

GREEN VALLEYSCHOOLHOUSE

A K-8 Microschool Rooted in Mastery, Making & Meaningful Work

Strong academics. Real-world skills. Room to move, make, question, grow, and belong.

FAMILY INFORMATION GUIDE

Proposed program model • Grades K-8 • Monday–Thursday core week

Planning Draft • September 2026 • Program details subject to final enrollment, funding, and operational requirements

01 • MISSION & WHY

Why Green Valley Schoolhouse?

Green Valley Schoolhouse is being built around a simple question: What if school helped children become capable, curious people while still leaving room for childhood?

Our Mission

Green Valley Schoolhouse exists to provide a small, relationship-centered K–8 learning community where children develop strong academic foundations, ownership of their learning, practical life skills, creativity, resilience, and meaningful connection to the people and world around them.

Our Why

We believe education can be rigorous without being rushed, individualized without being isolating, and practical without sacrificing deep academic learning. Our model is designed to reduce unnecessary nervous-system load while increasing responsibility, independence, challenge, and authentic opportunities to contribute.

For Students A love of learning • mastery over seat time • self-paced growth • life skills • creativity • ownership • developmentally appropriate challenge	For Families A small community • meaningful relationships • a four-day core week • optional extended care • learning that connects to real life
For Community Young people who know how to contribute • local partnerships • craftsmanship • entrepreneurship • service • connection across ages	For the Whole Child Movement • nature • regulation • curiosity • academic growth • practical competence • time for family life outside school

Our goal is not to recreate conventional school on a smaller scale. It is to use the flexibility of a microschool intentionally.

02 • LEARNING MODEL

How Learning Works

The school day follows a predictable rhythm: Connect, Conquer, Collaborate, and Create. Each part serves a different purpose.

CONNECT • Belong & Prepare

Students begin together: building community, setting goals, previewing the day, and strengthening the executive-functioning and interpersonal skills that support independent learning.

CONQUER • Build Academic Mastery

Students work toward individual goals in core academics. The emphasis is mastery: receiving support when a concept is difficult and moving forward when a student is ready, rather than waiting for or racing the group.

COLLABORATE • Learn With Others

Students investigate ideas together through science, social studies, discussion, problem-solving, practical skills, and interdisciplinary experiences. This is where learning becomes social and connected to the real world.

CREATE • Make, Design & Apply

Students have protected time to build, test, revise, create, and pursue meaningful projects. Productive struggle is part of the process; the goal is growing confidence and capability, not a perfect product every time.

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03 • A DAY AT GVS

A Focused, Developmentally Responsive Day

Younger and older students share the same community rhythm while academic blocks adjust for age and readiness.

TIME	K–2	3–8
8:00–8:30	Connect	Connect
8:30–9:30	Conquer	Conquer
9:30–10:00	Movement + snack + reset	Movement + snack + reset
10:00–11:00	Conquer	Conquer
11:00–11:30	Lunch + movement	Conquer
11:30–12:00	Lunch + movement	Lunch + movement
12:00–1:00	Collaborate	Collaborate
1:00–2:00	Create	Create
2:00	Core day ends	Core day ends*
2:00–3:30	Optional extension	Optional extension

*Older students may have a slightly extended academic schedule if needed to meet program or instructional-hour requirements.

Why movement is built in

Movement is not a reward for finishing work. It is part of the learning environment. Students have predictable opportunities to move, eat, reset, and return to focused work with greater capacity.

Optional Afternoon Extension • 2:00–3:30

Families may choose an optional extension with snack, outdoor/free play, and additional making time. This is intentionally not another academic block. Students can decompress, continue a project, build, create, garden, or simply play.

04 • THE YEARLONG ARC

From Learning Skills to Building Something of Their Own

Collaborate and Create follow an intentional progression across the year: first develop real skills, then use them to create value for others.

First Half of the Year • Explore & Build Skills

Students rotate through practical, hands-on learning experiences inspired by Green Valley Simple Living. Experiences are adapted for age, safety, and readiness.

- Cooking, baking, and food preparation
- Sewing, textiles, and useful handcrafts
- Woodworking, building, and tool skills
- Gardening, food systems, and simple living
- Making, design, repair, and craftsmanship
- Planning, teamwork, problem-solving, and responsible use of materials

Second Half of the Year • Entrepreneurship in Action

Students use the skills they have developed to design a product, service, or small venture. The work becomes a natural place to apply academics in context.

ACADEMIC SKILL	REAL-WORLD APPLICATION
Math	Costs, measurement, pricing, revenue, change, profit and inventor
Writing	Product descriptions, signs, instructions, pitches and customer communication
Art & Design	Branding, packaging, displays and visual communication
Science	Materials, food science, growing systems, testing and iteration
Social Skills	Teamwork, customer service, feedback and problem-solving

The year culminates in a student market experience where students can share or sell what they have created and interact with real customers.

05 • CALENDAR

The Proposed School Rhythm

GVS is designed around a four-day core academic week, leaving room for family life, appointments, rest, enrichment, and community experiences.

Monday–Thursday • Core School Days

Core programming begins at 8:00 a.m. and is designed to end at 2:00 p.m. for most students, with the possibility of a slightly longer day for older students if required. Optional paid afternoon extension is planned through 3:30 p.m.

Friday • No Required Core Academics

Friday is intentionally outside the required core school week. Green Valley may offer separate enrichment, maker, community, or family programming on select Fridays, but Friday is not intended to function as a fifth conventional school day.

School-Year Calendar

Exact opening date, holidays, breaks, teacher workdays, and total instructional calendar will be published before enrollment commitments are due. The final calendar will be built around required instructional/program expectations while protecting the four-day rhythm that is central to the GVS model.

