



## **Dear 6th grade families,**

Welcome to the first overnight trip! In the Exped Program, students have a chance, throughout eight different trips, to develop a strong sense of place in Washington state. That learning process begins the first month of school when we head to Deception Pass State Park for one night on Thursday, September 26th. This trip is designed to be a fun first chance to build frontcountry camping skills and comfort finding their place in new environments. Led by teacher-leaders, students will learn to cook, set up tents, personal gear, and work together to build a positive outdoor experience for all.

### **Trip Schedule:**

#### **Thursday, September 26th:**

On Thursday morning, students will report to the gym with all of their belongings at 8:30AM. At that time, we will do a quick pack check to make sure that they have all of their belongings to stay warm and comfortable, then we will get on the buses and head to Deception Pass! Thursday will be focused on skill-building at camp, a hike, and some social cohesion through games.

#### **Friday, September 27th:**

On Friday we will continue to practice skills back at camp, while also exploring our environment and curriculum on location. We will pack up and depart from Deception Pass around 1:00pm with the intention of getting your students back to you around 3:00-3:30PM. Pick up depends on a few moving parts, including traffic, so if pick up time needs to be significantly adjusted, you will be alerted by the front desk.

- End of Trip Responsibilities for Students: Students are expected to help clean up at the end of the trip, as gear care is part of the skills and habits we aim to help students build. Student pick-up time is designed to accommodate this. If we run later than planned, pick-up time will be adjusted to ensure that all students participate in clean-up. We appreciate your patience and cooperation in this effort.

### **Gear:**

Each student will need to pack individual gear for the duration of the trip, including a sleeping bag, appropriate layers of hiking clothing, and rain gear. Please ensure you pack according to the [6th grade fall overnight packing list](#), reaching out with any questions.

Billings has a basic inventory of backpacks, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, clothing, and other gear for loan. We also partner with Washington Trails Association to get any gear for students that we may not have in our inventory. If you would like to borrow gear, **please fill out the [6th Grade Fall Overnight Gear Survey](#) by Friday, September 6th.** The early deadline on this gear survey allows us to ensure that we can request gear from WTA in time to get the correct sizes to your students.

### **Food:**

Students should bring their own snacks and lunch on Thursday. From Thursday dinner on, we will provide everything! We are planning to keep it simple with food, offering pasta and red sauce for dinner on Thursday, options of cold cereal and bagels on Friday morning, and a make your own sandwich bar with options for multiple dietary needs on Friday for lunch.



- **Special Diet Needs** - We will provide food for students with dietary restrictions. Please let us know if your student's diet has any special dietary considerations by indicating it in the permission slip on Alma. *Additionally, food can be a source of stress for some students on trips! If you have any concerns outside of special dietary considerations for students on the meal choices, please reach out! We try to keep it simple on the first trip with meal choices, but 6th graders can sometimes be particular eaters, and knowing any details in advance can help us support!*

### **Medications:**

Please bring medications to school in their **original containers** (and in a Ziploc bag). Our medical leads **must follow the directions printed on the original label. Bring only the quantity needed for the trip.** For items such as inhalers, it would be great if students have a spare or extra from home (make sure it is fully charged). Please bring medications to the front desk no later than Monday, September 23rd. Post-trip, pick them up from the front desk. Additionally, we need a medical authorization form for any meds that we distribute to students. Please get in touch with Becca at [beccad@billingsmiddleschool.org](mailto:beccad@billingsmiddleschool.org) with any questions about this form.

### **Permission Forms:**

**Finally, please check [Alma Start](#) to fill out the required forms for the trip by Friday, September 6th.** This information will ensure that we can provide excellent care for your child throughout this trip, as well as have up to date information to respond to anything that pops up.

**If you have any questions**, please contact Melissa - [melissab@billingsmiddleschool.org](mailto:melissab@billingsmiddleschool.org) or chat with Melissa at 6th grade parent night!

We are looking forward to taking this adventure together with your students!

Your 6th grade trip leaders,  
Emma, Ian, Kruthi, and Mike