

BACS NEWSLETTER

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Pre-Registration (K-10th)

We are still accepting student registration applications for the 2026-2027 school year! We are currently accepting students who will be entering grades **K-10th only** for the 2026-2027 school year. Please visit [this link](#) to begin registering your student!

Completion of the registration application is the first step for BACS enrollment. In the event we exceed our maximum capacity for any learning pod, a Lottery will be held on February 16. Notifications of acceptance will be administered between February 17-21, 2026. Once accepted, further steps must be completed in order to finalize enrollment.

As learning pods reach capacity after February 16, applicants will be placed on a waitlist on a first come first serve basis.

[Registration Application Link](#)



Lessons Learned in the Barn

At Breakthrough Academy, students do not simply learn about farming from textbooks; they actively participate in it. Each day, students engage in the hands-on care of animals, taking responsibility for feeding, monitoring health, maintaining clean environments, and observing behavior. This consistent interaction creates meaningful learning opportunities that extend well beyond academics. Through daily animal care, students develop practical skills, emotional awareness, and a deep understanding of stewardship that shapes both their character and their growth.

Animal care also strengthens problem solving and critical-thinking skills. Students learn to observe behavior carefully, recognize signs of illness or stress, and respond thoughtfully when challenges arise.

Whether diagnosing a minor issue, adapting to weather conditions, or managing an unexpected situation, children develop resilience and sound decision-making skills. These experiences foster adaptability and confidence, which are qualities that are essential in both academic settings and future careers.

Beyond practical responsibilities, working with animals cultivates empathy and emotional intelligence. Animals communicate without words, requiring students to develop patience, awareness, and sensitivity to nonverbal cues. Over time, children build compassion and a deeper understanding of the needs of living beings. Research has shown that regular interaction with animals can reduce stress and anxiety while increasing feelings of calm, confidence, and accomplishment. continued...

Lessons Learned in the Barn

These emotional benefits are especially important in a world where many young people face increasing levels of pressure and distraction.

Working with farm animals also promotes physical health and work ethic. Caring for animals often involves meaningful physical activity: lifting, carrying, cleaning, and maintaining safe environments. Through daily animal chores, students gain strength and stamina while developing an appreciation for the value of hard work. Leadership and teamwork naturally emerge as students collaborate, manage shared responsibilities, and support one another in projects and presentations. For older students, experiences such as training animals, preparing livestock for

shows, or participating in community events help build specialized animal husbandry skills and professional readiness.

In many ways, working with animals provides lessons that cannot be replicated in a traditional classroom setting. Students learn that their actions have real consequences, that consistency builds trust, and that growth, whether in animals or in themselves, requires patience and care. Through daily responsibility and meaningful connection to living beings, children develop confidence, resilience, and a lasting respect for the natural world. These are lessons that extend far beyond agriculture, shaping thoughtful, capable individuals prepared to contribute positively to their communities.

SKILLS DEVELOPED THROUGH ANIMAL CARE

- **Responsibility & Time Management**

Animals depend on consistent daily care. Students learn to manage routines, meet deadlines, and follow through on commitments.

- **Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking**

Observing behavior, identifying concerns, and responding appropriately builds sound judgment and adaptability.

- **Compassion & Emotional Intelligence**

Caring for non-verbal animals strengthens patience, empathy, and awareness of others' needs.

- **Work Ethic & Resilience**

Farm work requires effort and perseverance, helping students build stamina and confidence through meaningful accomplishment.

- **Leadership & Teamwork**

Shared responsibilities and collaborative projects encourage communication, cooperation, and initiative.



UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✳ **Board Meeting**

February 19, 2026

The Board of Trustees will be holding an in-person meeting at 4:00 PM at 33 Lamplighter Park, North Conway, NH 03860.

- ✳ **School Sign**

Our new school sign is here and waiting for final permits before installation. Thank you, Taylor Lucy for making this happen!

- ✳ **School Vans**

We are awaiting the delivery of our 2 new 15-passenger vans.



A huge thank you to Scott Bailey (Bailey Environmental Services) for his tireless efforts to get us a state approved septic design that works for our space!

Thank you to Hartley Well for the great job we know they will do with our new well!

Thank you to Jersey Nickerson for her continued support, as well as for connecting us with Runnels Hall for our Info Sessions and future projects!

