



Nightingale Notes

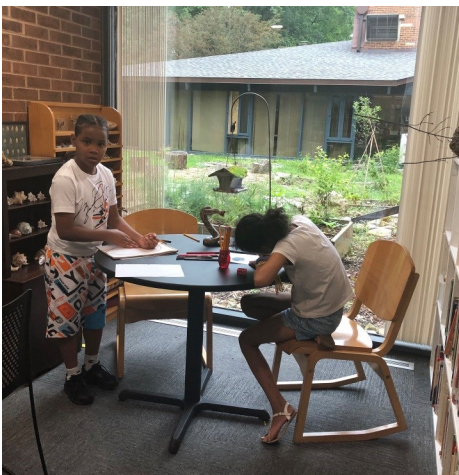
September 2023

October

- 6 Bookmobile—Owls, Eagles, Chickadees
- 16 Portrait Day—Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Eagles
- 17 Portrait Day—Eagles, Owls, Falcons
- 20 **No School—Balance Day**
- 27 End of Quarter 1



First Week at NM



Board Meeting Minutes End of Year 2022-2023

The in-person meeting was our first off ZOOM since 2019. Traveling from Las Vegas was Board Treasurer, Stathan Potamitis, who was re-elected unanimously along with the board secretary, Meg Thompson, and the President and Vice President, Nancy Schwab and Sheila Brown and Members Kristy McCready and Jagdish Singh.



A delicious antipasto was provided by Stephanie Woodward and Jared Martin. Andrew and Jared, staff advisors, gave an informative tour of the grounds.

There was a principal's report that showed a significant raise in funds for each scholarship student and allowance for incomes to qualify for scholarships. It came to about \$75,000 additional income.

Field of Potentiality

The field (which is what spirit is, a field of pure potentiality) is a continuum of all possible energy and information states that will subsequently manifest themselves as space-time events.

Deepak Chopra

Nightingale Montessori is in mid vision manifest. We have come a long way in the past 45 years but not to just only come this far.

- We have pioneered through triumph, turmoil and strife with a dozen hearty sacrificial **staff** who continue to hold high their half-full glass to receive the rest of our contemplated bounty.
- We will need a more sufficient number of devoted staff and parents who can endow the school with their commitment to the spiritual and intellectual ideals of human potential in order to create the possibility of

reinvented education.

- The founders plan to hold Montessori monthly philosophy classes on a Friday after school for the lower elementary and preK-kindergarten teachers. This could expand to interested parents and upper school teachers if fruitful.
- Recruitment of quality staff may be enhanced with our initiation of a medical insurance policy this year. The Executive Committee is proceeding on the theory that it is better to offer a good plan for employees and families than an equal dollar amount towards an individual market plan. However, NM can afford only half the expenses of the employee at this point in our development. Matthew Foley of the Benefits Group, LLC is advising us.
- Staff is being sought for the arts and foreign language
- We have reached our **desired enrollment** number required to model Montessori classes from infant toddler through high school. Our wait list may be accessed if our dozen new staff are able to augment our teaching environment.
- We would like to diversify the enrollment with students on scholarship for special needs and self-pay tuition students. We would like more ethnic and geographical group representation.
- We plan to make brochures from our new web page to increase awareness of the opportunities of our school to attract students of a more varied background. We advertise in the Springfield Living magazine and will increase our presence on Instagram.
- We have secured **occupancy of a building** on a desirable wooded site on over nine acres of land with twice the square footage of our former site on High Street. This year we received a \$20,000 donation from a parent, Andrew Fodor to complete compliance for the workshop.
- We need building improvements: Parking lots resurfacing, (Mead's Paving and Seal) Monument signage, (Sign Connection) 2 entrance doors, (C&N Contracting) inner security door, plumbing for toddler and staff restrooms (Waibel Energy Systems) air conditioning (DeLong Air) for second half of building - total \$350,000.
- We are applying for an ERTC (employment retention tax credit) with our accountants who are under advice from their lawyers. The maximum for which we may be eligible would finance the above expenses.
- We have **planned events** for the school and community. The first celebratory event upon moving in the total school was to be the renown Native American dancer and flute player, Kevin Locke. He was sponsored in part by the Baha'i community who have offered their friendship, support and cooperation with teen empowerment. Montessori and Baha'i are similar in values and ideals of service to the highest potential for human kind.
- Jagdish Singh, our board member, graciously presented our first all school assembly on her travels to Antarctica. Unforgettable was the gleeful applause of the students for a young penguin who freed his stuck foot after an indomitable

display of courage and resilience!

