

News & Updates - September 2026

Friends of GREAT KIDS FARM



FRIENDS OF GREAT KIDS FARM

2026

FARM FEST

SEPTEMBER 19, 11AM



**FREE BUT
DONATIONS
ARE ALWAYS
APPRECIATED!**

We put your donations to work!
Come experience the Farm and all of the
activities included therein. See what the
kids get to learn and enjoy for the day!



6601 BALTIMORE NATIONAL PIKE | CATONSVILLE, MD 21228



T.Rowe Price
INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE



Farm Fest is Around the Corner!

Join us for our 3rd Annual Farm Fest 2026! Farm Fest is Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year. This year it will be held on September 19th at 11am.

Come to Farm Fest to explore the farm, connect with Farm staff and FGKF board members, and show your support. **Please stop by our table to sign in!** We'd like

to thank our sponsors: Wegmans, Ingredion, McCormick & Co., T. Rowe Price, The Fleming Canusa Foundation, and Atlas Restaurant Group.

Giving free access to healthy eating and living is a big part of our mission at Friends. Our event coincides with Farm Family Hours, where the Farm is open to Baltimore City Schools families from 10:00-2:00 PM. Families have greatly appreciated the ability to come to the farm with their children to enjoy nature and experience Great Kids Farm programming. While we on the Friends' board love the time to connect with the community we serve, it is also a great way to see your donations at work! This year, everyone who attends Farm Fest will also enjoy a ticket for a door prize drawing and a taco bar lunch provided by Wegmans and Friends.

****Please note: Parking & Shuttle!**

Our parking is very limited, especially as this event has grown. We will have some parking on the main circle, down the main drive, and on one side of Nuwood Road.

If it looks like a sunny day (which usually means a big crowd for this event) we will also have a shuttle bus running from the Giant on Rolling Road to the Farm ([6233 Baltimore National Pike](#)) and back between the hours of 10:00 and 2:00 with the last pick up at the farm at 1:45 PM. Please park in the upper parking lot closer to the MTA area. We will post on our social media sites on 9/17/26 if we do not have the shuttle due to a forecast of rain.

Some of you know the main drive into the Farm is a steep hill. We will have some spaces in the circle for handicapped parking. Please feel free to drive up the hill to drop off/pick up any attendees before or after parking. Please use caution when approaching the entrance as many families will be coming and going.

For those of you that will be arriving via bus, the closest stops are:

- Baltimore National Pike / Nuwood Dr (Westbound) #43068 (please use caution when crossing route 40!)
- Baltimore National Pike / Geipe Rd (Eastbound) #43161
- Bus lines 32 and 24 will drop off at the intersection of Rolling Rd and Baltimore National Pike (The Giant location for the shuttle)





Zucchini, Water Shoes, and Goats: Summer at Great Kids Farm!

**By: Laura Genello
Farm to School Specialist**

What spices pair well with a sauté of summer zucchini? Have you ever tasted a vine ripened tomato, or picked a fresh blackberry? How do you harvest potatoes? And what kinds of creatures live in the stream? These are some of the questions that the students who visited Great Kids Farm this summer answered during their visits. In total, we logged 17 field trips that brought 545 students to the farm.

The summer program allows students to experience the farm at its best. They catch crayfish in the stream, taste berries and tomatoes right from the plants, turn potatoes into French fries, and practice making their own spice blends. Since summer field trips are a bit longer than the academic year trips, students also have time to play—to run through the sprinkler, search for tadpoles in the pond, experiment with arts and crafts, pick flowers, and visit the animals. All of these activities are assisted by our crew of six summer farm interns. This year, every student intern was back for either their second or third year on the farm, and it was wonderful to watch how they have honed their leadership skills.

By the time the last field trip closed at the end of July, we were exhausted. August is a time to regroup and prepare for the year ahead. We resume projects we set aside before the rush of the summer program, reflect on the past year, and prepare for the season to come. Our first field trip on September 8th feels like it's right around the corner.



Farmer's Notes

*By James Koval,
Farm Manager*

We are now well into harvest time at the farm! The goal in the spring was to plant as much variety we could in both type of produce and also color of produce. That has certainly paid off! We have tomatoes in every color of the rainbow, even some that are half blue! There are red, purple, yellow, and white potatoes all processed and in the freezer ready for the winter programs. Green, red, yellow, and orange peppers have been dried to make colorful paprikas. The purple, white, and orange sweet

potatoes are still actively growing in the field. In a few weeks we will be planting purple, yellow, green, and white cauliflower for a late fall harvest. "Taste the Rainbow" is a main motto here at the farm and it is so fun that we can provide such exciting possibilities. Looking forward to this fall when the students return and can try all these colorful foods!





