Blue Rock School - a great alternative

Blue Rock School (BRS) is an independent co-educational day school serving grades Kindergarten through Eighth. BRS has been in existence for 20 years, acquiring its West Nyack, New York campus in 1990.

The teachers and staff of Blue Rock School believe that children learn best through direct experience. Our challenging academic curriculum includes math, science, history, literature, and Spanish; it is balanced and fully integrated with art, music, drama, nature, and play.

Your child’s educational journey is supported by:
• Exceptionally talented teachers. Blue Rock School’s highly qualified teachers are passionately committed to scholastic and personal growth with the aim of drawing forth each student’s full intellect and creativity.
• Small classes. BRS has a teacher/student ratio of 1:10. This close association fosters a consciousness of each child’s strengths and needs and allows our rich and rigorous curriculum to be explored with depth and dynamism.

Earth, Air and Water. Our campus includes a greenhouse and animal sheds that allow botany, biology and other classes to be held outdoors. Three acres of wooded grounds invite children to plant gardens, care for farm animals, dig, climb and dream.

Our new Middle School

Blue Rock School offers a challenging and creative environment for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Small classes allow students to explore high-level concepts in math, literature, social studies, history, and science (integrating activities in chemistry, physics and biology), all within or beyond their grade levels. The classes participate in:
• independent study projects
• teacher and/or student-directed lessons
• collaborative and hands-on activities
• seminars and workshops

Blue Rock School’s hands-on approach gives students opportunities for growth and learning.

The Arts – music, art, poetry, and drama – continue to be an important area of exploration with multiple opportunities for students to perform and exhibit their work. Our nurturing environment fosters positive peer relationships. In addition, as the oldest students on campus, our Middle School children serve as role models. They interact with younger students in academic and artistic endeavors, mediation, and play. This furthers their sense of responsibility in a community of learners.

Our Middle School classroom extends beyond Blue Rock School. Students participate in the Great Hudson River Sweep (an eco-friendly clean-up day) as well as individual American history projects on various wars, groups. One group finishes the editing of their first book Before Columbus. The other goes on a field trip to the botanical gardens, taking notes and sketching. They will collect wind samples with a team of marine biologists, sketch the landscape and pen their own Hudson River poetry at a variety of river locales.

The Middle School students divide into three groups. One group finishes the editing of their individual American history projects on various wars, inventors, and significant events in preparation for a presentation for parents. Another group practices a play they have scripted on women in the American Revolution, while yet a third group make tetrahedrons to further their study of fractals in three dimensions.

Each day at Blue Rock School provides opportunities for growth and learning.

Is your school serving your child’s needs?

Each year public and private schools spend billions of dollars on technology and educational programs aimed to inspire, engage and instruct our children. Yet an increasing number of parents have begun to question the educational conventions central to these programs, especially:
• standardized testing
• burdensome homework
• over reliance on technology/media
• crowded classrooms
• impersonal middle school

More and more parents report that their children are stressed, overwhelmed and bored.

Do you wish that your child’s education could have depth and substance and, more than that, that your son or daughter could learn with joy?

We warmly welcome you to Blue Rock School.

At Blue Rock our son had a wonderful, creative, hands-on learning experience, while at the same time acquiring the necessary academic skills.Everyday for six years he enthusiastically ran off to school. Blue Rock was like a second home for him."

Myrna Packer and Art Bridgman, BRS alumnus parents

A walk around our school

When you walk in the door and see Kindergarteners tending their newly hatched chicks or walking the goats, it is an instant tip-off that Blue Rock is no ordinary school. As you stroll through the 18th century farmhouse and wooded grounds…

A multidimensional math project is in progress in the First Grade. Excited students huddle around the terrace window observing the number and variety of wild birds that alight. This information will be collated, graphed and charted by the students, a memorable lesson in math and science skills.

Class is held at the Hudson River for the Third Grade today. Students are participants in a year-long Orion Grant that combines history, science, art, and poetry. They will collect water samples with a team of marine biologists, sketch the landscape and pen their own Hudson River poetry at a variety of river locales.

Student-created anemometers are being tested by the Fifth and Sixth Grade on the school’s expansive grounds. The children are observing and charting wind velocity on this breezy morning – part of a larger study of meteorology.

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At Blue Rock there are no tests, nor do children sit hypnotized in front of a computer screen. Blue Rock’s education trains my son to be alert, to look for patterns, to question, to analyze, to explore, to play. Blue Rock has safeguarded his vitality."

Elizabeth Sydor, BRS parent
Frequently asked questions about Blue Rock School

Q: What curriculum or guidelines do you follow?
A: BRS is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Our students meet rigorous academic benchmarks that prepare them to succeed at any private or public high school.

Q: You don’t test students, give grades or assign a lot of homework. How can I possibly assess my child’s progress?
A: Parents are apprised of children’s progress through regular parent/teacher meetings and detailed twice-yearly written evaluations. Most parents find that the evaluations offer a more comprehensive and proactive assessment of students’ progress than grades.

Q: Your students spend so much time on art, music and drama. How do they ever learn essential academic skills?
A: Our multidisciplinary curriculum integrates demanding intellectual standards with stimulating hands-on study. Students confidently apply strengths from one subject to another and, free from boredom and fear of failure, they easily acquire concepts and skills.

After School and Summer Programs

Our creative After School Program is licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. The program is for BRS students and children from the community at-large, ages 5-11. From 3:00-5:30 pm daily, participants enjoy our playgrounds, woods, gardens, art, gym, and music rooms as well as quiet reading corners. The program is discovery- and process-oriented, supporting the children’s natural love of learning and the use of their imagination through play. Our staff has a variety of backgrounds and derive their training from Yale University, Sarah Lawrence College, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. They have a commitment to child development and child-centered education. Transportation from area schools to BRS can be provided.

Our Summer Program, run by talented BRS staff, offers local children an exciting camp with music drama, crafts, woodworking, games, and nature study. To beat the heat, we have sprinkler play, small wading pools, natural ice pops, and plenty of shade. The camp runs for five weeks beginning the first week in July.

There are so many things [about the Blue Rock Summer Program], there’s not just one thing … the freedom to create and play in a joyful environment.

Hedi Broecking, parent

Give us a call today!

Please call BRS Director of Admissions, at (845) 627-0234 to arrange a visit. Or join us at one of three Saturday OPEN HOUSES, 10am-Noon, held annually in November, January and March. Call or visit our website for dates.

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