

Mosaic Mill Studio

“The Mill” program, as its more commonly known, began in 2003 as a district wide initiative to provide students with an alternative education program. Staff began to recognize that some students needed a combination of emotional support and diversified academic planning to best learn. With both therapeutic behavioral interventions and academic support, these students began to thrive. Thus, the Mill was established.

The program is housed in the Unitarian Church on the Uxbridge Common. The Mill contains classrooms, group/activity spaces, a counseling office, a kitchen and a living room area. It’s certified staff includes Special Education Teachers, a School Adjustment Counselor, and Paraprofessionals. Many of the staff members have been involved in the program since its inception and are committed to student progress.



The Mosaic Mill Studio

Putting the pieces together to form the whole!

A therapeutic education setting that provides a creative path to better learning



UXBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Located at the Unitarian Church, Uxbridge, Mass.
Servicing students 7th-12th grade

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Frequently Asked Questions about "The Mill"

How are students referred to the Mosaic Mill Studio?

A referral form is initially submitted to the Mill staff by school administrators and/or the guidance department. A Student Review Committee meeting is held which typically includes the student, parents, guidance counselor, teachers, and Mill staff. If a student has been failing classes, has poor attendance, and various interventions in the classroom have not been successful, a student would be considered for the Mill program. Students coming back into the district from an alternative setting may also be considered for the Mill. Students and parents are encouraged to take a tour of the Mill program. Students are expected to be invested in the program and view it as a source of support so they can begin to reach their full potential.

What are the ages of the students and what is their schedule?

There are two tracts in the Mill program. A High school level, 9-12th grade, and a Middle school level, 7-8th grade. Some High School students take the majority of their classes at the Mill, others take only one. Their schedule rotates along with the High School block schedule and includes an academic support class, prevocational training, and individual and group counseling.

The newly expanded middle school program provides small group instruction in the areas of English Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies in addition to participation in physical education, the arts, group and individual counseling, and pre-vocational skills. The middle school program runs from 8:00a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Do students stay in the program for all four years?

One of the best qualities of the Mill is that the program changes as the student changes. As the student becomes more active in the learning process, their involvement in the Mill lessens. The goal is to provide the student with the support and coping skills needed to return to their school of origin as soon as possible. The length of time needed at the Mill varies dependent on the student's progress.

What is the Behavior Management system of the Mill?

The Mill runs on a banking system where the students earn "money" for working on goals they have identified. They rate themselves, which is reviewed by staff for accuracy, and then they receive a paycheck. They record their earnings on a banking sheet and can buy rewards either in the Mill's snack store, or for activities such as pool or computer time. In addition, students earn levels which allow them to access certain rewards. These levels are attained by the student when they reach behavioral milestones.

The Mill staff also address behaviors as they arise. Students are encouraged to work through their difficulties and process any situations which could lead to conflict. They are constantly being supported to express their thoughts and feelings appropriately. This provides a learning experience for all students involved. Students are encouraged to support and confront each other as well, with the overall goal of maintaining appropriate behavior in the classroom. The Mill follows the overall discipline policies and procedures of the student's school of origin.

What is the counseling aspect of the Mill?

Students referred to the Mill receive weekly check-ins as well as participate in a therapeutic group. Group topics vary based on the needs of the student population including such things as self-esteem, anger management, substance abuse, conflict resolution, coping skills, improving communication, etc. Some students have been diagnosed with learning disabilities and/or mental health issues, and individual plans are created to address these areas as needed. Students are encouraged to use their counselors as a source of support especially if they are getting frustrated. The goal of counseling is to help the students learn new coping skills and self advocacy so they can succeed in their academic career. Often times outside referrals are made as students require further support in their personal lives.

Having two full time counselors provides students at the Mill with the best possible support. The counselors meet with students at the Mill and can continue working with them when they transition out of the program and back into their school of origin. The counselor will help the student adjust and work with their teachers on any needed interventions.