

Thoreau School



"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau School is an Ashland High School alternative program which is aimed at building each student's "conscious endeavor" through exploration, inquiry, discovery, and reflection. Adhering to Thoreau's philosophies of naturalism and social justice for all, we aim to prepare our students for success with the 21st century school model. The program offers a challenging curriculum which builds critical thinking skills and fosters academic excellence while developing the individual within a classroom community. The students articulate their strengths, discover their passions, and have opportunities to develop, contribute, and demonstrate their knowledge using creativity and innovation. The integrated curriculum is supplemented by outdoor exploration and service learning opportunities which build character, confidence, and personal responsibility as well as offer experiential and hands on learning opportunities. The teachers are dedicated to nurturing the physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of the students.

Students in Thoreau School earn three credits per semester. Credits are earned in English, Social Studies, and Science. Curriculum is aligned with state and federal standards, as well as being aligned with the current AHS 9th and 10th grade essential skills.

Teachers Reed Sorensen and Jen Wahpepah combine with over 20 years of experience in Ashland High School alternative programs.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have about your student's placement or eligibility criteria for our program.

reed.sorensen@ashland.k12.or.us

or

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ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Thoreau Program Application

(9th & 10th Grade)



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It is three periods of a student's schedule and meets every other day. Students selected for this program will approach their academic studies in a rigorous and collaborative way. In addition to teacher directed curriculum, students will pursue projects and activities of their own design. Students will learn the skills of English, Social Studies and Science as guided by the teacher. Thoreau is an alternative program for students who want to graduate from Ashland High School. Attendance is critical to success in this program. Students must commit to regular attendance in all classes to be eligible for Thoreau.

Name			
Phone		Email	
Student Signature		Parent / Guardian Signature	

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences unless a list is requested (please attach an additional sheet if more space is required).

1. Why would you like to join Thoreau School? What aspects of this program interest you?

2. What do you imagine will be the hardest part of this program for you?

3. How committed would you be to attending not only your Thoreau classes but also your other on-campus classes?

4. How much would community-building activities appeal to you (rope courses, field trips, camping / backpacking, or day-hikes)? Explain.

5. Can you commit to regular attendance, group accountability, and a consistent willingness to learn? Explain why or why not.

6. Is there anything else we should know?

Any Parent or Student comments: