



## Homestead Learning

*Providing educational enrichment tailored for children ages 4 to 10*

**"The primary goal of real education is not to deliver facts but to guide students to the truths that will allow them to take responsibility for their lives."**

~ John Taylor Gatto

## Introductory Packet

Latest Revisions: 12/10/2024



# Homestead Learning

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# Homestead Learning

## Welcome

*Providing educational enrichment tailored for children ages 4 to 10*

**Welcome to Homestead Learning! We appreciate the opportunity to share our heart and vision with you! Perhaps you have inquired about your child's learning opportunities or you are just simply curious about Homestead Learning. Regardless, we are happy to share our micro-homeschool with you!**

Homestead Learning, LLC, established in 2024 by Alison Brady and Jenna Walker, blossomed from a shared desire to help children develop a lifelong love of learning. We believe that children thrive through trust and the space to "Let Grow." At Homestead Learning, our approach to education promotes autonomy, resilience, and critical thinking through self directed education, practical life skills and collaborative learning experiences with children of all ages. We believe that a well educated person is one who chases their curiosity with passion and enthusiasm. Encouraging this experience is a central goal that we pursue at Homestead Learning.

Homestead Learning is a homeschool microschool. This means that all of our students are declared homeschoolers by the state of Wyoming but they have designated this program to provide some or all of the instruction. A microschool is a small-scale, independent educational setting that typically serves a limited number of students across different grade levels. Homestead Learning serves 15 students daily in both full time and part time capacities.

A typical day at The Homestead looks and feels much more like a homeschool than your typical neighborhood public school. We join together every morning for reading or socratic discussion and then spread out into groups or individually to work on core academics. We value a long, flexible lunch break where the children can cook their meals, play outside or take a rest when needed. The afternoons are dedicated to projects and skill building until it's time to clean up and head home.

If you envision an *immersive, engaging and personalized* educational experience for your child, we hope you'll apply to join our family at The Homestead.

*Alison & Jenna*



# Homestead Learning



## About the Founders

Hi! I'm Alison Brady. You might know me from the medical world here in Gillette. I am a Physician Assistant, currently working part time at my virtual telemedicine practice, Thrive Medical. In 2011, I received my Master of Health Sciences degree from the Duke University School of Medicine and then moved back to Wyoming to marry a Gillette native and start my career.



In 2018, my life changed when I gave birth to my first daughter, Juliana. As you can probably relate, my entire world view shifted. Suddenly, her growth and development was my most important job. I developed a passion for early childhood education and for providing opportunities to help her grow to her full potential. I read about Montessori and Charlotte Mason and homeschooling and unschooling and I knew that one day, we would be on an unconventional educational path. An individualized path that prioritizes my children's strengths and weaknesses to prepare them for the unrecognizable world to come. And here we are.

I'm so excited to offer another educational path for this community and to build relationships with all of the families who join our program.

But mostly, I can't wait to watch my children thrive alongside yours.



My name is Jenna Walker. I trace my roots back to Jay Em, WY, and am a proud graduate of NCHSI in Lusk, WY. After high school, I pursued my Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training at UNLV. After college I dedicated myself, for 14 years, to serving secondary schools in Campbell and Converse County, where I provided care for athletes' injuries and placed a strong emphasis on injury prevention. Additionally, for nine of those years, I had the privilege of teaching Sports Medicine classes to grades 9-12. This role presented a wonderful challenge and offered valuable insights into the educational setting. I was tasked with designing a curriculum for these classes, which underscored the importance of a versatile learning approach. My teaching method

focused on developing note-taking skills, engaging in hands-on projects, and mastering practical skills such as ankle taping, spine boarding, and blood pressure measurement. During my tenure at Douglas High School, I was honored to receive the CCSD#1 Teacher Spotlight Recognition Award, a testament to my dedication and contributions to education.

My husband, Jason, and I have firmly rooted ourselves in Campbell County since 2007, and have enjoyed living in Gillette. In September of 2020, we welcomed our miracle baby, Sayge, into the world. With Sayge in our lives, our priorities have shifted, and our focus is now on ensuring that he receives the love, care, and guidance needed to navigate life's journey with confidence and resilience. Our home beliefs model more of a homeschool approach through hands-on learning, exploration, curiosity, and play; and this is where the idea of starting Homestead Learning truly ignited.

We're excited to embark on this journey of fostering Sayge's growth and curiosity, while also extending our passion for holistic education to other families in our community.



# Homestead Learning

## About the Staff

### *School Guide*

Hi, my name is Erin Beck! I am a Gillette native and am proud of the traditional values that the state of Wyoming represents. I am a mother to three young children. After seeing the wonder in their eyes, I became deeply passionate about rooting my children in learning through exploration and embracing individual strengths.