- In May, the micro business hosted The Sustainability Conference in Sam Hall. (Pod 5 or the Great Hall -named after Samantha Julia Welsh, a ten year old and beloved student who died suddenly in 2004.) The conference was an enormous success with its many speakers and delicious serving of both breakfast and lunch!
- The next Sustainability Conference is planned again in the Spring. This time the board would like to join in to the festivities with an open house for the Greater Partnership of Springfield and for NM Alumni.
- **Balance Sheet**
- **Total Assets** June 2023 =\$4,077,691.59

Total Assets July 2022 = \$3,907,564.28
Increase \$ 170,127.31



Wagner Subaru sponsored Nightingale Montessori again this year through the AdoptAClassroom Program. Through Subaru Loves Learning, Subaru and its retailers provide flexible funding to support high-needs schools and their students nationwide. Their partnership with AdoptAClassroom.org ensures that classrooms can access the exact tools and materials they need to provide students with the quality education they deserve. This year the focus was on supplying art materials for students to engage their creativity and unique perspectives on life. We took a tour of our campus with our Wagner Subaru partners, alumnus, Beck Wagner, his sister, Grace Wagner Basilone, his dad, Bo Wagner, and cameraman, Andrew White. We will be sure to share the link to the video when it is released.



Reunification Training with the Emergency Management Agency.



Individual Portrait Day

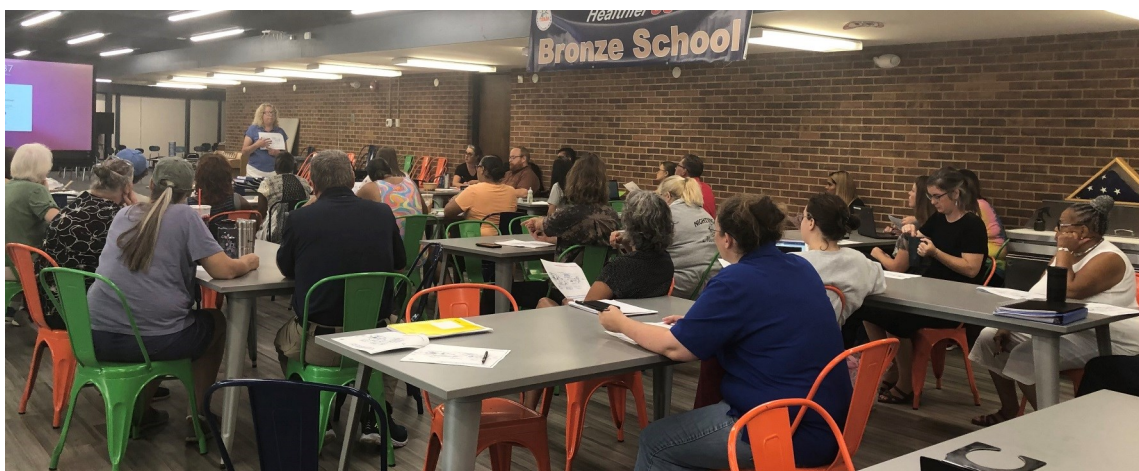
Individual Portrait Day will take place on campus and as early in the day as possible (to help preserve the desired outfit chosen by the student for the day). We will be taking the portraits at an outdoor location so if the weather hinders this, we will reschedule. There will be a make-up

day scheduled for all students and staff that are absent on the scheduled dates.

You may purchase a copy of all photos taken of your child for \$10. The drives are limited in size and for processing ease, there will be a separate drive (and fee) for each child.

You will receive a drive of the photos before Thanksgiving Break.

October 16 - Hummingbirds, Chickadees, Eagles
October 17 - Owls, Falcons and Wings



NM Staff Meets to Get Ready for Students.

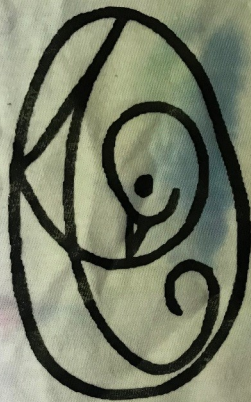
June Program - Summer 2023

Nightingale Montessori provided seasonal enrichment with the June Program, where students used their senses and curiosity to experience the joys of summer. This year's summer program had over fifty participants. Activities included, making tie dye tee shirts, clay sculptures, poetry, reading, writing, painting, learning to do embroidery, reading recipes and baking bread, and, of course, lots of gardening, hiking and outdoor exploration. This program helped get students on the right track for an active and creative summer.

