



DARROW SCHOOL

Family Guide

2023–2024

Mission Statement

At the Darrow School, we are dedicated to serving students with diverse backgrounds and abilities, building on each student's individual talents and interests to inspire enduring confidence for success in college and in life. Our challenging and individually focused college-preparatory curriculum features a unique combination of classroom instruction, hands-on learning, and environmental consciousness. Our beautiful mountainside campus, a National Historic Landmark, is rich in its Shaker heritage and provides an ideal setting.

Darrow School Values Developed in the 2022-2023 school year

Growth

We prioritize growth over perfection, recognizing that each individual has their own gifts, challenges, and goals to build from. Our students are safe to fail creatively, which is essential for true learning. They routinely revise and reflect on their work on their way toward mastery.

Diversity

We believe that the opportunity to learn and grow in a small, diverse community during your formative years is irreplaceable. We actively cultivate and celebrate a student body that is diverse along many dimensions, including racial and ethnic diversity, diversity of gender identity, and neurodiversity.

Community

Like the Mohicans and Shakers who inhabited this place before us, we believe in the power of an intentional community built around shared work and shared values. Darrow is deliberately small, which means that each community member is valued and influential.

Compassion

We seek to treat each other with compassion, recognizing that we may only know a small part of someone else's story.

Authenticity

We aspire to be a place where young people become comfortable in their own skin and empowered to understand and share their authentic selves.

Whom Do I Call....

Academic Program, Class Schedules, Classroom Issues

Mika Saarela, Associate Head of School
(518) 704-2750, saarelam@darrowschool.org

Admission/Financial Aid

Vince Schmidt, Director Of Admissions
(518) 704-2761, schmidt@darrowschool.org

Athletics

Kris Magargal, Director of Athletics
(518) 704-2754, magargalk@darrowschool.org

Attendance/Absences, Travel

Lyla Zusman, Dean's Assistant
(518) 704-2737, zusmanl@darrowschool.org

College Counseling

Nico Forcier, Director of College Counseling
(518) 704-2753, forciern@darrowschool.org

Counseling

Tristan Muriel, School Counselor
(518) 704-2740

Gifts and Contributions

Miranda Meyers, Associate Manager of Advancement
(518) 704-2776, meyersm@darrowschool.org

Learning Skills

Karen Hundal, Director of Learning Skills
(518) 704-2752 hundalk@darrowschool.org

Medical Appointments, Medications

Gerald Russell, Head of Health Services
(518) 704-2739, russellg@darrowschool.org

Registrar and Transcripts

Lorrie Wechter, Registrar
(518) 704-2765, wechterl@darrowschool.org

Student Life, Residential, Discipline

Lily Corral, Dean of Students
(518) 704-2771, corrall@darrowschool.org

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the essential, collaborative relationship between Darrow and the families of the students it serves.

Darrow's History written by Andrew Vadnais, Head of School

Darrow School's history is unique among independent schools. Darrow is one of only a handful of schools in the country to have its campus designated as a National Historic Landmark Site.

Darrow is not a Shaker school, but it did inherit its incredible campus from the Mount Lebanon Shakers. The Shakers - one of America's most successful utopian communities - lived and worked here from 1785 until the 1930s.

The Shakers valued education. In 1930, as their community numbers were dwindling, they partnered with friends from the New Lebanon area to create The Lebanon School for Boys. Many prominent educators joined the effort, including Frank Boyden (Deerfield Academy), Horace Taft (The Taft School), and George Van Santvoord (The Hotchkiss School). In 1938, C. Lambert Heyniger purchased the school and changed its name to Darrow School. Darrow remained an all-boys school until 1970 when the first girls were admitted.

Today, Darrow's campus contains 24 buildings (16 historic Shaker buildings) and over 380 acres of fields, hiking trails, and forest. Like the Shakers before us, Darrow continues to value equality of all types, hard work, honesty, and service above self.

Over the years, hundreds of students have graduated from our Mountainside campus and gone on to successful careers in just about every field imaginable. One of our graduates has even walked on the moon - astronaut Charles (Pete) Conrad, Jr. ('49) as a member of the Apollo 12 crew.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is a group of committed volunteers who ensure that Darrow continues to work in accordance with its mission. The board focuses on "big picture" issues like long-term financial stability, strategic planning, fundraising, and mission. Darrow's day-to-day management is entrusted to the Head of School, the Board's sole employee.