My personal love of learning led me to attend the University of Wyoming, where I graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. For the last 6 years I have worked as a multidisciplinary nurse both locally and at hospitals throughout the country. I take pride in my knowledge of hands-on learning, outdoor enthusiasm, and traditional life skills. During my free time you can find me enjoying the mountains, reading a vast array of books, or trying out a new recipe.

My mission as the new teacher guide for Homestead Learning, LLC is to embrace every child's potential and realize their unique strengths. With a background in healthcare science, I am passionate about nurturing the next generation of curious minds. I intend to encourage a love for exploration and self-guided learning. I am committed to providing a well-rounded education in order to inspire the next generation of children that strive to uphold personal values and make a positive impact in their communities.



# Homestead Learning

## About Homeschooling In Wyoming

Homestead Learning is dedicated to reviving traditional educational values in a contemporary context, reminiscent of the one-room schoolhouses of yesteryears. Emphasizing multi-age learning and collaborative environments, the school aims to deepen children's understanding of academic subjects while simultaneously equipping them with invaluable life skills essential for real-world success.

Alison and Jenna take pride in offering a homeschool-like environment to the community; a sanctuary where families can cultivate their children's growth at their own pace. Through Homestead Learning, they aspire to give back to the community by providing a nurturing educational setting that celebrates the uniqueness and potential of every child.

**Wyoming state statute 21-4-101(a)(v):** *“A home-based educational program means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child’s parent or legal guardian or by a person designated by the parent or legal guardian. A home-based educational program must meet the requirements of a Basic Academic Educational Program, which is defined in State Statute 21-4-101(a)(vi) as a program providing a sequentially progressive curriculum of fundamental instruction in seven subjects: reading, writing, mathematics, civics, history, literature, and science.”*

### State of Wyoming Compulsory Age Requirements

- Ages 7 - 16

### State of Wyoming: Required Educational Hours

- Kindergarten. A minimum of 450 hours
- Elementary. A minimum of 900 hours

**Homestead Learning Will Work With You!** We offer a learning environment that will work with each family to fulfill the state and school district requirements. While we understand that we will not complete all hours within the school session; we will provide each family with a log to track hours of learning at home. Learning at home can be fun and engaging and can be incorporated into activities of daily living!

**Ages For Homestead Learning:** Currently we are accepting children between the ages of 4 and 10. We hope to expand in the future and will eventually offer through age 18. Children who are accepted into the Homestead Learning community will be guided through all of the state home-based educational requirements. For the ages of 4 - 6, we will place more emphasis on learning through play and building a strong foundation of phonemic awareness to help them flourish into strong readers. They will be immersed in thematic units that connect all of the traditional school subjects in meaningful ways. Children ages 7 - 10 will be guided through curriculums to learn math, social studies, language arts, and science; but the emphasis will be project-based learning in a multi-age environment. The younger children, when ready, will advance to learn with the “older kids.”



# Homestead Learning

## Fostering Lifelong Learners

### **Vision Statement**

The vision of Homestead Learning is to instill a profound love of learning within every student.

### **Mission Statement**

Embracing Wyoming's rich heritage, our modern day one-room schoolhouse fosters curiosity, collaboration, and multi-age learning. Through individualized problem based learning and Socratic discussions, we prioritize life skills alongside academic excellence, offering a homeschool-like approach for a well rounded education.

### **Belief Statements**

*We believe in instilling a genuine love for learning, cultivating curiosity, passion, and a thirst for knowledge that extends far beyond the confines of traditional education.*

*We believe in challenging the status quo of standardized testing, focusing instead on holistic growth and individualized learning experiences that honor each student's unique talents and interests.*

*We believe in empowering students to take ownership of their education in an environment where students develop comfort with taking risks, exploring new ideas and embracing failure as a natural part of the learning process.*

*We believe in the inherent strength of multi-age learning environments, where students of different ages collaborate, learn from one another, and develop empathy and leadership skills.*

*We believe in the importance of academic excellence as well as the cultivation of practical life skills, ensuring our students are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the real world.*

*We believe in the power of Socratic discussions to deepen understanding, encourage reflection, and promote independent thinking, empowering students to become lifelong learners and active contributors to society.*



# Homestead Learning



## Core Values

### **1 Love for Learning**

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Serving as the foundational philosophy of Homestead Learning, we believe that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but fostering a deep and enduring passion for discovery, exploration, and growth. We strive to empower individuals to be curious, creative, and deeply engaged citizens of the world.

### **2 Let Grow**

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To provide an environment that encourages exploration, fosters adaptability, sparks creativity, instills self-discipline, and empowers students to take ownership of their learning journey.

### **3 Trust**

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A learning environment built on trust fosters intellectual curiosity, nurtures personal growth, and prepares students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

### **4 Critical Thinking**

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Equipping students with the cognitive flexibility, analytical skills, and creative mindset needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and dynamic world.

