

FOREST SCHOOL

Fifth Grade



Fall

Looking Deeply Into Nature

This year our story will start with a plunge into the natural world where we will train our minds in looking closely at the world around us to see just what is happening! Picture a brave new world with so many things to be discovered. Before we go we are going to need some tools to help us. Namely our field journals, maps, and wits. Be prepared to show your findings as well, people need to know what's out there!

Winter

Building Your World

The second act of our adventure is all about the foundations and seeing how the building blocks fit into place and make up everything. We will learn how our own government was created (and even come up with our own), discover the small pieces of matter and life as we know it in our foray into chemistry, as well as some of the fundamental parts of stories and literature.

Spring

Solving the Problem

Now that we know more about the world around us let's put it to the test and tackle some real issues! In this unit we join the global community to look at what challenges the planet and our species face and what creative solutions we can devise. This will include planetary science and physics, problem solving through engineering, our country's position in the world, and some creative writing and persuasive arguments.

****All requiring academic skills in math, science, and literacy.***

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Contact Information

Lead Teacher:
Kyle Golden
Email: kylegolden@trackersearch.com

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
Clipboard and binder
2 Black dry erase markers
Erasers
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 Morning Routine
9:00-9:30 Introductory Lesson/Warm-up
9:30-10:00 Bus/Snack/ Movement
10:00-12:00 Morning Lessons and Activities
12:00-1:00 Lunch/ Free 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 Prep/PSA
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.

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. You will be provided a copy of our Class Constitution and our set of rules.