

FOREST SCHOOL

3rd Grade



Fall Rescue Squad

In the Fall, the 3rd graders become *The Rescue Squad* - a team of scouts who locate, rescue, and heal the plants, animals, and fungi of our local ecosystems. Whether its a racing rabbit who hurt its foot, or a goofy goose that got lost during migration, it's up to the Rescue Squad to save the day. Squad members apply their academic skills into a multitude of search & rescue techniques while learning how to protect and nurture our native wildspaces.

Topics Covered:

- Life science
- Reading & writing informational texts
- Multiplication & algebra
- Tracking
- Engineering & design
- Geography

Winter Time Detectives

In winter, the Time Detectives travel to the distant past and far future to uncover clues and solve mysteries that sometimes span millenia. What did Multnomah County look like 100 years ago? 1,000 years ago? 100 million years ago? The Time Detectives travel back in time to find out. Did a priceless artifact go missing or are events not happening the way they are supposed to? The Time Detectives are on the case.

Topics Covered:

- Deciphering historical evidence
- Inclusion/exclusion of historical groups
- Mathematical measurement and data
- Multiplication, division, and area
- Gravity and magnetism
- Primitive fire-making

Spring Shipwreck Island

After a horrible storm, the 3rd graders wash ashore on a mysterious, magical island. Full of silly and strange creatures, this lost location is a playground of adventure and discovery. In order to survive and flourish on their new home, the sailors create a stable society, an economy of trade, and a knowledge of dangerous climates to bring security and safety to the wilds of Shipwreck Island.

Topics Covered:

- Creative writing and storytelling
- City and county government
- Economics and finance
- Climate science
- Fractions
- Primitive shelter

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Contact Information

Lead Teacher:
Brain Leonard

The best way to contact me is through email. I will check this email at least once a day and at least once on the weekends. I will have after school office hours available from 3:30-4:00 on Tuesdays. All school-wide comments or concerns should be directed to Ian Abraham (ian@trackersearch.com) or Elaine Kinchen (elaine@trackersearch.com).

Supplies and Gear

Pencils and pencil sharpener
2 Black dry erase markers
Eraser
Crayons
Colored pencils
Glue stick
Ruler or measuring tape
Watercolor set
Water bottle (24 oz non-leakable preferred, fits snugly into backpack outside pocket)
Backpack (Chest strap, I can recommend the Osprey Jr series.)
Rain Pants and Jacket (2 pairs)
* I recommend a boot dryer

Daily Gear Checklist: Dress for the weather, remember a water bottle, sunscreen, lunch & 2 snacks, mask, hand sanitizer, and the necessary academic materials for that day. We will send home a packing list for longer days.

Sample Daily Agenda

8:15-8:30 Drop Off
8:30-9:00 Sunrise Routine
9:00-9:30 Bus - Practice Activities
9:30-10:00 Snack/ Movement
10:00-12:00 Morning Lessons and Activities
12:00-1:00 Lunch/ Self-Guided Time
1:00-2:00 Afternoon Lessons and Activities
2:00-2:30 Snack 2/ Movement
2:30-3:00 Bus - Practice Activities
3:00-3:15 Sunset Council
3:15-3:30 Fetch

Growth Progress Reports

Portland Forest School Elementary uses a grading continuum that tracks and evaluates a student's growth from basic to proficient in skills spanning reading, writing, math, science, social science, and socioemotional learning over the year. Students receive consistent feedback and guidance on their work that will identify areas of improvement and growth. Reports will aim to locate the skills that each student has begun to explore, the skills they are currently working with, and the skills they have become proficient in. Using this format, we can track the students' skills they are beginning to explore at the start of the school year and watch their development and expansion by the end of the year. At the turn of each season we host parent-teacher conferences to discuss student progress.

Parent-teacher conference days:

November 23-24

February 22-23

May 31 - June 1

Extensions, Absences, Make-ups

If students need to miss school because of medical or family reasons, please contact our Forest School Office as soon as you are able to. As written in the handbook, we ask that appointments be scheduled outside of school hours if at all possible as to allow students to not miss important material in class. There will be no homework assigned for students to do explicitly outside of the classroom to make up if they are not present. Please contact me by email if there are issues or concerns.

Overnight Dates

If Covid-19 allows, Forest School lower grades will be having an overnight trip in the Spring. Families will be invited to one of our overnight sites in the Marmot Valley for a celebration of the hard work that has been done throughout the school year. Dates and information regarding this celebration will be announced as the year progresses.

Student Agreements

Within the first week of class, students will be meeting together as a community to craft a set of agreements and principles they aim to adhere to throughout the year. These agreements will be recorded and referenced often in regards to any behavioral issues, disagreements, or conflict that arises. Students will have the opportunity to check-in frequently on these agreements, and work together to re-write them as they see fit. We will utilize ClassDojo as a way to give students positive feedback for this. See the attached handout to see how your student can receive "Monster Points" for meeting class agreements.