### **5 Life Skills**

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Engaging students in authentic tasks that require them to apply knowledge, think critically about implications, and develop innovative solutions to real-world problems.

### **6 Promotion of Core Values**

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We uphold timeless principles such as integrity, respect, responsibility, and resilience by embedding these values into our traditions and rituals.

### **7 Collaboration**

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Fosters both social and cognitive development, equipping students with essential social skills while encouraging higher-order thinking through exposure to diverse perspectives and collaborative problem-solving.





# Homestead Learning

## Schedule

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

<p><b>Morning Readiness</b></p>	<p><b>Daybreak Dialogue</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Academic Session</b></p>
<p><b>Arrival 8:30 - 9:00</b></p> <p><b><u>Indoor Innovation Hub</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <b>Examples</b></li> <li>★ <b>Collaboration</b></li> <li>★ <b>Building</b></li> <li>★ <b>Creating</b></li> <li>★ <b>Drawing</b></li> <li>★ <b>Writing</b></li> <li>★ <b>Designing</b></li> <li>★ <b>Reading</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Outdoor Playclub</u></b></p>	<p><b>9:00-9:30</b></p> <p><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></p> <p><b>“Morning Board” (Date, Weather, etc)</b></p> <p><b>Thoughtful Questions &amp; Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Older Children Will Work Towards: Student-led Socratic Discussion</b></p>	<p><b>9:30-11:30</b></p> <p><b>Core Academics in Group Setting</b></p> <p><b>Snack &amp; Outdoor Break as Needed</b></p>
<p><b>Lunchtime Adventures</b></p>	<p><b>Afternoon Discovery Session</b></p>	<p><b>Afternoon Wrap-Up</b></p>
<p><b>11:30 - 1:30</b></p> <p><b>Children are free to eat their lunch, partake in “indoor innovation hub” and/or “outdoor playclub”.</b></p> <p><b>If a student would like to continue with the Morning Academic Session OR jump right into Afternoon Discovery Session, they are more than welcome too!</b></p>	<p><b>1:30 - 3:00</b></p> <p><b>Core Academics: 1:1/smaller setting</b></p> <p><b>Age Appropriate: Free Time Play Or Project Based Learning</b></p> <p><b>Hands on Projects: Cooking, Science, Field Trips, etc</b></p>	<p><b>3:00 - 3:30</b></p> <p><b><u>Helping Hands/Contributions</u></b> Together we will clean up our school's space to prepare it for tomorrow's activities.</p> <p><b><u>Snack Time Reading Ritual</u></b> Enjoy a snack while reading together or silently.</p> <p><b><u>Winning Moments Exchange</u></b> Sharing with classmates the success in the day.</p>



# 2025 - 2026 Calendar of Events

*\*\*\*subject to change but will inform all accepted families in a timely fashion\*\*\**

## School Kick-Off Barbeque: August 28th

**Students and their family - Please join us, starting at 4:00 PM to see your classroom, friends, and teachers!**

**School pictures will be taken during this time.**

**Pot Luck Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share with all of the families.**

2025	2026
<b>September 2:</b> First Day of School! All Students Welcome - Parents may be asked to assist with activities.	<b>January 1 - 4: January 5 or 12:</b> Winter Break - TBD
<b>November 20:</b> Friendsgiving: Potluck Dinner, School Play, & Fundraiser	<b>January 5th or 12th:</b> School Resumes - TBD
<b>November 27:</b> No School - Thanksgiving Break	<b>March 16 - 20:</b> Spring Break
<b>December 8 - 11:</b> Christmas Learning Activity Week	<b>May 18-21:</b> Last Week of School Activities All Students Welcome - Parents may be asked to assist with activities.
<b>December 15 - 31:</b> Winter Break	<b>May 21:</b> Last Day of School. <i>Have a great summer! See you back on September 8th.</i>



# Homestead Learning



## Tuition

### 100% Family Funded

Unlike our local public schools and faith-based private schools, we are 100% family funded. This means that we do not receive any funding from taxpayer education dollars (state or federal) nor any church affiliated charities or subsidies. Please keep this in mind as you are comparing our school program to others in the community.

### We are intentionally different!

Because our pricing is 100% family funded, we have full control over our teaching methods! This means we're free to create programs tailored to each student's needs, without the constraints of outside regulations or strings attached. We do accept donations to our nonprofit organization "IntentionED" to grow our resources and provide scholarships for families in need. We promise that we will never accept any donations that apply mandates on our teaching methods or curriculum.

