

Black Butte School Outdoor Learning

With the combination of a forest setting and small student body, Black Butte School has the ability to focus on outdoor education in a way that many other public schools cannot. Students spend an average of 13 hours per week outside: field trips, recess, PE, field studies, the ski program and more!

To make the most of this outdoor experience, proper gear is really important!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Comfortable Backpack: Students will carry gear with them on outdoor excursions. Make sure your student has a backpack that is the right size for them and roomy enough for a lunch, water bottle and clothing layers.

Reusable water bottle(s): Students go through a lot of water on field trip days! Please send kids with a larger size bottle or two smaller ones. Lightweight bottles are best.

Sturdy Shoes for hiking: Closed toe shoes (not sandals) are required for field days.

Layers of clothing for different types of weather:

- Students need a jacket and layers for field trip days that include cold mornings and warm afternoons.
- The kids play outside during recess and PE ; if there is snow on the ground send your students to school with snow pants, gloves, and a hat.
- Students transition from the warm classroom to outdoor learning every week and need layers for the varying temperatures.
- During the Ski & Ride Program (Jan-Mar), students need proper gear and equipment. See the Student Handbook for a detailed list; the school can help out with loaning gear if needed!

Lightweight lunch containers: Glass containers aren't great because they add weight to the backpacks and can easily break!

Sun Protection: Send students to school with sunscreen and/or hat.

Ability to go to the bathroom outside: There isn't always a bathroom on the trail! Students will need to be comfortable going to the bathroom behind a tree. It's very helpful to have your child practice this before starting school. <https://bring-the-kids.com/helping-your-kids-pee-outside/>