ROUND UP AT
WALMART
CHOOSE FRIENDS OF GREAT KIDS FARM



Did you know you can easily donate to the Farm when you shop online at Walmart.com? When checking out, you can request that your change be rounded up to support Friends. Just make sure you are logged into your account and you will be able to select Friends of Great Kids Farm. Thanks for thinking of us!

Visit us online!

Help us fund impactful programming! Become a recurring donor!

The Great Kids Farm Beet

School garden support from Great Kids Farm

Dear school gardeners, welcome back! The Farm to School team at Great Kids Farm is so excited to support your garden this year. Check out these opportunities:

- **School Garden Partnership Application, now open**

Great Kids Farm received a Farm to School grant from the USDA to support school gardens. The one-year partnership includes consulting, professional development, and funding for **edible gardens**. Learn more and [apply by Sep 18](#). We're offering two levels of support for selected schools. **Tier 1** aids new school garden construction. **Tier 2** supports existing garden programs that need help getting to the next level.

- **Join the Garden Leader Learning Community!**

[Sign up](#) to join this informal network of school gardeners throughout the city. We will gather six times a year, visiting a new school garden each time - and virtually in winter. We have fun as we enjoy garden fresh mocktails or snacks, explore garden recipes, tour unique spaces, share best practices for student and community engagement, troubleshoot issues, and learn practical skills in garden planting, weeding, maintenance, and education. Join one or more sessions of this informal, no-commitment-necessary network, or just sign up to stay in the loop for gardening updates and opportunities. Mark your calendars for our kick-off event: Wednesday, September 16, 4-6pm. School location TBD. New this year, we'll be launching a Canvas course to help share information about gardening.

- **Back to School Garden Support**

Do you need one-time back-to-school help with your school garden? We can help advise, pull weeds, and get the garden ready for fall planting. Let us know what you need here.

FREE FARM FAMILY HOURS @ Great Kids Farm

Saturday, September 19, 2026

10am-2pm

Open to all families of City Schools students and staff! Meet our animals, see what's growing, and explore our woods, fields, and stream. This month's free farm hours will feature Farm Fest 2026, Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year! [Registration is optional](#).

2026-2027 School Year Programs

- **[SIGN UP NOW FOR A FREE FALL FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM](#)**

- **Field trips to Great Kids Farm (GKF) (grades K-5):** Curriculum-aligned, hands-on learning with plants, animals, and land at the farm (grades k-5 - buses included)
- **Good Food Fall Summit - OCTOBER 9, 2026 (grades 5-8):** A day of interactive workshops bringing together students from many schools for farm-to-plate learning (**APPLICATION CLOSSES SEPT 16**)

- **WINTER/SPRING IN-PERSON PROGRAMS**

- Complete this [Summit Interest Form](#) if you'd like to be notified when applications open for our Food x Climate Summit (grades 5-12 grades, winter), African American Foodways Summit (grades 9-12, winter); Spring Garden Club Summit (grades 3-6), *NEW* Latinx Foodways Summit (grade levels TBD)
- **Farm to Classroom Experience:** The staff bring the farm to your school (classroom or club) to lead lessons on animals, planting, and/or farm-fresh cooking

(all grades) - applications open on 10/15 for winter/spring programs; no Farm to Classroom Experiences available til Winter 2026

- **VIRTUAL & MATERIALS-BASED PROGRAMS - CAN BE USED WITH SUMMER PROGRAM STUDENTS**
 - **Ag-tivity Kits (PreK-12):** FREE hands-on kits to link classroom learning to food system themes.
 - **Facetime the Farmer (PreK-12):** Live (virtual) visit to GKF tailored by age group and focus area
 - **Video Resources:** Science-curriculum-aligned videos and introductory farm clips
 - **Virtual Field Trip (target audience: K-5):** Students explore GKF at their own pace with this digital experience designed for the virtual classroom

For guidance on outdoor learning and food education, review the below and email us with additional questions.

- [Outdoor Learning Toolkit](#)
- [Classroom Cooking Toolkit](#)

All Farm to School offerings are listed at www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/farm-school. General Farm to School email is farms@bcps.k12.md.us.

Follow us on social media!

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Friends of Baltimore City Public Schools Great Kids Farm Foundation Inc. | 6601 Baltimore National Pike | Catonsville, MD 21228 US

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