic while at the farm:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Phone number/s: _____

Medical Info:

Has your child or anyone in your household traveled internationally within the last 14 days?
____ Yes ____ No

Does your child have any allergies? _____

Does your child have any medical conditions/needs we should be aware of? _____

We are excited about getting the word out about our programs! The Farm School offers many events and programs throughout the year. We would love to keep you informed of upcoming events, goings on at the farm and ways to support our work.

☐ If you do NOT wish to be added to our mailing list, please initial here.

You can find us on the web at

www.farmschool.org

On Facebook

And on Instagram @the_farm_school

Check out the hashtags #farmschoolPVS and #thefarmschool.

☐ If you do NOT wish your child to be used in photos or videos, please initial here.

**Parental/Guardian Permission Slip
For Farm School**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED, AND RETURNED BEFORE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021.

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian,

Your child/guardianship is eligible to participate in a Gordon School sponsored activity, which requires transportation to a location away from school. This activity will take place under the guidance and supervision of employees from Gordon School. A brief description of the activity follows:

Destination:	Farm School
Designated Supervisor of activity:	Irene Horton
Date of Departure:	September 13, 2021
Date of Return:	September 15, 2021
Method of Transportation:	Charter Bus

In order for your child/guardianship to participate, please complete, sign and return the following statement of consent and release of liability. As parent or legal guardian, you remain fully responsible for any legal responsibility, which may result from any personal actions by the student named below.

Statement of Consent and Release of Liability

I hereby consent to participation by my child/guardianship, _____ in the event described above. I understand that this event will take place away from the grounds of Gordon School, and my child will be under the supervision of the designated employees on the stated dates. I further consent to the conditions stated above on participation in this event, including the method of transportation. The Gordon School is hereby released from liability for any damage or injury to my child, which may be sustained.

I understand that during this trip the designated supervisors will have on hand the Emergency Authorization form that I have previously executed. These forms provide the school authorization to obtain medical treatment for my child in the event of an emergency.

Parent/ Guardian name/signature

Date

THIS TRIP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PART OF SCHOOL; THEREFORE ALL MEDICINES UTILIZED ON SCHOOL DAYS SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED ON THIS TRIP. IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO INFORM THE SCHOOL AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOUR CHILD/GUARDIANSHIP WILL NEED TO TAKE PRESCRIBED OR OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS.

Medication Authorization

☐

My child/guardianship does not have permission to take any medication on this trip.

☐

I hereby authorize my child /guardianship to take over-the-counter medication (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin/Advil, and Benadryl.) I will deliver a supply to the school nurse by **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**, labeled in the original container to be held by the chaperone.

☐

I hereby authorize my child/guardianship to take prescribed medications that they may need during this trip. I am aware that a chaperone will hold the medication for them and will make it available only at the designated time. **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED MEDICATION PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM. This release form (if there are changes to your child's Student Medical Information) along with the exact amount of prescribed medications in the original container, labeled with the doctor's prescription, will be delivered to the school nurse by Wednesday, September 8, 2021.**

Parent/ Guardian name/signature

Date

Medical Permission and Release Form Field Trips

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Over-the-Counter (Non-Prescription) Medication Permission

___ My child/guardianship does not have the permission to take any medication on this trip.

___ I hereby authorize my child/guardianship to receive the following over-the-counter medications checked below.
(I will deliver a supply to the school nurse labeled in the original container, to be held by the chaperone for the duration of the school-sponsored trip)

___ Tylenol (Acetaminophen) ___ Advil/Motrin (Ibuprofen) ___ Benadryl

Prescription Medication Permission

Please fill out the sheet on the back of this form for the daily medication(s) that your child will be taking during this trip. **The medication MUST be in the original container labeled with physician's prescription.**

___ I hereby authorize my child/guardianship to take prescribed medications that they take on a daily basis during this trip. *(I am aware that the medication must be in the original container labeled with the doctor's prescription.)*

___ My child/guardianship may need their inhaler during the trip *(I will provide the medication and a physician's prescription if there is not one on file with the health office.)*

___ My child/guardianship may need their Epi-pen during the trip for allergies to: _____.
(I will provide the medication and a physician's prescription if there is not one on file with the health office.)

I am aware that no medication(s) will be given if they are not in their original labeled container.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Daily Prescription Medication Administration Field Trips

My child/guardianship will need the following medication (s) during this school-sponsored field trip. I am aware that a chaperone will hold the medication for them and will make it available only at the designated times listed below.

Medication Name: _____

Dosage: _____

Time(s) to be given: _____

Special instructions: _____

Medication Name: _____

Dosage: _____

Time(s) to be given: _____

Special instructions: _____

Medication Name: _____

Dosage: _____

Time(s) to be given: _____

Special instructions: _____

I am aware that no medication(s) will be given if they are not in their original labeled container.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date