Students also took home container gardens they filled and planted themselves. Following a lesson about cooperation, students picked plants based on principles of companion planting such as flowers with tomatoes and short and tall plants together. The garden represented their exploration of cooperation and friendship which was the theme for that day.

During the program there was a theme that guided the daily instruction. This helped to reinforce important subjects, as the ideas were approached by instructors from different subject areas and with different ideas. This concept of thematic units is of fundamental importance for Montessori educators directing us to teach the lessons needed while doing the work that is necessary to maintain our environments and transition to regenerative practice.

We are pleased to share our success with our community. Gourmet Grub served 351 lunches and 320 breakfasts during the June weeks. There were 50 students of various ages and 8 dedicated staff members that made the program a wonderful success.



Nightingale Montessori
Summer Program 2023

Gourmet Grub

Welcome back! Gourmet Grub is back in business! Our new culinary team is busy learning practical life skills in our beautiful kitchen, harvesting our beautiful herbs and produce from a season of hard work, and learning to preserve foods for the coming winter months!

Our lunch program this year will serve an international meal on Thursdays. Our culinary team curriculum includes researching cultural relevance, recipes and histories of foods on our lunch menu and developing recipes to meet USDA menu requirements! We are excited to share these world foods with our peers and learn about the world around us.

Food waste reduction is crucial to our program and we are excited to continue to expand our creative ways to reduce waste! Our beautiful apple crisp was healthy, delicious and fed 50 people! Wings used apples that were slightly bruised, or aged.

As always, we value incorporating produce and herbs from our ever expanding gardens and sourcing from our community around us.

If you would like to donate any end of season produce, please reach out to swoodward@nightingaleschool.org or jwoodward@nightingaleschool.com.



Audrey processes fruit.



Jeremy and Damirah baking breakfast breads.



Apple Crisp - Food Waste reduction



Carl serves himself.



Janiya helps prepare tomatoes.



Chef Todd prepares stir fry.

Gourmet Grub

Exploring the Great Outdoors!

The **Hummingbirds** are already off to a great start this year! Each day they are outside exploring their surroundings and learning how to work together harmoniously to promote new friendships.

Gardening Anyone?

We've added a raised garden and are currently raking through it to remove any unwanted weeds. We will use this space to grow garlic, onions, and radishes in the near future with the assistance of Jared, our Outdoor Program Administrator.



Cienna looking to see if the dinosaur's BIG feet could stomp out the weeds in our new garden!

Birdwatching News!

We've placed a bird feeder near the entrance of our outdoor area so we can watch the local birds gather and eat. The children check it daily to see if it's still full and if any new birds are around.



Jonah prepares to hang the birdfeeder.



Jared shows Jonah and Aviel how to properly prepare the birdfeeder.

Bug Catching Anyone?

Well the **Hummingbirds** love doing this! The children will use a collapsible mesh bug catcher net to observe different bugs they find each day. They work with their friends to find the biggest and/or "coolest" looking bug, and then with the assistance of one of the teachers, they help it into the net for observation. Once we are finished observing the bug, we then release it safely back into its natural habitat.



Jonah, Cienna, and GeVaya talk about a cricket.



Calvin closes the net after catching daddy-long-leg (spider) they found.



Essa noticing the difference between the green leaves in the tree and the brown leaves on the

Your children are utilizing every moment outside to build friendships, knowledge, self awareness, and much more! They use this time to work on building their social skills and cater to their need to investigate everything around them. Essa's picture, is a representation of a goal for your child. They keep reaching, even when they don't think they can reach what they want! We will be there to help them keep reaching each and every time!

September Experience

This month is all about learning how to navigate the expectations and routines of the classroom, including how to be independent in their needs, beginning to learn and grow in their social emotional skills, and how to be part of a group lesson. They are also discovering the joy of the natural world and learning to respect the life around them.



Parent Corner

Upcoming bookmobile date- Oct 6th. If you would like a library card application, we can provide you with one. Email Krista or let the teacher know at drop-off and we will have one for you at pick-up.