The Board of Trustees is composed of alumni, current and past parents, former staff, and friends of the School. The Governance Committee is responsible for seeking out Board members who can best ensure Darrow's fiduciary and long-term health.

Alumni and Friends

Enrolling at Darrow means joining a vibrant, connected, and engaged community of former students and friends going back to the School's founding in 1932. Alumni maintain their close ties to the School through the *Peg*

Board, Darrow's community magazine, through Reunion Weekend activities, regional gatherings, e-blasts and social media posts, and through dedicated giving. Alumni enrich your student's Darrow experience directly through financial support, guidance, alumni networks, and connection to the school's long and rich history.

Grandparents

Darrow welcomes the involvement of grandparents in the life of the School. Feel free to extend our invitation to School functions to your student's grandparents, such as Family Weekends, athletic events, theater performances, and, of course, Grandparents' Day (November 10, 2023). We also would appreciate contact information (address and email) for grandparents so we may include them in any of our mailings. Please send to Melinda Leyden at leydenm@darrowschool.org.

Parents Association

The Darrow School Parents Association is the structure through which parents/guardians can work together for the best possible school experience for their children. Parents Association members can use their skills and knowledge to work collaboratively to support each other, the school and its students, and build a sense of community and school spirit. We invite you to become an active member of the group and participate in any way that you are able. Contact Melinda Leyden at leydenm@darrowschool.org or 518-704-2774 with any questions or comments, or to volunteer..

How to Give

The annual fund gifts are the crux of the school operating costs. Tuition doesn't cover the needs. Darrow calls for your support to continue the tradition of exceptional education. There are three ways to give:

Mail:

Darrow School
Advancement Department
110 Darrow Road
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Online:

Visit www.darrowschool.org and select "GIVE" at the top

Phone:

Miranda Meyers in the Advancement Department: 518-704-2776

Thank you in advance for the support.

Darrow School Expectations

What does Darrow expect of its students?

- Darrow expects that its students will follow the rules set out in the Student Handbook, and will accept appropriate consequences for behavior that does not conform to our school values.
- Respect and responsibility:
 - Students should respect each other, themselves, the Darrow faculty and staff, and the physical environment of Darrow including its buildings.
 - Our school wants to send young people out into the world with the education and skills they need. This means asking students to take responsibility for their actions, for being where they need to be, and to meet their obligations.
- Students should ask for help when they need it, communicate when things are difficult, and try their best.

What does Darrow expect of its Families?

- Moral support: promote and uphold the School's expectations of students at home as well as at school.
- Responsible parenting: cooperate with faculty and with other families in maintaining a safe and supportive environment for young people.
- Communication: trust that teachers and administrators want the best for your student, make an effort to stay informed, and voice your questions and concerns to the appropriate school personnel.
- Flexibility: Darrow's unique program is robust and requires parent cooperation. Pick-up times, vacations, and long days may be required. We will do our best to accommodate family events and obligations, but require communication about them in advance.
- Financial Support: settle accounts in a timely manner and demonstrate your loyalty to Darrow by considering making a gift to the Annual Fund or to a capital project.

What can you expect from Darrow faculty?

- Care: faculty will treat each student with respect and be attentive to their individual needs.
- Understanding: Making mistakes is a natural part of learning and growth. Darrow's disciplinary practices are predicated on the understanding that students can learn from their mistakes.
- Partnership: communication from Advisors on a regular basis about their student; communication as needed from administration or health services.
- Professionalism: faculty will utilize best teaching practices, and actively seek critical feedback and professional growth.

Student independence and advocacy

Darrow school strives to grow young people who are independent, capable, and know when to advocate for themselves. This means that parents must allow students to make mistakes, to step up, and to complete the requirements that Darrow sets out for its students without interference.

