



# The Greenspire School Overview

The Greenspire School offers a unique educational program for middle school students in grades 6 through 8 based on purposeful connections between individuals, communities, and the environment. Greenspire is an independent public charter school authorized by Grand Valley State University and is located in the Grand Traverse Commons. Greenspire is a project-based, environmentally focused, and place-based school that incorporates the Montessori philosophy.

## Overview

2023-2024 Enrollment	100
Full-Time Staff	14
Class Sizes	16-17
Student/Staff Ratio	7:1
Certified Staff	13
Calendar Year	September to June
Daily Start & End Times	8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Half Days	8:30 am to 11:30 am
Transportation	Not Provided
Food Services	Not Provided

## Weekly Schedule Breakdown

Course	Meetings Per Week	Hours Per Week
Math	5	3.25
Science	3	3.5
English Language Arts	4	3.65
Literature	3	3
Social Studies	3	3.5
Outdoor Education	3	3
Physical Education/ Health	3	3
Good Humans	1	.75
Everyone Reads	2	1.2
Community Connections	1	.65
Electives	2	1.2

## What is Greenspire?

The Greenspire Middle School is the perfect place for those students and families that embrace...

**Project-Based Learning** – The ability for students to participate in cross-curricular collaboration, hands-on instruction, and experiential learning.

**Outdoor Learning** – Students are provided an authentic learning experience in nature by developing their knowledge of and connection to it. **Intellectual Engagement** – Our inquiry-based experience in multi-age classrooms provides students with the academic rigor that will prepare them for high school.

**Whole Child Education** – Our students participate in leadership development and social-emotional learning activities that help to develop their independence. **Community Involvement** – Our students develop meaningful relationships by making real-world connections with our community through guest speakers and service projects.

**Council and Advisory:** Each day begins with either a whole school no-agenda meeting (council) or small group advisories. Both are used to foster a sense of community at Greenspire utilizing different approaches to engage as many students as possible. Councils and advisories play an important role in daily life at Greenspire and provide some of our best memories and most effective teachable moments.

**Community Connection:** Community Connection time provides our students with an opportunity to directly interact with our greater northern Michigan community regularly. We utilize this time each week to invite guests into school - from speakers to musicians to artists to activists. We also use Community Connection time to engage in service work throughout the area as well as build community on our campus.

**Electives:** Students can choose up to two (2) 40-minute electives every 9 weeks. Although ever-changing, electives typically include art, music, gardening, reading and/or creative writing, wildlife exploration, competitive team sports, hiking, sledding, and much, much more.

**Good Humans:** We pride ourselves in developing students who are ready to go into the world and do good. During good humans, students develop social-emotional skills as well as life skills to prepare them for the world. This includes things like understanding car insurance, how to tip properly, how to sew on a button, etc.

If you would like to schedule a tour of our campus for your family, please visit our website at [www.greenspireschool.org/apply-middle-school/](http://www.greenspireschool.org/apply-middle-school/) to learn more!