A PLACE TO GROW
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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

HOME GROWN 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.