Examples of times when students should self-advocate:

- Clearing absences
- Going to the Health Center
- Choosing weekend activities
- Course changes (with parent input)
- Sports: play time, positions, etc
- Leadership positions
- Grades and privileges
- Filling out forms, checking in and out
- Roommate difficulties

- Academic communication, seeking extra help or attending office hours
- Strikes, house parent interactions
- Medication requests
- Logging into Google Classroom
- Performances: roles, time on stage, etc

Examples of times when we want parents to help or engage:

- Travel arrangements
- Encouraging students to reach out to adults
- Asking questions or clarifying about an incident that occurred
- The college process and financial aid
- Coordinating activities outside of Darrow
- Excused absences and scheduling appointments*
- Requests for money, changes to allowance, etc

We expect and encourage parents to maintain healthy boundaries with their child. Parents should not access student email, Google Classroom, or other academic supports in their student's name. Do encourage students to read their email and submit their schoolwork.

As stated in the enrollment contract each Darrow family signs:

A positive and constructive working relationship between Darrow and the Parent is essential to the fulfillment of the School's educational purpose. Thus, Darrow reserves the right to suspend or terminate the attendance, or refuse to extend the privilege of re-enrollment to a student if Darrow concludes that the actions of the Parent, or any family member or family employee, make such a positive and constructive relationship impossible, or otherwise seriously interfere with Darrow's accomplishment of its educational purpose. A Student's suspension or expulsion under this paragraph will not affect the Parent's financial liability for the entire school year's tuition and fees, unless enrolled in the Tuition Protection Plan.

When to call the AOD:

The AOD, Administrator on Duty, is the administrator who will respond to emergencies between 4 pm and 8 am the next day. The AOD will ensure the safety of all students on campus and will account for all students. Darrow offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reaching an office directly during the school day (518-704-2760) is the best way to reach the person you are looking for. The AOD phone is checked during the school day, but may not be answered immediately.

After hours: The AOD will answer the AOD phone (518) 365-9762, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. If you need to pick up your child, take them off campus, or are concerned about the welfare of your child, call the AOD and let them know.

Darrow adults who support your teen

Partnering with advisors to help students achieve success

Advisors are expected to contact their advisee's parents on a regular basis every week or two via email or phone call, whatever the parent prefers. Advisors do their work best when they have information about your student, so providing them with pertinent information will lead to a better outcome. You know the most about your student.

Advisors work to help students develop independence and important life skills. Just as a parent does in the home, advisors talk, strategize, and plan solutions; however, the student must enact or complete the task.

Dorm Parents

The Dorm parents are responsible for the smooth running of the dormitory. All of the dorm parents communicate with one another daily and meet with student leaders such as Residential Advisors (RAs) regularly. Dorm parents hold students accountable to hygiene standards, fire safety standards, and other requirements that support their independent living. Dorm parents strive to be as consistent and equitable as possible, while still acknowledging each student's unique strengths.

Student Health Center

The health of your student is in the capable hands of the personnel in the Health Center. It is staffed by licensed, registered nurses, who work closely with area physicians and health care providers. The focus of the Health Center is wellness, and allowing students to return to class where possible, or be monitored if they are not well. Medical appointments can be arranged individually through the Health Center.

School Counselor

Darrow school has on staff a full time counselor who is a licensed psychologist. The school counselor is on call twenty four hours a day and available to students throughout the school day for drop in visits or scheduled appointments. The counselor talks with students about myriad adolescent issues, listens and suggests strategies to students to ease their transition to Darrow and boarding school life. The school counselor can coordinate appointments for therapists and psychiatrists with students and parents, and make recommendations for new providers.

Caring Adults

The Darrow School community is full of caring adults and educators, from the Head of School to the people who maintain the grounds and buildings. Students have opportunities to interact with all of the adults on campus. For many students, bonds with adults outside of the classroom are stronger than those fostered within the classroom. In our experience, these important relationships are crucial to a graceful transition and the full development of each individual.

Confidentiality

Darrow adults strive to develop relationships where students feel trust in the adults as well as trust in themselves. Because of this as well as because of legal requirements, Darrow works to keep certain matters confidential from other students, and informs faculty on a need to know basis.

Types of information the school will keep confidential:

- Medical information such as medical history, current medications, etc.
- Disciplinary action such as disciplinary levels or other consequences
- Quarter and semester grades
- Anything said to the school counselor that does not fall within the requirements of reporting
- A student's past experiences will be shared on a need to know basis.

