The Story of Wagner Farm...

In 1998, the Glenview Park District took a very unusual step in purchasing a functioning farm. This, however, was not a particularly unusual farm – crops grew in the fields and animals grazed the pastures. Yet, the significance of Wagner Farm lay in the myriad farms it represented. As one of the last farms in an area that once boasted several thousand, Historic Wagner Farm is truly a vestige of a bygone era.

The park district immediately recognized the historical and educational opportunities and put to referendum the purchase of the farm. At 18.6 acres, the site now operates as a museum, educational facility and functioning historical farm hosting an array of special events, tours, conferences and programs for visitors of all ages.

“Agriculture...is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute to real wealth, good morals and happiness.”
Thomas Jefferson
to George Washington, 1787

Come visit us! Wagner Farm also offers unique on-site programs for all grade levels. Programs are offered throughout the school year and provide a truly exceptional experience for both students and teachers. Visit www.glenviewparks.org/Wagner-Farm/school-programs for more details.
Outreach Mission:

History Hits the Road aims to bring the farm to YOU! Budget constraints and rising transportation costs have made traditional field trips prohibitive for many schools. With History Hits the Road, students can experience “a day at the farm” without leaving their school. While the outreach program is not intended to replace a visit to our site, it is a rare opportunity for students to engage in the farm experience first-hand.

History Hits the Road!

Preschool – 1st Grade option;
2nd – 6th Grade option
55 minute segments

“What is that I see…a farm in my schoolyard?”

Fall Option: This unique program provides students with the opportunity to learn about agricultural history through a series of immersive, hands-on activities. The students will transition through three distinct stations and learn about farming techniques, seasonal crops and transportation. Activities include making apple cider using an old-fashioned cider press, grinding and milling wheat and riding on a wagon pulled by one of the farm’s tractors. 
Students may also receive a pumpkin for an additional $1.00 per student.

Students will not only make important connections between agriculture and contemporary consumer products, but begin to understand the continued impact of farming on American life. This program can be tailored to a specific grade, age group or set of curricula.

Spring Option: Students will have an exciting opportunity to learn about Wagner Farm’s livestock in this hands-on program. They will not only see, smell and touch the animals, but also discover the unique contributions of each animal in sustaining the farm. Each class will transition through three stations as they learn about the life cycles of dairy cows, sheep and chickens.

The students will make valuable connections between the seasonality of farm work, the cultivation of farm animals and the specific role of each animal in supporting the farm family, contemporary consumers and American agriculture.

State Standards:

Science: 12.A.1a, 2a; 12.A.1b, 2b; 12.B.1a, 2a; 12.B.1b, 2b; 13.B.1d
Social Studies: 15.D.1a, 2a; 15.D.1b; 16.A.1a; 16.A.1c; 16.C.1a (w); 16.C.1b (us); 16.C.2c (us); 16.E.1a, 2a

Registration

To reserve a program, contact the Program Manager at (847) 657-1506. Please leave the following information: 1. Teacher and school name 2. Daytime telephone 3. Date requested 4. Group size and grade level

Fees

There is a flat fee charge per student of $5.00. Teachers and chaperones are free of charge. Payment may be made upon completion of the program. Please make checks payable to Historic Wagner Farm.

Cancellations

Whenever School District 34 cancels because of inclement weather, Historic Wagner Farm will also be closed and all programs will be cancelled. In the event of rain or minor snow, the decision to cancel is left to the discretion of the farm staff. Teachers may call (847) 657-1506 to reschedule the trip based on availability.

We would appreciate at least a 48 hour notice should the school decide to cancel or reschedule a program.

Appropriate Dress

As many activities involve machinery and livestock, we strongly suggest that students dress appropriately and wear closed-toed shoes. If there is a possibility of rain, trash bags make inexpensive ponchos for the students.

Space Requirements

Our staff and equipment will be transported in a truck and trailer that measures approximately 50 ft. long by 8 ft. wide. We will need an open space large enough to park the trailer and set up the program while allowing enough room for students and teachers to move about. An empty lot or grassy area measuring at least 50 ft. wide by 40 ft. long is ideal. You may contact us with any questions at (847) 657-1506.