

A photograph of a vast field of bright yellow sunflowers under a soft, hazy sunset sky. The sunflowers are in the foreground and middle ground, creating a sense of depth. The sky is a mix of light purple, pink, and blue. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Joyful Scholars

Adolescent Community

Curriculum

Joyful Scholars Adolescent Community curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the adolescent holistically, including physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development.

The transformation from early adolescence to late adolescence is a scaffold-ed, integrated process grounded in authentic real-world application utilizing opportunities on farm, in the local business community, and in the realms of technology and personal and social justice.

Opportunities for student driven content and expression are embedded throughout offering unique experiences in art, recreation, nature, animal husbandry, horticulture, nutrition and wellness, technology, building, marketing and sustainability.

A photograph of a vast field of sunflowers under a sunset sky. The sunflowers are in the foreground and middle ground, with their heads tilted towards the camera. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple, with some clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

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Adolescent Community

Focus

7th year Explorers Experiential learning through project oriented academic content and genuine engagement. Focus on social skills, practical living and self-expression.

8th year Networkers A balance of core academics and projects reflecting an increase in emphasis on team building and content expansion. Focus on logic development, active work and self-evaluation.

9th year Project Managers Practical application and consideration for academic and socio-economic roles through leadership, core academics and research. Focus on project management and communication.

10th year Independent Contractors Re-enforcement of key concepts and academics necessary for transition coupled with freedom for independent specialization. Focus on “capstone” project, independent assessment and program transition.

11th/12th years Guild Masters Transition to Running Start or vocational programming with the option for intern status within the adolescent on-farm or business programs.

A photograph of a vast field of bright yellow sunflowers under a soft, purple and orange sunset sky. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, and their dark brown centers are prominent. The field stretches towards a distant horizon line.

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Developmentally Based

Four stages of development, defined by Dr. Maria Montessori, recognize the process of growth with an initial period of intense formation (yr 1), a secondary integration phase (yr 2) and then a final phase of sustainability (yr 3).

Third Plane: Students ages 12-18

Focus on the creation of the students unique personal role and relationship within the community and larger society.

Other characteristics of this developmental period include:

- Critical thinking, creation of logic based evaluation
- Highly sensorial
- Physical, mental, and emotional transformation
- Exploration and development of social and moral values and work ethic
- Cultural appreciation, discovery of social roles and connections
- Independence, self-advocacy
- Community and global awareness, volunteerism
- Work has economic validity