



CAHILL SCHOOL GIFT SHOP

The Cahill School Gift Shop is available for students who would like to purchase a memento of their day. It contains a variety of merchandise typically used by children in pioneer one-room schools across Minnesota. Please prepare your students (and their parents!) by asking that they bring money in envelopes on which parents specify the items their children may buy:

GIRLS' HANDMADE SUNBONNETS: \$10.00

HANDMADE DOLL BONNETS (sized to fit American Girl dolls): \$5.00

BOYS' HANDMADE LARGE NECKERCHIEFS: \$5.00

COONSKIN CAPS: \$10.00

OLD-FASHIONED MARBLES GAME: \$5.00

(12 small marbles, 1 large shooter marble, cloth bag and game rules)

DOMINOES GAME: \$5.00

(Wooden dominoes and storage box with game rules)

PICK-UP STICKS GAME: \$5.00

(Wooden game pieces and storage box with game rules)

OLD-FASHIONED SLATE, SLATE WRITER AND WIPER SET: \$10.00

SLATE WRITERS ONLY: \$1.00 and CLOTH SLATE WIPER ONLY: \$0.50

CAHILL SCHOOL CEDAR PENCIL: \$1.00

CAHILL SCHOOL LESSON BOOK: \$1.00

QUILL PEN: \$4.00 (authentic white goose quill with 2 easy ink recipes)

TIN CUPS: \$5.00

HANDMADE 19th CENTURY SOAP: \$1.00

HAND-MADE HAND-PAINTED NORTH WOODS BIRD HOUSES: \$12.00

"FARMING IN EARLY MINNESOTA" ILLUSTRATED BOOK: \$10.00

CAHILL SCHOOL & GRANGE HALL POSTCARDS: \$0.50

CAHILL SCHOOL STICKERS: \$0.50

Prices subject to change



Please help parents appreciate the special day their children will have at Historic Cahill School by making a copy of both sides of this page and sending it home with your students.

A day at Historic Cahill School is like a typical day in a one-room rural Minnesota school in 1900. A costumed schoolmarm skillfully draws each student back in time by dramatic interpretive teaching. From the moment students arrive and are greeted by a schoolmarm ringing the school bell, they will enjoy vivid role play. They will cultivate a keen appreciation for our great American history, academic heritage and local community life. They will be fascinated by the slate boards, curriculum, cordwood stove, architecture, chores and old-fashioned games. Just as in 1900, students will follow lesson plans, write on slates, eat, recite and play.

"I don't want to leave the Old Cahill School. It was the best day in my life. I'd like to stay here forever," many students - and adult observers - echo at the end of a day at Old Cahill.

Your trip to Cahill also includes a visit to the adjacent Grange Hall, another key component of the historic Cahill community. Built in 1879, and restored to the year 1935, the Grange Hall is a building where the Grange, a farming society, met. Also serving as a town hall, many community gatherings were held there.

What can I do to help set the tone for a great historic experience?

- Read Laura Ingalls Wilder books, particularly the chapter, "School Days" from Farmer Boy. Also, Those Golden Years vividly describes Laura's first winter teaching in North Dakota.
- More in-depth books of interest are America's Country Schools, by Andrew Gulliford, and The Diary of an Early American Boy, by Eric Sloane -- a beautifully illustrated version of Noah Blake's 1805 Diary.
- Talk with your child about family history as it relates to a one-room school and the immigration experience.

What should students wear?

To enhance their experience, students and teachers are encouraged to dress in pioneer clothing:

Boys: shirts with collars and cuffs, patched pants, bib overalls, lightweight caps, thick socks, boots, bandana neckerchiefs, and/or knickers (socks rolled over trouser legs).

Girls: long white or black stockings, large hair ribbons, scarves wrapped like shawls over the shoulders, aprons, high laced boots, bonnets, bloomers, dresses, coats.

What should students bring for lunch?

Students are encouraged to bring a 1900 style lunch in a pail, pie tin, or basket. The container should be covered with a cloth knotted at four corners. The cloth serves as a placemat. Soda, sticky juice, pudding, or gooey, sugary treats are not appropriate. Water was the beverage at Old Cahill, so children should bring a cup to fill with water. However, some visitors prefer to bring their own bottled spring water. Cookies and sugar confections were only eaten on special occasions. Typical lunch fare included cheese chunks, dried meat, hard-boiled eggs, sandwiches, fresh fruit, and raw vegetables. **IMPORTANT: Because so many children have serious nut or fish allergies, please do not pack nuts of any kind or peanut butter or seafood or fish in your child's lunch.** Just like in 1900, the children will be asked to clean up after themselves!

Students should bring good manners and expectations for a great time. Cameras are fine if used unobtrusively after the program tone has been set by the schoolmarm. We are role playing, so we will begin quietly. As the day progresses, we will incorporate action, laughter and lots of 1900 fun. Parents are free to attend and observe quietly, but this should be cleared first with the class teacher. However, we want children to feel as though they really are attending a 1900 one-room school. We ask visitors to leave their preschool children and babies at home to keep from distracting our registered children on their special day.

Cahill School is located at 4918 Eden Ave. in Edina, just off the 50th St. exit from Hwy. 100. For more details refer to the Cahill School website at www.edinahistoricalsociety.org/field-trips.