Just as we strive to maintain confidentiality with your student, we also strive to maintain confidentiality for others. Because of this, we will not discuss the discipline, history, or personal details of any other student without their consent. If you have a concern about another student at Darrow based on what you have heard from your student, please note that we will not share confidential information. However, concerns can be

communicated with the Dean of Students office. It is helpful to remember that students will at times exaggerate or create stories to gain social capital, and that an open mind and compassion is always a good place to start.

Things to bring

Deciding what to bring to school and what to leave at home can be difficult. The trick is to understand your specific needs and pack appropriately. At Darrow, students need clothing and supplies for a variety of commitments and activities: classes, community service, semi-formal events, sports, etc. Please keep in mind that our weather can be challenging: crisp autumns, cold winters, and warm springs mean that students will quickly learn the importance of layering. Please refer to the Student Handbook for dress code guidelines. The following is a suggested list of clothing and items to bring to school:

Clothing:

Tops: A variety of shirts for different weather (t-shirts, long sleeves, tank tops)

Bottoms: Pants, shorts, jeans, work pants, skirts (mid-thigh or longer), sweatpants

Outerwear: Sweaters, hoodies, cardigans, winter jacket, rain jacket, windbreaker, gloves, hat

Sports: Pants or shorts and shirts that are comfortable to move in

Formal: Formal shirt and pants, tie, formal dresses/skirts (mid-thigh or longer), sport coat

Shoes: Sneakers (one pair of athletic sneakers for indoor use only), rain boots, formal shoes, everyday shoes, close-toed work shoes

Other: Dresses (formal and casual, both mid-thigh or longer), long underwear, sunglasses, bathing suit, underwear, socks, umbrella, pajamas

Sporting specific:

Equipment (gloves, cleats, sticks, helmets, etc.)

Safes

Each room is equipped with one safe per student which can be logged into online and accessed for students to store their valuables. We encourage students to utilize this if they have valuables, and to lock their rooms to prevent theft.

Items not allowed on campus:

Candles, matches, lighters, incense, or anything that causes flame

Microwaves, toaster ovens, crock pots, coffeepots, air fryers, space heaters, etc.

Knives, firearms, fireworks, or explosives

Illegal drugs, medications for which students do not have a prescription

*Please note: students are not allowed to keep over-the-counter medications in their rooms.

Items you might not have thought of:

Books for pleasure reading

Many sports require a pair of “indoor shoes,” sneakers dedicated to being used indoors.

Room basics:

Towels and toiletries, waste basket, laundry bag, sheets (twin or twin XL), pillow case, blanket or quilt, desk lamp

ALARM CLOCK (students may not have access to a phone for waking up) UL (Underwriters Laboratory) certified extension cords/power strip, coat hangers, flashlight, laundry detergent, hand sanitizer, posters, photographs, drawings

Other essentials:

Backpack or bookbag, computer/laptop, TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator (required for all math courses), favorite books and games, personal electronics and charging cords

Sunscreen and sunglasses

Games, puzzles, or other items for free time

How parents can help with roommate difficulties:

Students may need guidance from time to time when making the transition to living with roommates. This is an essential life skill. Here are some tips you can offer your student:

1. Remember that roommates don't have to be best friends. They can have different interests, different classes, or different social groups. The important part of successful roommate pairings is mutual respect.
2. Honest communication: students should advocate honestly for their needs, whether that is cleanliness, personal space, or bedtime. Students should then make agreements with their roommate. When a roommate doesn't meet those expectations, the student should communicate that with their roommate first.
3. RA support: RAs and House Parents will not have a conversation for a student, but will support the student with finding words, or with having a mediated conversation. Reaching out will always be met with support.
4. Tone of voice and empathy are important: sometimes it is not what is said, but how it is said. Approaching every interaction with compassion is a great way to start positive conversations.
5. Have an open mind. Roommates may have very different life experiences, beliefs, needs, or viewpoints. Approaching these interactions with the lens of being able to find new perspectives brings more success.
6. Dorm rules are key. Disorganization or mess can make a difficult situation in a room- and it is also against the rules of the dorm. Work together to help keep the room clean.