CALENDAR ELEMENT	CURRENT PLAN
Core week	Monday–Thursday
Core hours	8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. for most students
Older grades	May extend beyond 2:00 if needed
Optional extension	2:00–3:30 p.m.
Friday	No required core academics; separate programming may be offered
Annual dates	To be finalized before enrollment commitments

06 • TUITION & FUNDING

Making a Small-School Model Accessible

GVS is exploring participation through Prenda, including access to Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) for eligible students, alongside a self-pay option.

Core Tuition

Final GVS tuition for the launch year has not yet been set. Tuition will be published before families are asked to make a binding enrollment commitment. Our planning goal is to create one transparent tuition structure that works for both TEFA-funded and self-pay families.

No family should interpret a planning estimate or current-year TEFA award as a guaranteed future tuition amount or funding award.

Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA)

GVS anticipates serving families who use TEFA funding through the Prenda model, subject to final program participation, student eligibility, and the rules in effect for the applicable school year. Families may also enroll through private payment if space is available.

Current Planning Reference

For context only, the standard TEFA award discussed for the 2026–27 program year is \$10,474 per eligible student. Future award amounts, payment schedules, eligibility, Prenda fees, and GVS tuition may differ. GVS will provide families with the applicable figures before enrollment.

Optional Programs

The 2:00–3:30 afternoon extension and any Friday/enrichment offerings are planned as optional, separately priced programs. Final rates and any available discounts will be published with enrollment materials.

What families can expect before committing

Final annual tuition and payment schedule
 Clear explanation of what tuition includes
 TEFA/self-pay payment process
 Optional extension and enrichment pricing
 Enrollment, withdrawal, and refund terms
 Any sibling or community-service discounts that are adopted

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07 • FAMILY FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

What grades will Green Valley Schoolhouse serve?

The planned program is 3–8 with a possible K–2 cohort added based on community interest and the feasibility of a second educator. Students will share a small-school community while academic expectations, independence, projects, and schedules are adjusted for developmental level.

Is this homeschool?

GVS is being developed as a microschool learning community using Prenda's model. Final enrollment documents will explain the legal/program structure families are joining and any parent responsibilities that apply.

Will my child be on a computer all day?

No. Digital tools may be used during individualized academic work, but the GVS day intentionally includes movement, discussion, hands-on learning, practical skills, projects, outdoor time, making, and collaboration. Some learning materials may also be paper-based or workbook-based.

How is this different from a traditional classroom?

The model emphasizes small-group relationships, mastery rather than uniform pacing, predictable movement breaks, mixed modes of learning, practical skills, and significant time for students to apply what they learn.

What happens if my child is ahead or behind?

Conquer is designed around individual academic goals. Students can receive more support where needed and continue progressing when they demonstrate readiness rather than being limited to a single whole-class pace.

Is GVS designed for neurodivergent students?

GVS is being designed with regulation, movement, predictable rhythms, executive-function support, and flexible pacing in mind to be developmentally appropriate for all learning types. It is not a therapeutic program or a replacement for services a child may need. Enrollment fit will consider whether the school can safely and appropriately support each student within a small-group setting.

What do students do during Collaborate and Create?

During the first half of the year, students explore practical skills such as cooking, sewing, woodworking, gardening, building, and making. During the second half, they use those skills in an entrepreneurship project that can culminate in a student market experience.

Why does the core day end around 2:00?

The schedule prioritizes focused academics, movement, collaborative learning, and hands-on work rather than extending the day simply to mirror a conventional school schedule. Older students may stay somewhat later if program requirements or their academic workload call for it.

What if I need care after 2:00?

An optional extension is planned from 2:00–3:30 with snack, play, and additional maker/project time.

Is school held on Fridays?

The proposed core week is Monday–Thursday. Friday is intentionally not a required fifth academic day, although separate enrichment or community programming may be offered.

Will students have homework?

The goal is for the core academic work to happen during the school day whenever possible. Any at-home expectations will be purposeful and age-appropriate rather than routine work assigned simply to fill time.

How will the student business/market work?

Students will learn age-appropriate product development, budgeting, pricing, branding, production, communication, and customer service. The market experience is intended to give their academic and practical work a real audience and purpose.

Can families use TEFA?

GVS is exploring operation through Prenda with the intention of serving eligible TEFA-funded families as well as self-pay families. Final eligibility, funding amounts, payment mechanics, and tuition will be confirmed before binding enrollment.

Is Green Valley Schoolhouse faith-based?

GVS is not planned as a faith-based curriculum program. Families from different backgrounds should be able to understand the academic and community expectations clearly from the published program materials. The founder is a person of faith and may have faith-based materials present and offer prayer and bible study as an extension option with parent consent, but the core curriculum will not be faith-based.

When will final tuition and the annual calendar be available?

Both will be provided before families are asked to make a binding enrollment commitment. The goal is for families to have the financial, scheduling, program, and policy information needed to make an informed decision.

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08 • THE BIG PICTURE

What We Hope Students Carry With Them

We want students to leave Green Valley Schoolhouse with more than completed assignments. We want them to know themselves as learners and as people who can contribute.

- I know how to learn something I do not know yet.
- I can ask for help and keep going when something is difficult.
- I can use academic skills to solve real problems.
- I know how to make, build, grow, repair, plan, and create.
- I can work independently and collaborate with other people.
- My ideas can become something real.
- I have something valuable to contribute to my community.

Strong academics and a childhood are not competing goals. Green Valley Schoolhouse is being designed to protect both.

Planning Note

Green Valley Schoolhouse is currently in the planning and community-building stage. This guide describes the intended educational model. Facility, staffing, tuition, final calendar dates, funding participation, enrollment policies, and optional-program pricing remain subject to final confirmation.

GREEN VALLEY SCHOOLHOUSE

Learn deeply • Make boldly • Contribute meaningfully