



River Bend

NATURE CENTER

June 9, 2023

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

Dear Superintendent Bente,

Attached you will find a proposed 2024-2025 agreement between the Faribault Public Schools and River Bend Nature Center for our traditional classroom and field trip environmental education work. 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,

Brad Bourn,
Executive Director

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

River Bend Nature Center (RBNC)

Faribault Public School District (FPS)

Letter of Agreement

We are proud of the partnership we have had since 1979 to work together to provide high quality STEAM curriculum for area students, and we look forward to continuing that tradition for the 2023-2024 school year.

Pre-K to 6th services: (\$34,000)

RBNC will work with FPS curriculum directors and teachers to create lessons that enhance learning to meet science standards. To best cover the agreed upon benchmarks, RBNC has devised and provides a three part lesson plan that will be provided in-person.

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

RBNC will provide your pre-K-6 schools with the following number of programs:

- One 1.5-hour session for Pre-K
- Three 1.5-hour sessions for Kindergarten
- Two 1.5-hour sessions for 1st grade
- Two 1.5-hour sessions for 2nd grade
- Two sessions for 3rd grade (1.5-hours in the fall, 2 hours in the winter)
- Two 2-hour sessions for 4th grade
- Two 2-hour sessions for 5th grade
- Two sessions for 6th grade (2 hours in the fall, 1.5 hours in the spring)

High School Programming (\$6,000)

At the request of FPS, we are transitioning our services provided under the “Field Biologist Internship Program” to better align with the Agriculture Department’s current service delivery model. **River Bend will host 30 hours of field trips and learning experiences in collaboration with the Agricultural department.** These hours will be in the form of curated field trips and activities at RBNC ranging from 2-4 hour experiences as requested by the Agriculture Department. RBNC and FPS’s Agricultural department will collaborate on scheduling services.

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 2023-2024 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 2024-2025 school year is \$40,000. An invoice will be sent for payment at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year and is due 9/30/24. 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

Brad Bourn

River Bend Nature Center

Executive Director

_____/Date

Jamie Bente

Faribault Public Schools

Superintendent