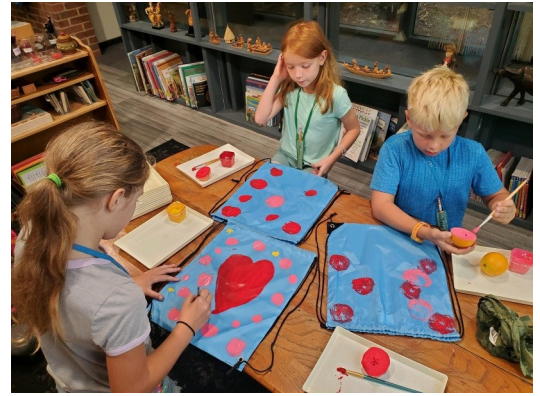




The chicken coop is delivered to the Eagle yard.



Bella working on handwriting.



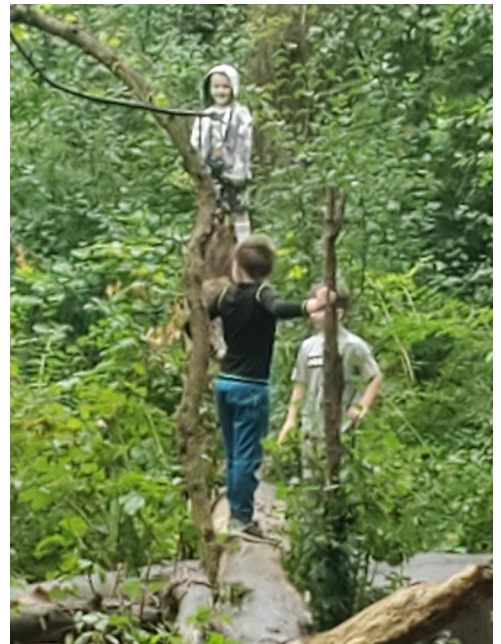
Students paint "take home" bags with fruit stamps.



Students paint "take home" bags with fruit stamps.



Friendship shared after a self-instructed gymnastics lesson.



Charlie atop friends that stand tall on the stumps.

Eagle News



Students doing a soap and pepper (surface tension) science experiment. We discuss how germs scatter when we introduce soap.



Caterpillar spotted in the plant nursery when Eagles visited the Wings to learn about our weekly plant sale.

Introducing Aly Level and Heidi Earlywine



Hello! My name is Aly Level and I am teaching math and science in the Owls this year. My husband and I have four kiddos at Nightingale, spread between the Hummingbird, Chickadee and Eagle classrooms. Before joining NM, I worked primarily as a stay-at-home mom, but I also served the Springfield and Dayton communities as a birth doula and lactation consultant throughout the last nine years. Most recently, I blended my love of art,

education and maternal/infant support and published a children's book about the many different ways babies can eat. I've been so impressed with the community support that Nightingale has created and fostered and feel so fortunate and grateful to be a part of it!



Friday Biking group.



Hanging out in the trees.



Practicing the hula hoop.



Hi! I'm Heidi Earlywine and I love to teach history to the Owls. I have been teaching for 17 years, writing curriculum, and working as an education coach. I hold a teaching license, a masters degree in teaching, and I'm a lifelong learner. I like to teach any way that builds on the students' natural curiosity. This year we are going to touch on the Ancient World, and then end with the Renaissance. It will be an intriguing year!

Owl News



"The Sisterhood" girls running team.



Amyah, Addy, and Ali working together on dish duty.

Understanding Systems In the Falcons

The year has started with enthusiasm. Students have been helping establish the systems that will enable our classroom to run smoothly and efficiently. Montessori principles demand the education of the whole child through developing their senses, expanding their intellectual knowledge and intrinsic moral development. The systems that govern our classroom are founded in respect for the individual students and guides, reverence for our environment; inside and out, and responsibility for the choice that we make as individuals.

We can just as easily habituate ourselves to a good habit as a bad habit. We must attune ourselves to taking the actions, within our power, to act responsibly in our world. It is little more work to throw items in the recycling or compost than it is to throw it in the trash. Students must use their senses to evaluate each item they are throwing into the trash to find its proper place. This can be a challenging task given the complicated rules for recycling, the conflicting information about composting and the burden that becomes clear when we honestly look at how much waste we are making as individuals.