Day Student Policies

Day students often refer to Darrow as their “home away from home,” as they spend quality time in our own unique living and learning community. Day students have access to all that is available to boarding students, and, in turn, are subject to all school policies and rules while on campus. Day students are encouraged to participate in as many weekend or evening activities as possible, and are invited to stay overnight in the dorm with permission up to two nights a week.

School Absence

Day students’ family should notify the Dean of Students’ office by 8:30 a.m. if a student will be absent due to illness or transportation difficulties, by phone or email. Day students must fill out excused absence forms for all planned absences.

Inclement Weather

Students may stay overnight at school when the weather presents a danger to driving, whether the student drives themselves or a family member picks them up. Students and parents must notify the Dean of Students and the appropriate dorm parent if a day student needs to stay on campus. We encourage students to err on the side of caution when inclement weather is forecasted.

Lockers

Day students are assigned lockers in the lower level of the Dairy Barn. Locks are provided by the school. We encourage day students to keep a change of clothes on campus in case of emergency.

Automobile Policy

- Day students may use their cars only for transportation to and from school, once they have completed the appropriate form and submitted it to the Dean of Students office. They may not depart from campus during the school day unless it is for an approved excused absence.
- Students may only park in specifically assigned areas behind the Dairy Barn.
- Day students may not give rides to boarding students unless permission has been granted, in writing, from the parents of both parties to the Dean of Students.
- Parents of day students bear full responsibility for ensuring that rules regarding automobile use are upheld. A student’s failure to follow this policy may result in loss of driving privileges or other disciplinary action.
- A student’s car is subject to inspection to the extent deemed reasonably necessary by the School in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its students or other members of the Darrow community.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What if my student is sick?

If your boarding student is not feeling well enough to attend classes or other commitments, they must report to the Health Center immediately. There the student will be evaluated, and if appropriate offered a place to rest until the student feels well enough to return to classes. In order for an absence to be excused, the student may not stay in their room while ill unless given permission to do so by the Health Center. If a student is unable to walk to the Health Center, they should contact the Health Center by phone (518-704-2760) or email. During hours when the Health Center is not open, there is a nurse on call, and the student should call the AOD for support.

Serious emergencies are referred to Berkshire Medical Center's emergency room, and appointments for specialists are arranged on an individual basis at the student's own expense.

- Who helps my student manage their time?

Each student is expected to manage their own time. However, we do support that effort in a variety of ways; some students receive direct support with their schedules via Learning Skills. All boarding students are supported via our residential life program, scheduled study halls and lights out times. However, a typical student room contains many distractions; phones, reading materials, video games, and your student needs to determine how to resist these distractions when they have work to do. If your student needs further help with time management, please encourage them to talk to their advisor to consider additional strategies. If a student is having particular difficulty with work production, they can be added to a supervised Study Hall.

- How can I be sure my student is eating well and getting enough sleep?

As your student transitions to living more independently both day students and boarders have to learn how to manage the various demands on their time and energy, and how to take good care of themselves in the process. This is a tremendous learning experience, and most students manage it well. Sleep and nutrition are two topics that we cover in HAWC, our Health and Wellness Curriculum. However, some students need extra guidance. The best way to approach this with your student is with a supportive ear and some ideas for solutions. Encourage your student to advocate for themselves in the dining hall with our kitchen staff if there is something they need. Sometimes, student complaints are a way of communicating that they miss home. Screen time limits on a phone are a great way to support your student with not being awake after lights out.

- Can girls visit boys' rooms or boys visit girls rooms?

Yes. All students may visit each other's rooms after obtaining permission from the house parent on duty. Visitation is allowed at certain times under adult supervision, with an open door. Students must earn in-room visitation as a privilege.

- What if I have an inkling about rule-breaking at the school and would like to have someone check on it?

Parents may hear about potentially troublesome behaviors before Darrow staff hears about it. If you are concerned about your student or another student and would like someone at the school to check into it, please do not hesitate to contact the Dean of Students. You need not share the names of the students involved if you are not comfortable doing so. In most circumstances, we will not share the source of the information when addressing the problem.

- My student is telling me about things another student is doing, and I'm worried. What should I do?

Rumors abound when large groups of teens meet. Some of these are to increase social capital; others are based completely on hearsay. It can be helpful when parents use the “trust, but verify” approach. That is, first ask your student; did you witness this firsthand? Did that person tell you themselves, or did another tell you?