- 4 day school week: \$5,400 (\$600 per month)
- 3 day school week: \$4,500 (\$500 per month)
- 2 day school week: \$3,600 (\$400 per month)
- 1 day school week: \$2,700 (\$300 per month) **\*Ages 4-18 welcome\***

**First month tuition, curriculum & supply fee due within 5 days of acceptance**

**\$100 Registration Fee due at time of enrollment**

Payment options include an annual upfront payment, per-semester payments due on the 1st, or monthly installments. If students are absent or out for vacation, payments are expected. Registration, curriculum, and first month fee are non-refundable.

***Forms of Acceptable Payment: Cash or Check OR pay online with added processing fees***



# Homestead Learning

## Curriculum & Supply Fee

Enrollment Option	Curriculum Fee	Supply Fee
1 day / week	Homestead Essentials: \$150 Homestead Complete: \$300	\$200
2 day / week	Homestead Essentials: \$150 Homestead Complete: \$300	\$250
3 day / week	Homestead Essentials: \$150 Homestead Complete: \$300	\$300
4 day / week	Homestead Essentials: \$150 Homestead Complete: \$300	\$300

### Curriculum Fees

At Homestead Learning, we offer two curriculum fee options to meet different family needs. Every child must choose one plan. For families with siblings at the same learning level, only one Homestead Complete packet needs to be purchased.

### Homestead Essentials

This fee covers the basics, including:

- Handwriting
- Math
- Basic Literacy

### Homestead Complete

This fee includes everything in Homestead Essentials, along with access to our main curriculum. This comprehensive package offers:

- Core Curriculum & Support Materials

Both options ensure quality education. Choose the one that best fits your child's needs. Contact us with any questions!



# Homestead Learning

## Curriculum & Supplies

### Curriculum

Curriculum will be tailored to the needs of each child based on the homeschool requirements for the State of Wyoming, which include Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, & Language Arts. You will be provided with a form to submit to the Campbell County School District at the start of the school year listing the chosen curriculum for your child. You are also welcome to provide additional curriculum with the consent of Homestead Learning. Please see page 5 for more details regarding our educational philosophy and age based curriculum.

### School Supplies Included and Provided by Homestead Learning

We will have a wide variety of supplies available to the students which include, but is not limited to, crayons, markers, pencils, notebook paper, colored pencils, binders, notebooks, folders, glue, scissors, and construction paper. There will be 1 to 2 computers available for students to use. Children are welcome to bring additional supplies as needed.

### Field Trips

Library, gardens, nurseries, farms, ranches, museums, and parks. ALL full time and part time students are welcome on Field Trip Days. Some trips may be an additional cost.

### Snacks

On occasion, Homestead Learning will provide one snack each day. Students may bring additional snacks to eat throughout the day.

### Family Responsibilities

Families will be responsible for providing a backpack, water bottle, lunch, electronic device, headphones and any other items the student may need to be successful at Homestead Learning.



# Homestead Learning



## Enrollment Process

**If you are interested in having your child join us at Homestead Learning, please move forward with the steps listed below. If you have more than one child applying, please complete a separate application for each child.**

1. Read the Introductory Packet in full.
2. Complete the Interest Form at [www.homesteadlearning.org](http://www.homesteadlearning.org)
3. Homestead Learning will contact you via email or phone to schedule a short call to discuss your interest in the program. We will then schedule a meet & greet between the child, the parents and Homestead staff.
4. After the meet & greet if your family and Homestead staff agree to move forward with enrollment of your child(ren) an email will be sent detailed information about how to officially enroll.
5. A curriculum fee, supply fee and first month tuition is required via cash, check, or credit (*with added credit card fees*) upon acceptance as well as the signed contract papers.
6. Prior to the start of the school year, Homestead Learning will provide each family with the Home Based Education reporting form required by Campbell County School District.



# *Homestead Learning*

## **Educational Journey Conclusion**

In conclusion, we hope this packet has ignited your passion for education and its boundless possibilities. From the classroom to the boardroom, education serves as the cornerstone of progress and prosperity. Education is not just a process; it's a lifelong journey of discovery and growth. This packet has provided a glimpse into the vast landscape of opportunities that education offers.

As you reflect on the insights shared here, remember that education knows no bounds. It transcends barriers and empowers individuals to reach their full potential. Let us embrace the diversity of knowledge and the richness of experiences that education brings, fostering lifelong learners who continuously seek to expand their horizons.

Education is not just about what we learn in textbooks; it's about the connections we make, the perspectives we gain, and the impact we create. As you continue your journey, embrace curiosity, embrace diversity, and embrace the power of learning to shape a better tomorrow.

We encourage you to explore further, ask questions, and challenge the status quo. Together, let's innovate, inspire, and empower the next generation of thinkers, dreamers, and change-makers.

Thank you for your commitment to the transformative power of education. We look forward to partnering with you on this incredible journey towards a brighter future.

With warm regards,

*Alison & Jenna*