



SAMS 8th Grade Outdoor Retreat

◆ **Eagle Bluff**

◆ Environmental Learning Center

Overview of Eagle Bluff:



What?

Eagle Bluff is a year-round environmental learning center that provide transformative experiences which empower people to care for the earth and each other

When? - **EARLIER this year!**

Leave SAMS: morning of Monday, October 26th

Return to SAMS: afternoon of Wednesday, October 28th

Where?

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN



Why? Goals for students:

- To build **community** and **confidence** in yourselves and your shared world in an engaging, outdoor setting.
- To become **stewards of the Earth** and gain an understanding of our natural world.
- To explore Minnesota's geology and ecology while building our **scientific thinking and inquiry skills**.
- To be together, have fun, and **challenge ourselves and each other!**

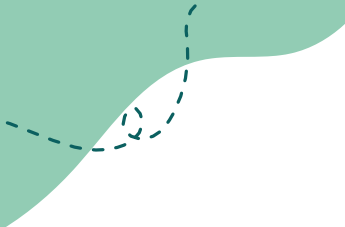
Why? Connection to the work of SANB:

SANB Success Metrics:

- Students thrive emotionally and socially in adaptive environments.
- Students positively contribute as a thriving citizen to their community.

World Savvy Global Competencies - Values and Attitudes:

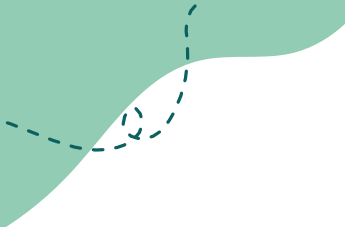
- Finds comfort with ambiguity and unfamiliar situations.
- Reflects on the context and meaning of our lives in relationship to something bigger.
- Adapts to new situations and is cognitively nimble.
- Demonstrates humility.



Planning Updates:

Student Communication:

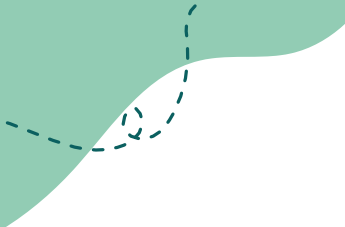
- All 8th grade students learned about Eagle Bluff during Learning Lab the first week of school, on Thursday, September 3rd and Friday, September 4th
 - Who? What? When? Where? Why?
 - Classes and Activities
 - Packing and Preparation
 - Clarified misunderstandings from previous years
 - Eagle Bluff permission forms (paper copies) were given to students on Tuesday, September 8th and are **due on Friday, October 2nd**
- 
- 



Planning Updates:

Student Support:

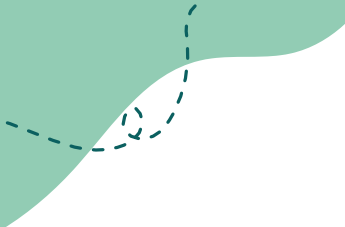
- Working with Special Education staff to support students receiving Special Education services
 - Special Education chaperones (teachers and/or paraeducators)
 - Plans for accommodations, accessibility, regulation breaks, and more
 - Examples:
 - Paired with specific SAMS staff member during classes and activities
 - Scheduled breaks
- 
- 



Planning Updates:

Student Support:

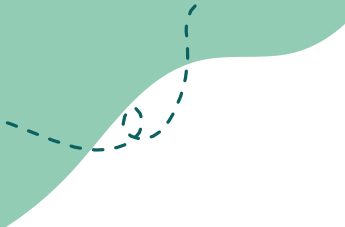
- Working with Bailey Seward and Viviana Chavez-Garcia to support multilingual students
 - Ensure understanding of Eagle Bluff details for students and families
 - Translated FAQs and permission forms for any families who need one (data collected from students)
 - Communicate specific plan for prayer schedule and spaces
- 
- 



Planning Updates:

Family Communication:

- 8th grade families have received two emails about Eagle Bluff:
 - Week of August 24th: Introduction to Eagle Bluff, FAQs, and Chaperone Sign-Up
 - Week of September 21st: Electronic copy of Eagle Bluff Permission Form, information about Eagle Bluff fundraisers
 - SAMS Back To School Night (Aug. 27th): Eagle Bluff Information Booth
 - SAMS Family Night (Sept. 28th): 30 minute Eagle Bluff Information Session for all 8th grade families
- 
- 



Planning Updates:

Chaperones:

- SAMS chaperones: 8th grade teachers + support (*as needed*) from SAMS administration, Special Education team, Multilingual Learners team
 - Family chaperones: As of September 21st, seven 8th grade parents have signed up to chaperone.
 - Plan for additional chaperone recruitment (*if needed*):
 - Include chaperone sign-up information in future emails and SAMS Family Night presentation
 - Connect with committed chaperones to ask for recruitment support
- 
- 

Finances:

- **Eagle Bluff financial aid**: Receiving a 24% discount per student, based on application submitted in July
- **Sliding Scale**:
 - Full cost - \$250 per student

2026 - Sliding Scale

- ☐ \$500 - sponsor another 8th grade student's trip to Eagle Bluff
- ☐ \$300 - for families interested in donating to the Eagle Bluff fundraising campaign
- ☐ **\$250 - the full cost of the Eagle Bluff outdoor retreat per student**
- ☐ \$175 - an option for all families
- ☐ \$100 - an option for all families
- ☐ \$50 - an option for all families
- ☐ Full scholarships are also available

Fundraising:

Eagle Bluff Fundraisers:

- **Huskie Grams (\$375.00)**
- **Monday, September 28th - Dunk Tank at SAMS Family Night**
- Tuesday, September 29th - Chipotle
- Thursday, October 8th - Raising Cane's
- Wednesday, October 21st - Parkway Pizza
- Wednesday, December 9th - Jersey Mike's

Advertisement:

- SAMS Family Night
- Eagle Bluff emails to 8th grade families
- SAMS Family Update
- Brighter Bulletin
- KDS
- Paper flyers in SAMS/SAVHS



The background is a solid teal color. In the top-left corner, there are dark green leaf shapes with white outlines. In the top-right corner, there is a yellow wavy shape with a dashed line. In the bottom-left corner, there is a yellow wavy shape with a dashed line. In the bottom-right corner, there are dark green leaf shapes with white outlines.

Questions?