Approaching with empathy can be helpful, and can encourage students not to judge another based on rumors, but on their actions. Finally, if you are very concerned, reach out to the Dean of Students.

- I haven’t heard from anyone at the school in a few weeks. What should I do?

Your student’s advisor should be reaching out on a weekly or biweekly basis to update you. If you do not hear from your student’s advisor and it has been a few weeks, reach out to the Dean of Students to let them know so that this can be remedied. If you have specific questions or concerns, reach out to your student’s advisor or the relevant person (see page 3 of this guide).

- What kind of clothing should my student have?

New Lebanon can be cool in the fall, and is cold in the winter. Temperatures typically range from 10-40°F, but temperatures can drop below 0°F. Spring and early fall temperatures can be quite variable, ranging from cold to 90°F. We recommend that each student come with a good winter coat, hat, gloves, and winter boots for walking to and from class in the cold.

- Our address or phone numbers have changed, who should we notify?

Please notify the Registrar in writing of any change of address, phone number, emergency contact information, etc.

- How does the Director of College Counseling assist students with the college process?

Our Director of College Counseling supports students, with input from their families, in researching a range of colleges and universities and selecting several to which they choose to apply. The Director of College Counseling can make recommendations about a student’s college essay, about student loans or scholarships, and about timelines for the process. The student is responsible for completing their application, writing their essay, requesting recommendations and submitting their applications.

- Where does my student get school supplies?

The most important thing your student needs for each class is a computer and charger. The School Store has pens and pencils, some notebooks, and other supplies available that can be charged to a student’s SDA. Any specific needs that the student has should be obtained online or on a shopping trip.

- What is Hands-to-Work, and why is it important?

Hands-to-Work is a tradition handed down by the Shakers who lived here before us. Throughout the history of the Darrow School and the Shaker Village before it became a school, every resident contributed their best efforts toward improving the buildings and grounds, or providing goods and services for the community while developing respect for a strong work ethic.

Every Wednesday morning, all members of the school are engaged in this work. Faculty and students participate in such tasks as maintaining gardens, tending to our chickens, making maple syrup, engaging in forestry and trail clearing, artisan crafts and construction projects, and providing community service off-campus.

Hands-to-Work at Darrow deepens a student’s understanding of others and of what it takes to make a community. Hands-to-Work is an important part of the educational program at Darrow and a required commitment for all students.

Travel/Transportation Questions

- Can my student drive off campus with a day student?

Not during the school day. However, if your student has signed permission to drive with the day student, and vice-versa, that is allowed on weekends.

- What is a weekend travel form, and where can my student find one?

Students must communicate their plans to travel by 3pm on Thursday of the week they want to travel. These forms are found outside Ms Zusman's office, and must be submitted to Ms Zusman, the Dean's Assistant. If your student is going home, no permission is needed from you. However, if your student is traveling to another location, permission from you must also be received via phone or email to the Dean's office by 3pm on Thursday.

- Will you arrange transportation for my student?

Transportation to and from breaks is guaranteed by the School for recess as long as it has been communicated 14 days prior to the date of travel. Other transportation can be requested, but is not guaranteed. All transportation by a Darrow driver to and from airports or train stations is charged to a student's SDA at a rate of \$30/hour.

- If I can't find a conveniently scheduled flight, can my student arrive late when returning to school, from vacation, or depart early from a vacation?

No. We depend on the presence of every student during class time to provide the best learning experience for our students. In order to maintain the integrity of our classes we require that students arrive on time for the start of each term and stay through the last day. It is important that you not take your student from school unless it is an emergency or otherwise unavoidable occurrence.

- Can my student receive packages? Where can I send them?

Darrow School has one address: 110 Darrow Road, New Lebanon NY, 12125. All mail is sorted and handed out to students. Packages and mail that might not fit in a mailbox are available for pickup each day Monday through Friday between 3 and 4 pm. Mail prefects may make other times available. Please note that, at times, mail says that it has been delivered to campus before it arrives on campus. Patience with this process is appreciated.

- Are there low or no-cost activities available on campus?

