FOREST SCHOOL

7th Grade

Fall
Seeds to Trees

After the dry summer we will begin this fall by drawing understanding deep from our roots, building a class community while engineering our outdoor classroom. We will grow our awareness, intentions and community by exploring the progression from cells to organisms, individuals to societies. We explore our own sense of self and our awareness of our role in the socio-political and ecological world while learning about the salmon lifecycle and studying indigenous stories from this region.

Topics Covered:
- Life science & ecology
- Reading/writing informational & narrative texts
- Ratios and proportional relationships
- The number system
- Engineering & design
- Geography

Winter
Trees to Forest Communities

When the rains arrive, we use our depth of self knowing to explore civilizations in the eastern hemisphere and better understand how ecology and culture influence each other across borders, time, and space. We investigate the rich worlds of ancient civilizations and the roots and legacies of marginalized and oppressed peoples. We cultivate compassion as we use historical artifacts and writing to imagine the challenges and joys of lives of diverse people in historical contexts.

Topics Covered:
- Deciphering historical evidence
- Inclusion/exclusion of historical groups
- Expressions and equations
- Political, social, and economic systems
- Maps and navigation
- Writing mechanics

Spring
Forest Aflame

The spring melt brings our attention to the future and how we can strategize to address the challenges faced by our local and global communities. We investigate different types of human-and non-human created problems and how they can be addressed at different scales. We look at geologic history to understand the deepest roots of resource distribution and the opportunities and challenges that they present to modern societies.

Topics Covered:
- Scales of problems
- Science fair
- Sexual education
- Geology
- Statistics and Probability
- Geometry

TRUE FOREST SCHOOL

FOREST SCHOOL

7th Grade

TRACKERS FOREST SCHOOL

Contact Information

Lead Teacher:
Michelle Cordell

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@trackersearth.com) or Elaine Kinchen (elaine@trackersearth.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 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.