



Extracurricular Activities at Hampshire Country School

Extracurricular activities at Hampshire Country School are not “extra” in the sense of supplementary or superficial. They are a central feature of the HCS experience.

It is through these activities that students develop lifelong interests, solidify friendships, learn the fun of teamwork, and work toward achievable goals. For most children and adolescents, all of this can happen at any school or camp, but most HCS students have been isolated from extracurricular opportunities in other settings. Perhaps they have been reluctant to try out for a team or audition for a play. Perhaps they have failed to display the necessary concentration for practice or rehearsal. Perhaps episodes of uncooperative or inappropriate behavior have led to their dismissal from activities.

Whatever the reason for their previous isolation, Hampshire Country School students do participate, usually by choice, in a wide range of activities. Sports, music, drama, and other activities are easily accessible; the atmosphere is supportive; and students of all abilities participate together. During their time at HCS, most students appear repeatedly on stage as actors or magicians, take music lessons, go camping and canoeing, and participate in a wide range of recreational sports.

Despite a full schedule throughout the week, life at Hampshire Country School is not rushed. Students still have ample time to enjoy reading, sort their card collections, watch beavers build dams and snapping turtles lay eggs, build with Legos, race model cars, play a variety of board and strategy games, and chase through the woods and fields. Scheduled as well as impromptu activity periods take place after each school day and several times during the weekend.

Sports & Outdoor Activities

Team and individual sports emphasize participation, friendly competition, and basic skill development. Soccer, flag football, softball, basketball, tennis, and floor hockey are all played on a regular basis.

Noncompetitive outdoor activities include hiking, canoeing, swimming, sledding, ice skating, snow fort building, snowshoeing, exploring, and camping.

Many activities take advantage of the school's extensive and unusual natural environment. Short and long hikes explore the lakes, woods, streams, and small mountain. Canoeists enjoy the lakes. Camping trips occur several weekends during the year.



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Arts, Music & Drama

Beginning and intermediate music lessons are available for piano, singing, brass and woodwind instruments, and acoustic guitar. Small musical ensembles often perform for meals, Sunday Forum, Family Weekends, and other occasions.

Stage productions range from short skits for evening entertainment to well rehearsed Faculty Weekend drama productions. Magic shows may be performed for student entertainment, Family Weekends, or, occasionally, an outside audience. Occasionally an entire weekend may be devoted to a special activity such as a Shakespearean workshop.

Drawing, sketching, and water color painting are common art activities. Students make a variety of cabinets, boxes, and other objects in the school woodshop, which stresses the use of hand rather than power tools.