

Gaitway High School

16497 Snyder Road
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023



Philosophy

Gaitway High School Mission

Gaitway High School exists for high school students who thrive best in a non-traditional environment with support from caring, experienced professionals. Gaitway High School offers connection to the natural environment, the opportunity to experience a relationship with horses and the setting to allow experimental application of classroom theory. Gaitway High School is devoted to each student's personal success.

Gaitway High School Vision

**Find and develop strength
in every child**

Gaitway High School Tenets

- ▶ We believe that every child is worthy of an education.
- ▶ We believe that every child benefits from positive relationships with adults.
- ▶ We believe that every child deserves community support.
- ▶ We believe that a connection to nature nurtures growth.
- ▶ We believe that all children are “good” children.
- ▶ Student improvement in the areas of academics, social skills, emotional wellness
- ▶ Increased student attendance over previous school history
- ▶ Decreased instances of classroom discipline and instances of involvement with the legal system
- ▶ High student connectedness to Gaitway High School
- ▶ Development of healthy relationships among peers and with staff
- ▶ Supportive, interested community
- ▶ Strong staff investment in student outcomes

Students Who Find Success at Gaitway Have a History of the Following:

- ▶ Anxiety due to the size of their home school and the number of students
- ▶ Difficulty with peer relations and a history of being bullied
- ▶ Failure because of an inability to complete class work, homework ,or an inability to participate appropriately
- ▶ Truancy
- ▶ Depression or other mood disorders
- ▶ Difficulty forming and/ or sustaining positive relationships with peers and/or adults.
- ▶ Being square pegs in a round hole society
- ▶ Requiring a variety of learning modalities rather than a traditional classroom setting.

Gaitway Offers

- ▶ All academic courses aligned with Ohio Common Core
- ▶ Certified teachers, Highly Qualified in all courses
- ▶ Experimental learning opportunities embedded within the curriculum
- ▶ Vocational Job Training Program built into the school day
- ▶ Social Skills training and support throughout the day
- ▶ Mental health support from licensed social worker
- ▶ Equine Assisted Social Skills training
- ▶ Low student to teacher ratio (maximum 8:1); additionally, each teacher is supported by an assistant.
- ▶ New building designed specifically for Gaitway High School
- ▶ State of the art technology (wireless laptops for students, Smart Boards, and educational peripherals)

- ▶ 44 acres of outdoor classroom to provide hands on learning and experiential learning opportunities
- ▶ Volunteer opportunities (side walking and leading horses in therapeutic riding classes)
- ▶ A commitment to serve all students with disabilities
- ▶ Walter-Horn Award recipient for innovative learning opportunities
- ▶ Opportunities for horseback riding or carriage driving
- ▶ Credit recovery

Achievements

- ▶ Currently serving 11 school districts in Geauga County and Cuyahoga County
- ▶ Students have a high success rate in career technical programs at district vocational schools due to intense preparation in career readiness skills
- ▶ 100 percent graduation rate—some even a semester early
- ▶ 100 percent success rate in PSEO and College Credit +
- ▶ Students have transitioned successfully back to their home school for additional classes



Gaitway Academic Options

Math:

- ▶ Consumer and Business Math
- ▶ Algebra I & II
- ▶ Geometry
- ▶ Trigonometry

History:

- ▶ U.S. History
- ▶ World History
- ▶ Government
- ▶ Economics

Science:

- ▶ Physical Science
- ▶ Earth Science
- ▶ Life Science

English:

- ▶ 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade English



Elective Courses:

- ▶ Independent Study
- ▶ History thru Cinema
- ▶ Art History
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Physical Education
- ▶ Equine Science
- ▶ Variety of online classes offered through Virtual Learning Academy

**Certified teachers, highly qualified in all subject areas*



Vocational Program

First year students participate in Transition Options 1. This class includes learning employability skills in the barn with vocational tasks related to daily needs of being in an equine facility. The other component of this class is the Career Choices curriculum. Students learn to set goals, plan for a career that will suit their interests, preferences, needs and skills. Second year students that are not yet ready for Job Training experience Transition Options 2. This group uses the national “Skills to Pay the Bills” career readiness curriculum in the classroom and further develops employability skills in the barn and off-site twice a week. Transitional Options I and II are yearlong courses that are 2 blocks per day, averaging 150 minutes. Students earn 3 credits for the entire year.

Students who are 16 or older (Junior or Senior status) and have demonstrated basic employability skills benefit from a double period to travel to area businesses to further develop and gain beneficial experience to add to their resume. Some of the area businesses that we work with include Heinen’s grocery store, The Weils, Hamlet Village, Women Safe ReSale Shoppe, Punderson State Park, and University Hospital Geauga Campus. During this time students also work with the site Ohio Means Jobs. The students also have the opportunity to polish interview skills. Students in the Job Training Program earn 3 credits for the entire year.

If students are independently employed they may have the option to work with the Geauga County ESC Transition Coordinator to earn Work Study credit. Students may have the opportunity to earn 3 credits per year.





Social Work Services

Gaitway offers social work services provided by a licensed social worker. The social worker is at Gaitway four full days a week providing small group, whole group and individual sessions. Small group focuses on anxiety reduction skills, empowerment, transitioning after high school, depression and disputing irrational beliefs. Whole school social skill classes focus on whole school issues and problem solving. Individual sessions work with students on their IEP goals. The social worker is able to bill Medicaid if the student is eligible.

Equine Relationship Class

Equine Relationship Class is based on using the power of the horse to assist in group activities with the students and staff to identify self-success and relationship building, trust building, respect, communication, increase participants self-esteem increase team building, increase the ability to make appropriate choices, boundaries, listening skills, support and to express feelings.

Our group activities include staff, students, and horses. All of our activities are strictly ground activities requiring a continuous need for creativity and ingenuity. What we have all learned is that going back to the basics and keeping it simple as well as relying on the powers of the horse, has given us a wealth of never ending information and ideas for activities.

The activities include first going over the rules, a ½ hour activity with the horses and after the activity the group processes the experience. We always keep Fieldstone farm's mission of engaging the therapeutic power of our horses to discover and nurture the special abilities of individuals, families and communities.



Project Based Learning

Gaitway offers a curriculum infused with Project Based Learning (PBL), on a weekly basis. PBL is a teaching method where students gain knowledge and skills through an experiential approach. Students begin the lesson with a driving question, a problem and challenge. The unit is designed to be cross-curricular, allowing students to work on enriching their 21st century skills. Gaitway staff takes pride in developing PBL's that use the full spectrum of resources provided through FFTRC and Gaitway High School.



Gaitway High School



Learning Outside the Box

Empowering our youth to
recognize their strengths through
experiences with horses

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Partnership for empowerment



Gauga County
Educational Service Center
Committed to the improvement of student achievement