Outdoor Learning

Belle Sherman Elementary School has a plan for all weather outdoor learning.

**Our Goal for Outdoor Learning**

Learning outdoors encourages inquiry and a sense of purpose for our students. This creates a unique opportunity to expand place-based instructional strategies and our case study curriculum.

- Layers of clothing
- Change of clothing in a marked bag
- Rain gear and boots or extra shoes
- Sun hat
- Water bottle
- Bug spray and sunscreen*

Learning outdoors requires some of the same health and safety norms as learning indoors, as well as its own unique expectations and understandings.

- **Hand Washing:** To support hand hygiene, we have installed an outdoor hand washing station for students to use while learning outdoors.
  Face Coverings: Even when outdoors, it’s important to wear adequate face coverings whenever physical distancing can’t be maintained.
- **ADA/Universal Design:** Some of our playground equipment has been designed to accommodate students with and without disabilities
- **Ticks:** Visit [cdc.gov/ticks](http://cdc.gov/ticks) for tips on how to prevent tick bites, safely remove ticks from your skin, and check for symptoms.
- **Sun Safety:** Putting on broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher before going outdoors helps protect skin from the sun’s UV rays. Check out more [sun safety tips for families](http://sun safety tips for families).

* These items may be applied at home, if the child needs it.

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**Outdoor Learning Gear**

If you need any of this gear for your child or if you would like to donate gear to our school, please contact School Principal Jeff Tomasik.

**Resources:** [Dressing For Success in All Seasons: A guide for teaching and learning outdoors](http://Dressing For Success in All Seasons: A guide for teaching and learning outdoors)

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### Academic + Social

Spending time in and near nature can support academic success, foster social development, and improve learning. [Read more about the benefits of spending times outdoors in nature on Academic and Social Development.](http://Read more about the benefits of spending times outdoors in nature on Academic and Social Development.)

### Mental

Time in nature has been found to decrease stress and improve mental well-being. [Read more about how learning outdoors relates to mental well-being.](http://Read more about how learning outdoors relates to mental well-being.)

### Environmental

Spending time engaged with nature as a child can foster a sense of place, belonging, and connection to the environment. [Read more about how learning outdoors can impact environmental stewardship.](http://Read more about how learning outdoors can impact environmental stewardship.)

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**Questions?** Please contact the School Principal Jeff Tomasik.