



New Garden
FRIENDS SCHOOL

Countdown to Sunrise: *Cultivating Curiosity and Kindness in Young Learners*

January 14, 2026

Welcome!

Head of School, Craig Sellers



Special Guest, Incoming Head of School,
Michelle Klosterman

We are glad you are here!



Welcome!

Head of Lower School, Genny Smith



We love your children. We see joy everyday at school.
We are honored you have chosen NGFS.

Our Mission Statement

Guided by Quaker values, New Garden Friends School is committed to being an inclusive educational community that honors and develops each person's gifts.



Learning to be a good friend comes first.

- Studies overwhelming show that, "Teaching children to care about others might be the best way to prepare them for a successful and fulfilling life."¹
- Our school prides itself on cultivating a culture of respect and kindness that children can take with them into the world. This is the definition of an NGFS education.



¹<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/12/stop-trying-to-raise-successful-kids/600751/>

We meet students where they are.

- When students begin kindergarten, they come with varying experiences. These skills are fluid and developed and assessed through individualized instruction throughout the school year.
- With two teachers and small class size, our students receive academic instruction in smaller groups.



The Importance of Play

- We honor the importance of play in the healthy development of young minds, hearts, and bodies.
- Learning matters and so does fresh air and time to play. Our students go outside multiple times every day. Children are given the space to create, negotiate, pretend, and engage with the natural world and immerse themselves in imaginative play.



Our TK Program

- TK students are curious and enthusiastic about academics but need another year of play before they are ready to be part of an academic community.
- TK students may be slightly too young to meet kindergarten age requirements or simply need another year of social-emotional development before beginning kindergarten.



Our Reading Program

- Our K-6th Reading Program
- Instructional strategies based on the Science of Reading
- Differentiated learning and additional support



Cultivating Curiosity

- Inquiry based science curriculum
- Communication skills - “talking like scientists”



Community



We believe in the power of relationships between students of different ages. We create programs to build community, increase kind interactions between younger students and older students, and reduce feelings of isolation.



The Carnation Ceremonies are a special school tradition for our class and the seniors. In the fall ceremony, the seniors welcome the kindergarteners to the community. In the spring ceremony, the kindergarteners wish the seniors luck on their upcoming graduation.

Meet the Teachers



Cara Kiser
Teacher



Julia Spoor
Teacher



Social Readiness

Children ready for Sunrise:

- Separate from you without getting overly upset
- Interact with other children
- Pay attention for at least five minutes to a task an adult is leading, such as listening to directions for an activity or discussing the day's weather during circle time



Gross Motor Skills



Children ready for Sunrise:

- Run
- Jump with feet together
- Hop on one foot
- Climb stairs using alternating feet
- Bounce and try to catch a ball



Fine Motor Skills

Children ready for Sunrise:

- Use a pencil or crayon with some control
- Cut with scissors
- Copy basic shapes
- Use a pencil or crayon to make markings on paper including lines, symbols, and attempts at alphabet letters
- Complete a simple puzzle



Language Skills

Children ready for Sunrise:

- Speak in complete sentences
- Can be understood by others most of the time
- Use words to express needs and wants
- Understand two-step directions
- Make comparisons and describe relationships between objects, such as big/little, under/over, and first/last



Math Skills

Children ready for Sunrise:

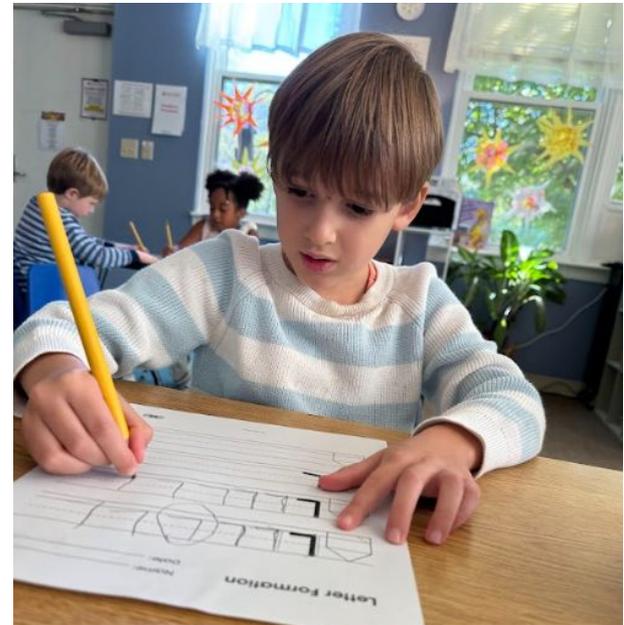
- Count from 1 to 10 without skipping numbers
- Name and recognizes basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
- Name or point to the colors in a box of eight crayons



Reading Readiness

Children ready for Sunrise:

- Enjoy listening to stories and know how to find the first page of a book and which way to flip the pages
- Recognize familiar logos and signs, such as stop signs
- Can recite the alphabet and identify some of the letters
- Recognize and attempt to write own name
- Can draw a simple picture to express an idea



Sunrise Daily Schedule

	MONDAY-THURSDAY		FRIDAY
7:45-8:00	Arrival	7:45-8:00	Arrival
8:00-8:30	Morning Meeting	8:00-8:15	Morning Meeting
8:30-9:30	TK: Math Centers K: Math	8:15-8:45	Quaker Meeting
9:30-10:00	Snack & Outside Time	8:50-9:50	TK: Math Centers K: Math
10:00-11:00	Resource Classes	9:50-10:20	Snack & Outside Time
11:00-12:00	TK: Literacy/Outside K: Literacy	10:20-11:20	TK: Literacy/Outside K: Literacy
12:00-12:30	Lunch	11:20-11:50	Walk in the Woods
12:30-1:00	Outside Time	11:50-12:50	Lunch & Outside Time
1:00-1:30	Rest Time	12:50-1:30	Rest/Support/ Enrichment
1:30-2:30	Unit Study/Choice Time	1:30-2:00	Flex Learning
2:30-2:45	Pack Up	2:00-2:40	Choice Time
2:45	Dismissal	2:45	Dismissal



Next Steps

- Tour Sunrise with Chris and see the students in action! Two dates available: Tuesday, January 20 at 8:30 and Friday, January 23 at 8:30. Please RSVP to Chris. Meet in the office.



Chris Skidmore
Director of Admissions
skidmore@ngfs.org
336-299-0964, ext. 2332



Next Steps

- You will receive an email about enrollment for the 2026-27 year, with an attached enrollment contract listing the tuition, and inviting you to enroll for the next school year.
- Priority is given to returning families.
- A place in the Sunrise class is reserved when enrollment is complete (signed agreement, online enrollment information form, and deposit).
- We would love to save a spot for your student! Sunrise will fill up quickly again this year.



Questions?