Yes! There are no-cost activities on campus every day of the weekend. These range from First Fridays in the Joline art center to movies and popcorn in the theater, dances, game nights, and more. Our Activities Director works with students to plan a variety of activities on and off campus each weekend.

- I am worried that my student is ordering too much delivery food.

We recommend that parents monitor their student's spending, and limit their ability to purchase food delivery to once or twice per week. Students often want snacks or food late at night, and we recommend that students take advantage of our weekly trips to a grocery store to stock up on snacks for when the dining hall is not open. We also recommend that students take full advantage of our three daily meals.

Transportation and Lodging

Car Services, Transportation Services

Premiere Transportation: (518) 459-6123

Transporting The People: (413) 443-7111

Hotels and places to stay in the Berkshires

Hotel On North

297 North St,
Pittsfield MA 01201
(413) 358-4436

Best Western Plus

1350 W Housatonic St
Pittsfield MA 01201
(413) 442-8714

The Inn at Silver Maple Farm

1871 NY 295,
East Chatham NY 12060
(518) 781- 3600

Hampton Inn & Suites Lenox

445 Pittsfield Rd,
Lenox MA 01240
(413) 499-1111

Berkshire Mountain Lodge

8 Dan Fox Drive
Pittsfield MA 01201
(413) 997-3537

Holiday Inn and Suites

1 West St
Pittsfield MA, 01201
(413) 499-2000

Phone: 518-704-2760
Admin on Duty: 518-365-9762

Darrow School
2023-2024 Academic Calendar (Internal)

110 Darrow Road
New Lebanon, NY 12125

August 2023							August							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	14-23	21	21-23	24	25	25	26-27	28
							Opening Meetings for Faculty	Core Leaders & RAS (AM)	Student Leader Training	NEW Students Arrive (afternoon)	NEW Student Orientation	RETURNING Boarding Students Arrive	ALL Student Orientation (required for faculty)	Fall Semester Begins 1st Quarter Begins

September 2023							September						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	4	15-17	16	16-20	24-25	28	
							Labor Day	Rosh Hashanah	Non-Academic Saturday	Fresh Fire	Yom Kippur	Fall Recess Begins at 5:30pm	

October 2023							October								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	3	4	7-8	7	9	11	20-21	21	23
							Travel Day (students on campus by 7:00pm)	Classes Resume	Closed Weekend - No Student Travel	SAT for Seniors at Darrow	Darrow Open House (Indigenous Peoples Day)	PSAT at Darrow	Fall Family Weekend/Conferences (required for faculty)	1st Quarter Ends	2nd Quarter Begins

November 2023							November							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	4	10	10-11	14	17	20-21	21	28
							Non-Academic Saturday	Grandparents Day (Veteran's Day)	Darrow Theater Production	Fall Sports Banquet	Thanksgiving Recess Begins at 5:30pm	Travel Day* Faculty Collaboration (*students on campus by 7:00pm)	Classes Resume	

December 2023							December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	2-3	7-15	8	16	16	26-Jan 1	31
							Closed Weekend - No Student Travel	Hanukkah	Winter Concert	2nd Quarter 1st Semester Ends	Holiday Recess Begins at 12:00pm	Kwanzaa	

January 2024							January						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	8	9	13-14	15	27		
							Travel Day* Faculty Collaboration (*students on campus by 7:00pm)	Classes Resume	2nd Semester Begins 3rd Quarter Begins	Closed Weekend - No Student Travel	Darrow Open House (MLK Day)	Non-Academic Saturday	

February 2024							February						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	10	8	13	14	15	16	17
							Lunar New Year	Winter Recess Begins at 5:30pm	Travel Day (students on campus by 7:00pm)	Classes Resume	Closed Weekend - No Student Travel		

March 2024							March											
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	1-2	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	15-16	16	23-24	29
							Darrow Theater Workshop	3rd Quarter Ends	Ramadan Begins (ends April 9)	4th Quarter Begins	Winter Sports Banquet	Maple Fest	Spring Family Weekend/Conferences (required for faculty)	Spring Recess Begins at 12:00pm	Purim	Good Friday		

April 2024							April																													
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							Travel Day* Faculty Collaboration (*students on campus by 7:00pm)	Classes Resume	Revisit Day	Closed Weekend - No Student Travel	Ramadan Ends (begins March 10)	Eid al-Fitr	50 Nights Dinner for Seniors	Spring Music Showcase	Passover	Non-Academic Saturday																				

