



Genesee Lake School

A **PLACE**
To **GROW**



WHO WE ARE

Genesee Lake School is a nationally recognized school dedicated to improving the lives of children, adolescents, and young adults with developmental disabilities, mental health disorders, neurological disorders, and emotional disturbances. We follow an individualized, person-centered, and integrated team approach, emphasizing positive behavioral support, therapeutic relationships, and developmentally appropriate practices. Our goal at Genesee Lake School is to provide an innovative and enriching environment for our students to learn and experience all that life can offer.

MISSION

To provide comprehensive residential treatment and educational/vocational services to children, adolescents, and young adults with dually-diagnosed emotional disturbances and developmental disabilities. Programmatically, Genesee Lake School's mission is to teach individuals to live, learn, and succeed in the community.

VISION

To be the provider of choice for individuals with disabilities.

VALUES

Honesty, integrity, and constancy of purpose.

Our work as a vocation that makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Professionalism in communication and conduct.

Respecting the individuality of the people we serve and responding to their needs with flexibility.

Commitment to social justice for people with disabilities.

Employee ownership, sound financial management, and a commitment to growth and developmental of new, innovative programming for people with disabilities.

PROGRAMS

Residential

For students living on our campus, Genesee Lake School offers a highly-structured, therapeutic environment designed to help gain the experience and skills necessary to find success. We offer both dorm and group home options, depending on the needs of the student.

STEP

The Genesee Lake School STEP (Short-Term Evaluation Program) is a temporary residential arrangement for children and adolescents in need of intensive therapeutic support and specialized evaluation services. For a period of up to 90 days, Genesee Lake School assists these individuals in achieving emotional and behavioral stability while focusing on a successful transition back to the home and community. We have the ability to support individuals with developmental delays, learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum disorders, mental health concerns, or behavior challenges. STEP also successfully serves children and adolescents with low incidence syndromes, rare genetic disorders, seizure disorders, or other neurological challenges.

Day School

The day school program at Genesee Lake School is designed for students needing a more structured and responsive environment than they are finding in their current school, while still allowing for the student to return home each day. Our staff work closely with the placing school district to create a student-centered curriculum, chosen from among our extensive class offerings, with the goal of each student returning to his or her home district following a successful period of therapeutic intervention and academic services. To facilitate this process, and because mutual support and communication are essential to all successful school programs, our Day School Case Coordinators maintain regular contact with the family, and all members of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team, to ensure a communication process that is continual, active, and open.

Respite

Our Respite Program provides temporary care for children and adolescents with a disability or special needs with the purpose of providing relief for the parent or regular caregiver from the extraordinary and intensive demands of ongoing care. The structure and supervision of our Respite Program are especially well suited for children whose behavioral challenges cannot be addressed in other respite programs.



EDUCATION

SOUL

Our SOUL (Student Options for Unlimited Learning) classrooms are designed for interaction and group discussion, including a classroom within a classroom option, so as to allow students to become comfortable working, discussing, and learning in the typical structure of their home school. Elementary level students receive instruction in self-contained classes, while middle and high school level students change classes using a departmentalized model, just as they would in their home district. All of this combines to create an educational environment that effectively prepares our students for a successful return to their home school.



Transition

Our transition classrooms are self-contained environments, for students ages 15 to 21, focusing on vocational experiences and transition planning. Our Life and Employability Skills curriculum includes evaluation, pre-vocational job skills training, work-based learning, and community experience. In our transition classrooms students learn the skills and attributes required for workplace success and develop a transition portfolio for use in future vocational opportunities.

ICARE

ICARE (Innovative Care for Autism and Related Disorders) is a model developed by Genesee Lake School to serve students with significant cognitive challenges.

ICARE classrooms use the principles and practices of the DIR®/Floortime™ Model as the foundation for education, focusing on interaction and engagement as a means of developing language, social, emotional, behavioral, academic, and vocational skills. Additionally, the SCERTS® program is utilized to address the student's need to become a competent and confident social communicator, while preventing problem behaviors that interfere with learning and the development of relationships. SCERTS is also designed to help families, educators, and therapists work cooperatively as a team, in a carefully coordinated manner, to maximize progress in supporting the student.

Vocational

The vocational opportunities at Genesee Lake School, overseen by our Vocational Services Coordinator, consist of a Learn to Work room, an On-Campus Work-Based Learning Program, and paid work options. The Learn to Work room is designed around the evidence-based TEACCH philosophy developed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to help children with Autism and related communication disorders find success in a structured work like environment. Our On-Campus Work-Based Learning Program provides further opportunities for students to take part in a variety of work like activities throughout our campus. Our paid work options range from on-campus based opportunities to community based employment possibilities. Additionally, the greenhouses and field operations at Homegrown Farm are integrated throughout our vocational options.



Special Therapies

Genesee Lake School offers a variety of additional areas in which students can explore their potential, including art, music, speech, and occupational therapy, as well as movement and physical education opportunities.



THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

Foundations for Success

The Foundations for Success program at Genesee Lake School provides each student in our residential school with a continuum of services consistent with best practices for individuals with significant social, emotional, and behavioral difficulties. This program adheres to principles and practices from several therapeutic approaches, including:

- Collaborative Problem-Solving
- Positive Behavioral Supports
- Trauma Informed Care

These approaches serve as the organizational foundation for understanding disability characteristics and reducing challenging behavior. They also serve to inform our methods of specialized assessment and intervention. Our services emphasize the use of helping relationships and supports in a planned therapeutic environment to ensure each individual reaches his or her maximum potential. Individualized treatment planning is provided in an integrated and comprehensive manner by a dedicated treatment team. Finally, during their time with us, many of our students gain the skills necessary to transition from their original placement to a less restrictive setting, either on the main campus or in one of our community living options. To support them in this process, transition services are woven throughout the Foundations for Success program.



Skills for Social Success

Skills for Social Success is a distinct piece of the Foundations for Success residential school program, offering supplementary services and supports to address the unique needs of individuals with higher-skilled Autism and significant challenging behaviors. The Skills for Social Success program follows the same goals, guiding principles, and therapeutic approaches as other Foundations for Success groups, while including additional assessment and intervention services, and incorporating principles and practices from the Developmental, Individual-Difference, Relationship-Based® (DIR) model of care for Autism and related disorders.

ICARE

ICARE (Innovative Care for Autism and Related Disorders) is a model developed by Genesee Lake School to serve students with significant cognitive

challenges. The goal of the ICARE program is to provide each child in our care with a continuum of services that are developmentally appropriate, relationship-based, and respectful of each child's individual differences and uniqueness. Our model fosters individual growth in social relationships and communication and is designed to benefit each student's overall social, emotional, and behavioral skill development.



Services

The Clinical Services Department includes Case Coordinators, Therapists, a Psychologist, and a consulting Psychiatrist. Clinical services include: individual, group, and family therapy and counseling, as well as individualized treatment plans, and individualized behavioral plans.



CAMPUS LIFE

Dormitories

Both girls and boys dorm living options are available at Genesee Lake School. Each student has a furnished, individual room with the opportunity to decorate and make the space comfortable and reflective of his or her own unique personality. The dormitories are all connected to bright and open gathering areas where the students participate in social, recreational, and therapeutic groups.

Group Homes

The Genesee Lake School group homes provide a community based setting for students seeking a less restrictive environment. Our group home programming focuses on community integration and daily living skills so as to help our students move toward greater independence in their lives.

Our children's group homes are designed for 8 students from ages 12 to 17, while the adult group homes are designed for 6 to 8 students from ages 18 to 22.

Health Services

All Genesee Lake School students are provided with preventive and routine medical care on campus. Our Medical Director supervises a staff of Registered Nurses and LPNs qualified for the special needs of our students. Our staff is complemented by a consulting psychiatrist, weekly physician visits, and bi-monthly visits from a neurologist.

Medical treatment is also available to address special needs such as seizure disorders, genetic disorders, low incidence syndrome disorders, and other accompanying medical issues.

Recreation Opportunities

In their free time, Genesee Lake School students take advantage of a wide variety of activities both on and off campus. Students have monthly calendars of current events and, depending on the season, activities can include arts and crafts, nature walks, and field trips throughout the region. In addition, many of our students play basketball, run track, or participate in any number of other sports as members of the Genesee Lake School Special Olympics team.



HOMEGROWN FARM

Fields

Homegrown Farm contains 52 acres of rich organic farmland planted with a large variety of crops, including everything from eggplant and kale to pumpkins and winter squash. The farm production is used both within the school meal program and for the staff CSA. Students are involved in all aspects of the field growing process, from planning and planting through the harvest and distribution.

Aquaponics

Aquaponics is a sustainable food production system that combines an aquaculture system (raising aquatic animals such as fish) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment. This system allows Homegrown Farm to produce a variety of fresh vegetables and fish year round. Students are involved in all aspects of the aquaponics system, from cleaning and planting through maintenance and harvest.



Animals and Apiary

Homegrown Farm also offers the opportunity for students to learn about the care of several different animals, including goats and chickens. The goats help our students learn to maintain and care for larger animals, while the chickens are used for care and egg production. Interaction with the animals helps to teach our students about compassion for all living things and the importance of responsibility. Finally, our apiary houses hundreds of honey bees. The bees help to pollinate our local wildflowers as well as to produce the farm's own Homegrown Honey.



ADMISSIONS

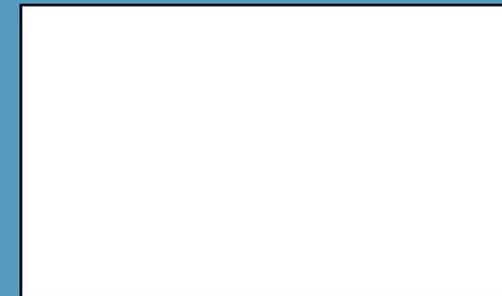
Genesee Lake School is licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities, mental health disorders, neurological disorders, and emotional disturbances are considered for placement.

Students are accepted from throughout the United States. Formal referrals are usually made through local, county, or state departments of social services, departments of mental health, education agencies, educational consultants, or special education attorneys.

Requirements for admission include:

- Admission Application
- A recent clinical assessment of the individual
- Social history
- Individual Education Plan/
3 year evaluation
- Current medical, dental, and medication information

A pre-placement interview may be scheduled and an on-campus visit is desirable; however, we can also arrange an interview in the individual's home community. For out of state placements, the requirements of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) must be met.





Genesee Lake School

A Place to Grow

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