



What is Gather? Gather is a collective of homeschooling families who are excited to build a consistent community for our children by meeting weekly to teach classes and enrichment activities.

How does Gather work? Gather is volunteer-led. Parents/guardians lead and assist classes of their choice for different age groups throughout the year. Classes are organized in three sessions - Fall, Winter, and Spring. Members pay a yearly fee to cover rent, insurance, a private website, and other associated expenses. This fee may vary year to year. Through the collaboration of its volunteers (you and me!) Gather will succeed and help our children thrive.

How much does Gather cost? The member fee for the 2023-24 year is \$150.00 per attending child aged 1-18 years, with a cap at \$450.00 per family. Please note that individual classes may sometimes have material fees. Most classes should be low cost or free to be affordable to all members.

Who is considered a Gather member? Members are homeschooled youth and their attending parent who agree to Gather's guidelines. Member families must have at least one school-age child (5+ years).

Who are Gather teachers? Gather teachers are member parent/guardians, and sometimes our kids and teens teach classes too. By volunteering to share our talents, we give our children the opportunity to access learning and enrichment that may be outside our own skill-set or interest range. We may also occasionally use outside teachers, but they are not considered members.

Where does Gather meet? Gather meets in Westbrook. We have access to outdoor grounds, a playground, and the Presumpscot River. There is on-site parking.

When does Gather meet? Gather meets Mondays, October through May, from 9:45am - 3:15pm. Gather has breaks throughout the year that often parallel public school's. Our building will be closed due to snow if the Westbrook school system closes. The calendar on the private side of our site details all meeting days and breaks.

What classes are available? Gather relies on parents to offer classes based on their talents and interests, and based on what our kids are asking for. Some past classes at Gather have been as varied as Maker Space, Harry Potter Club, Sign Language, Story & Craft, Theater and Improv, Baking, Outdoor Games, and Zen Photography. Your imagination is the ceiling.

What does a typical Gather day look like?

9:30-9:45 am: Families arrive

9:45-10:00 am: Announcements / group questions / discussion

10:00-11:00 am: Class 1

11:00 am-12:00 pm: Class 2

12:00-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:00 pm: Class 3

2:00-3:00 pm: Class 4

3:00-3:15 pm: Clean up

What are Gather's policies?

Gather members commit to attending every scheduled day. Parents/guardians stay for the entirety of the day, and are solely responsible for their family.

An exception to the attendance policy is made if any member of your family is ill, or has been ill in the last 24 hours. In this case, for the wellbeing of all members, please keep your family home.

Gather is secular and apolitical. Gather welcomes all homeschooling families that want to participate and collaborate in youth-centered activities. Gather's members are respectful of all homeschooling styles, family makeup, religious or philosophical beliefs, gender identity and expression, orientation, politics, race, abilities, or any other factors that make us individuals.

Gather trusts its members will treat each other with kindness. A member who bullies, cyberbullies, harasses, or engages in physical altercations will be asked to leave Gather.

Gather members strive to resolve issues in person to avoid misunderstandings. Please do not attempt to resolve conflicts in cyberspace.

Photos taken at Gather may be posted on the private member site. Always ask members' permission to share elsewhere.

If you have any other questions about Gather, please email us at gatherhomeschool@gmail.com.

If you want to join Gather, please fill out our application [here!](#)