



River Bend

NATURE CENTER

June 27, 2022

Jamie Bente, Superintendent
Andrew Beenken-Adams, CPA
Faribault Public Schools – Pre-K – 6th Grade
710 17th St SW
Faribault, MN 55021

Dear Jamie,

Attached you will find a proposed 2022-2023 contract between the Faribault Public Schools and River Bend Nature Center. We continue to meet with your curriculum directors to ensure that programs are in alignment with the State Academic Standards in Science and meet Faribault Public Schools' needs.

Thank you and we look forward to the continuing to provide programs for your students.

Sincerely,

Katy Anderegg,
Operations Manager

*Helping people discover, enjoy,
understand, and preserve the incredible
natural world that surrounds us.*

Faribault Public School District Letter of Agreement

We are proud of the partnership we have had since 1979 to work together to provide high quality science curriculum for area students, and we look forward to continuing that tradition for the 2022-2023 school year. We will work with your curriculum directors and teachers to create lessons that enhance learning to meet science standards. To best cover the agreed upon benchmarks, River Bend has devised and provides a three part lesson plan that will be provided in-person.

1. The pre-lesson activity is to be implemented by the teachers in the classroom prior to their visit to River Bend.
2. The field lesson at River Bend Nature Center will engage students kinesthetically while enhancing and solidifying those standards.
3. The post-visit assessment activity is implemented by teachers and takes place after the field program.

As a River Bend 2022-2023 contract school, River Bend will provide your schools with the following programs:

- o One 1.5-hour session for Pre-K
 - Spring curriculum-“Signs of Spring”
- o Three 1.5-hour sessions for Kindergarten
 - Fall curriculum- “Humans are Animals Too!”
 - Winter curriculum-“Winter Weather”
 - Spring curriculum-“Living and Nonliving”
- o Two 1.5-hour sessions for 1st grade
 - Winter curriculum- “Homes & Habitats”
 - Spring curriculum- “Animal Life Cycles”
- o Two 1.5-hour sessions for 2nd grade
 - Fall curriculum- “Seeds of Life”
 - Spring curriculum- “All About Plants”
- o Two sessions for 3rd grade (1.5-hours in the fall, 2 hours in the winter)
 - Fall curriculum- “Plant and Animal Survival”
 - Spring curriculum - “Plant and Animal Characteristics”
- o Two 2-hour sessions for 4th grade
 - Fall curriculum- “Rocks & Minerals”
 - Winter curriculum- “The Water Cycle”
- o Two 2-hour sessions for 5th grade
 - Fall curriculum- “Aquatic Ecosystems”
 - Spring curriculum -“Weathering & Erosion”
- o Two sessions for 6th grade (2 hours in the fall, 1.5 hours in the spring)
 - Fall curriculum- Newly developed curriculum based on Earth Science – Title to come
 - Spring curriculum- “Compass Course”

PROGRAM POLICIES:

RESCHEDULING - There is limited time to reschedule programs. Programs will be adapted for indoor activities based on our staff's discretion and topic. If you have questions or concerns about your program, please call and notify us at least 24 hours before your scheduled program.

WEATHER - Programs will be held regardless of the weather. We ask that you dress accordingly. In the event of severe weather or school closings, we may reschedule programs per our discretion. We will notify you within 24 hours of your scheduled program.

PHOTO – River Bend Nature Center will assume that all students are able to have their pictures taken for RBNC promotional purposes unless River Bend has been notified otherwise by classroom teacher or school representatives.

As part of our agreement for the 2022-2023 school year, River Bend will also:

- Work with FPS teachers and curriculum directors to ensure our lessons encompass specific Minnesota Academic Standards in Science and integrate reading, writing, and math into pre- and post-lessons packets for teachers to use in the classroom that enhance and integrate learning.
- Provide emails to teachers including program support specific to the Faribault School curriculum.
- Arrange busing logistics. If a special bus is needed, FPS teachers will need to contact Faribault Transportation to fill out a form and arrange for a special bus.
- Offer teachers suggestions, trainings, and advice in teaching science or outdoor based education.

Beyond our contract partnership which provides for the pre-K-6 program, we work to provide opportunities for the school district in additional ways. A few examples are:

- In-school instruction on Recycling and Waste Reduction at the 3rd and 4th grade levels. The grade levels may vary depending on the need of the school.
- In-school instruction on Stormwater Education at 5th grade level.
- Opportunities for in-classroom programs with unique natural history / environmental education and outdoor recreation experiences.
- Professional Development for teachers to learn how to teach nature education to students.
- Opportunities to work with specialized groups such as the Community Schools, Newcomer Program, STEAM, etc.
- Work collaboratively with the school district to tell the story of the positive impact the partnership has had on individuals and the community.

The contract fee for the 2022-2023 school year is \$33,517. An invoice will be sent for payment at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year and is due 9/30/22. River Bend Nature Center is committed to providing the Faribault Public Schools District, students and teachers with high quality, hands-on science and environmental education experiences.

Agreed to by:

Date _____

Katy Anderegg, Operations Manager, RBNC

Date _____

Jamie Bente, Superintendent, Faribault Public Schools

