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Super Saturdays at Friends School

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It may be hard to imagine kids going to school voluntarily on Saturdays, but New Garden Friends School attracts students from across the Triad with their Super Saturday classes.

The third season of classes is Feb. 2 through March 8, split into three two-week sessions. Students can take up to three classes for up to six Saturdays. The cost of each class is \$60.

Classes are divided by age group and are open to the public. They are taught by New Garden Friends teachers and other Guilford County teachers.

Marty Goldstein, co-head of the school, came up with the idea for Super Saturdays during his sabbatical four years ago.

He researched summer and winter programs for students to enrich their learning.

"We put together a list of different kinds of possibilities we might be able to offer at New Garden Friends School that would appeal to a broad range of students both in age and ability," he said.

Students help pick the classes offered. Each year the school gives students a list of possibilities and creates the class list depending on interest.

Geocaching, a "technological treasure hunt" in which students use a GPS device and travel by bus to find treasures set up all over the city, is the program's most popular class, Goldstein said.

Sixth-grader Tyler Ennis took the cooking class two years ago. He learned to cook healthful meals and clean up afterward.

The class gave Tyler "confidence to be more independent in the kitchen," said Tracy Ennis, his mother. "He definitely thinks about what are healthy food choices and amounts."

Super Saturdays are a fit for the school, Goldstein said.

"The very nature of being at a Quaker school is all about teaching kids the value of caring for one another and being human," Goldstein said. "We work to teach our kids to respect one another, learn how to resolve differences peacefully, how to be good friends and take care of the community and environment."

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