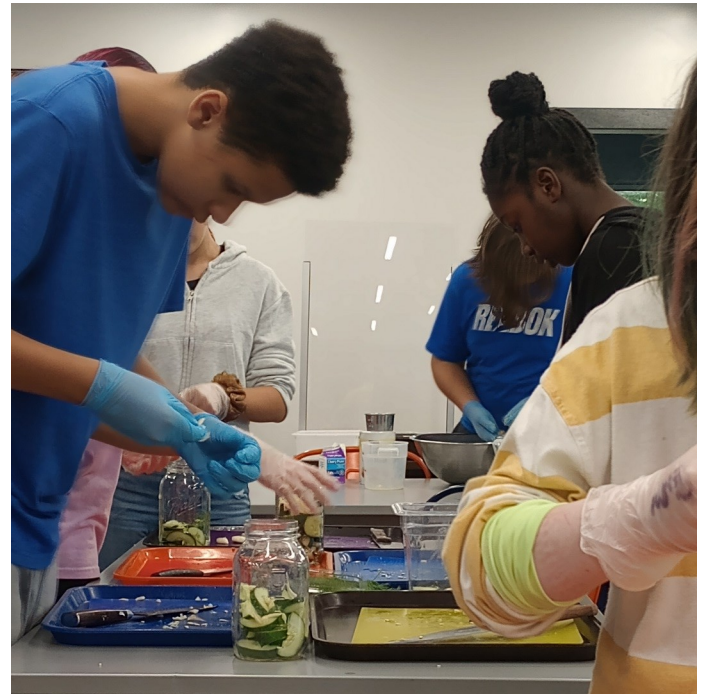
In an effort to navigate this complicated series of decisions, **Falcons** visited the **Clark County Solid Waste District Headquarters** on West Main Street, Springfield. Here we were greeted by **Sam Perin, the Program and Education Specialist**. He Guided us through a tour of the ins and outs of the facilities functions as well as highlighting the reasons why proper waste management is critical. He discussed the exponential growth of the Springfield Landfill adjacent to Buck Creek State Park as well as the immensity of trees that are thrown in the trash every day in paper and packaging. The weight of these facts should motivate students to really consider how they can reduce the volume of items that they send to the landfill.

The school has mixed recycling available. All clean glass and metal can be thrown into our recycling. Unfortunately, only numbers one and two plastics can be recycled and other plastics should be purchased and used as little as possible. The Clark County Solid Waste District recycles books to be reused or as paper. We are very fortunate to have such an array of items that can be recycled in our area. Our class learned that Clark County is one of two locations in the state where even styrofoam can be recycled. At nightingale we attempt to reduce our landfill burden not only by utilizing the amazing recycling systems Clark county has but also by composting.

Composting is the process of taking scraps from once living items, like food and paper, and converting them into soil using biological processes such as decomposition. This nutrient rich compost is then repurposed into our garden beds and potted plants. Growing a portion of our own food in the gardens reduces waste products like packaging but has a greater impact with the unseen waste of transporting food into different bioregions to be sold. The potted perennial plants are native and therefore support macro and micro life but also beautify our world with biodiversity.



Davy Moore

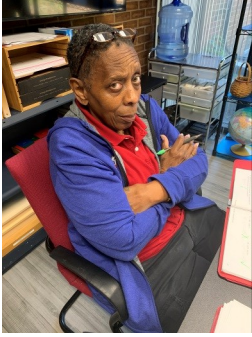


Falcon pickles - local produce



Falcons Tour Recycling Center.

Introducing Miss Verna, NM Math Teacher for Falcons and Wings



What is your name, and what do you want us to call you?

"My name is Verna Reed. Either Verna or Miss Verna."

Tell us a bit about yourself and how you got here.

"I retired from teaching after 34 years, and I worked at Office Depot in the copy and print department as the supervisor for 6 years, but I worked for the

company for 14 years. Miss Jewel told me that there was an opening here and asked me to talk to Miss Maria, and I was like 'okay'. She had me observe a couple classes last year and I was able to talk to a couple students about math. And at the end of my visit, I went back to talk to Miss Maria, and she said the word had gotten to her that I was a great teacher. So, she handed me an application and I filled it out."

What do you like the most about math and teaching it?

"To see the expression on people's faces once they grasp the concept of math, and then they're like 'Oh wow, I never thought about it like that!' That lets me know that they got it; that they learned something new."

How has it been at Nightingale so far?

"I keep waiting to hear the bells for the classes to change! But the environment is fantastic. I like it a lot! Thank you for the opportunity to be of service."

Thank you to the supporters of the opening days of Nightingales native plant project, Our Earth Nursery.