May 2024							May													
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	4	14	14	15-21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							SAT for Juniors at Darrow	4th Quarter 2nd Semester Ends	Sports Banquet	Springterm	Prom	Senior Dinner	Baccalaureate 7:30pm (all students required to attend)	Commencement 10:00am (all students required to attend)	Memorial Day	Closing Meetings for Returning Faculty				

June 2024							June						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	7-9	19					
							Alumni Reunion Weekend	Juneteenth					

Notes for Families

All Student Orientation: Aug 26 - Aug 27*
Springterm: May 15 - May 21*
Baccalaureate: May 24*
Commencement: May 25*
Fall Recess: Sep 29 - Oct 3**
Thanksgiving Recess: Nov 18 - Nov 27**
Holiday Recess: Dec 17 - Jan 8**
Winter Recess: Feb 9 - Feb 13**
Spring Recess: Mar 17 - Apr 1**

Fall Family Weekend: Oct 20 - Oct 21
Spring Family Weekend: Mar 15 - Mar 16

School Offices Closed
 Sep 4, Nov 20-24, Dec 25-29,
 Jan 1, May 27, Jun 17, Jul 4
 Summer Fridays from Jun 14 - Aug 9

***ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND**
****PLEASE SEE REVERSE FOR STUDENT TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Fall Semester Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
7:30-8:20	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast			
7:45-8:25		Student Support Team	Faculty Meeting	House Parent Meeting	Program Team/ Dept Meetings	Breakfast 8:00-9:00		
8:30-8:50	Morning Meeting	Advisory	HTW Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting			
Morning Academic Blocks 9:00-12:20	D Lab 9:00-10:20 80 Minutes	E Block 9:00-9:50 50 Minutes	HTW 8:50-11:20 2.5 Hours	B Block 9:00-9:50 50 Minutes	F Block 9:00-9:50 50 Minutes	A Block 9:00-9:50 50 Minutes	Activities/ Free Time	
	E Block 10:30-11:20 50 Minutes	B Lab 10:00 - 11:20 80 Minutes		C Lab 10:00-11:20 80 Minutes	D Block 10:00-10:50 50 Minutes	B Block 10:00-10:50 50 Minutes		
	F Block 11:30-12:20 50 Minutes	A Block 11:30 - 12:20 50 Minutes	LUNCH 11:30-12:20	D Block 11:30-12:20 50 Minutes	A Lab 11:00-12:20 80 Minutes	C Block 11:00-11:50 50 Minutes	BRUNCH 10:30-12:00	
12:20-1:05	LUNCH	LUNCH	Sports/Free Time 12:00 - 5:40	LUNCH	Community LUNCH	LUNCH 11:50-12:40		
Afternoon Academic Blocks 1:05-3:45	C Block 1:05-1:55 50 Minutes	F Lab 1:05-2:25 80 Minutes		G Block 1:05-1:50 45 Minutes	E Lab 1:05-2:25 80 Minutes	Athletics/ Activities/ Free Time		Activities/ Free Time
	G Block 2:05-2:50 45 Minutes	G Block 2:35-3:20 45 Minutes		X Block 1:50-2:40 50 Minutes	G Block 2:35-3:20 45 Minutes			
	X Block 2:50-3:40 50 Minutes	HAWC/Financial Literacy/Learning Skills/Study Hall 3:30-4:30 60 Minutes		Collab/Club Block 2:50-3:40 50 Minutes	Free Time			
4:00-5:30	Sports	TCP 5:00-6:00		Sports	Sports			
5:40-6:00	Free Time		Free Time	Free Time	Free Time			
6:00-7:00	Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	Community Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	Dinner 6:00-7:00 60 Minutes	
7:00-7:30	Free Time		Free Time	Free Time	Free Time		Free Time	
7:30-9:30	Study Hall	Free Time	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall 7:30-8:30	Activities/ Free Time	Study Hall	
		Check In 8:30			Free Time			
9:30	Check In	Dorm Time 8:30-9:30	Check In	Check In			Check In	
10:30	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Check In	Check In	Lights Out	
11:00					Lights Out	Lights Out		