Nightingale ecology students are proud to announce the opening of their native and permaculture plant nursery. The nursery will be open 9 to 4 throughout the fall. Planting native plants is the fundamental environmental action that has to be taken. Native plants increase biomass and biodiversity within ecosystems. Without native plant restoration and landscaping movements in sustainability will inevitably fail. This means developing a model for regenerative plant nurseries is of the utmost importance. This is the only way a more peaceful world will be possible.

Visitors included parents, key partners within our community, and Brandon Hough, Executive Director at Homegrown National Parks. Operating the plant nursery allows students to fulfill Maria Montessori's vision of Erdkinder. Please stop by the nursery on Thursdays to check out our selection of native plants and support our students' hard work.

Snyder Park Elementary

Some of the work that gets done with the support of this network is outreach to schools around Springfield. We recently met Amy Korpieski, Museum Educator at Springfield Museum of Art connected us with Snyder Park Elementary. Through a program with Smithsonian Gardens the Museum

Heliopsis helianthoides (False Sunflower)- growing 1-5 ft tall, this plant enjoys full sun and blooms midsummer. The stems were traditionally used to treat malaria and lung troubles, the leaves for reducing fevers. Magnificent yellow flowers attract wildlife and people, good cut flowers with long bloom time.

Heliopsis loves to be divided and shared! It typically grows to 3-4' tall and features daisy-like flowers (2-3" diameter) with yellow-orange rays surrounding brownish-yellow center cones. Flowers bloom throughout summer atop stiff stems clad with ovate, toothed leaves (to 6" long). Provides long summer bloom for the perennial border or cutting garden. Also effective in a native plant or wild garden or as part of a naturalized planting or prairie area.

***Echinacea purpurea*, Purple Coneflower**, from sun-loving to forest edges, this native perennial hosts butterflies, supports pollinators, and provides winter food for Finches and other songbirds. Native Americans' historical uses prevail today. Flowers from summer to fall. Height up to 4'

June Grass, *Koeleria macrantha*, Native prairie grass that flowers in June. This perennial grass grows from ½ - 1 ½ ft. tall. Less aggressive and shorter than many other prairie grasses. Needs full sun, and prefers dry, almost sandy soil.

River Oats, The pale green spikelets turn golden-brown by fall. The seed stalks are beautiful all year long and are commonly used in native flower arrangements or dried arrangements. The seeds are often consumed by birds and small mammals. River Oats is one of the host plants of the [Pepper and Salt Skipper](#). 25–31 mm. Their adult food source is nectar from flowers including viburnum and blackberry <https://www.butterflyidentification.com/skipper-hesperiidae>

We are sharing our curriculum on implementing a Learning Garden using Permaculute principles. This is a holistic investigation into the seven principles of permaculture through the lenses of botany, chemistry, ecology, journaling, mindfulness, landscape maintenance, ethnobotany, engineering and design. The lessons are applied to real world problems and projects, in the Learning Garden. Each lesson functions independently, but used as a learning unit can build upon each other and culminate into the next stage of learning; unlocking personal motivation in a passion project of the students choosing.



Wings enjoy outdoor time with an arm wrestling contest.



Wings travel to Champaign County Flea Market to explore



Wings return from bike ride.



Parker, Sincere and Jack collaborate on the wood shops signature bench design.



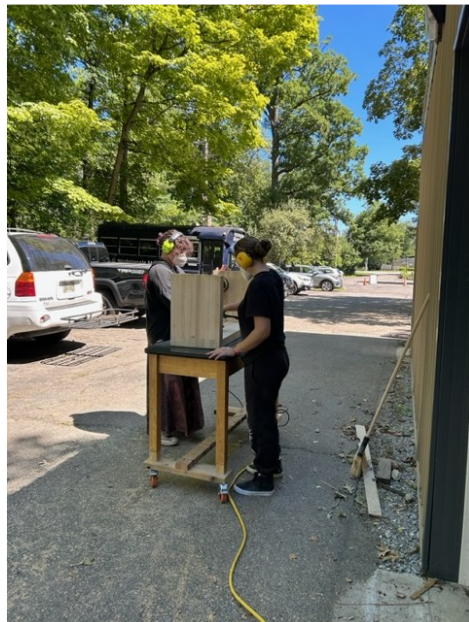
Alex and Sincere observe each others operation strategies.



Jack and Parker enjoy using the wood shop in the open air and sunlight.



Sincere practices power tool precautions.



Audrey and Alex learn wood shop safety.



Rae and Shay craft.