






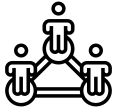






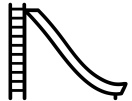

## GUIDELINES AND TIPS FOR OUTDOOR GATHERINGS ON BVSD SITES

BVSD continues to encourage the use of outdoor spaces for daily learning opportunities. Please use these resources and tips as a guide.

### [Outdoor Learning Checklist for Teachers](#)

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outdoor Spaces</b></p>            | <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> Outdoor spaces can be used for teaching and learning, specials, group gatherings, staff meetings, eating, extra-curricular activities, back to school events and more. Contact Ghita Carroll for guidance on locations, supply lists suggestions and PD support around teaching outdoors. If wifi is needed, the space must be relatively close to the building for an external wireless access point (WAP) to work. Schools should submit an <a href="#">IT Service Request</a> to evaluate/expand wifi to the outdoor area.</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coordination/Scheduling</b></p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Schools can designate a site coordinator who can schedule outdoor learning spaces, health staff, available restrooms, locations for security procedures, outdoor maintenance and cleaning. Here is a useful <a href="#">assessment tool</a>.</li> <li>2) Consider the needs of students that may arise from learning in an outdoor setting, such as allergies, access to medications and other needs related to disability. Address individual student needs in a health care or other appropriate plan.</li> <li>3) Events must also be coordinated with the scheduled school day and not in conflict with instruction time.</li> </ol> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Health Needs</b></p>    | <p>Consistent with BVSD expectations for instructional and student activities onsite, including outdoor learning, building leaders must ensure there are appropriate personnel certified in First Aid/CPR/AED on-site and available to respond in an emergency.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Security Procedures</b></p>     | <p>In the event of an emergency, follow BVSD standard security procedures. Keep your BVSD radio with you and on. Maintain situational awareness. Ensure your access card or keys work for the closest ingress point to where you are teaching/staging. Consider off site evacuations as an option if necessary.</p>  |

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| <p><b>Locations</b></p>                    | <p>TIP! BVSD has many designated <a href="#">outdoor learning areas</a> and green spaces. Use existing seating (e.g. benches, picnic tables, rocks or the ground) and shade (found around the building or nearby trees). Considerations: Adjust the location depending on your activity. During hotter months, look for shading around the building or trees for activities where students are actively sitting and listening. Think beyond the traditional outdoor play spaces including the fields and play structures which should be reserved for recess, eating outdoors and active parts of the day (e.g. movement and P.E.). As the time of day and year shift, so will the desire for shade, sun, movement etc. One of the best ways to stay warm outdoors in cooler months is to dress accordingly and to include movement in the activity.</p> |
| <p><b>Access to amenities</b></p>          | <p>Consider locations with easy access to restrooms if needed.</p>   |
| <p><b>Learning Materials</b></p>         | <p>See basic outdoor <a href="#">checklist below</a> for more details.</p>   |
| <p><b>Seating</b></p>                    | <p>TIP! Here are <a href="#">configuration options</a> for outdoor learning which you could create using spray chalk. Existing benches, picnic tables, chairs from inside, rocks and stumps can be used for seating. When teaching, it is better to position the group so that you are looking into the sun, rather than your students, so that they can see you and what you are doing.</p>   |
| <p><b>Tips for Group Management</b></p>  | <p>TIP! To aid in group management, give clear directions on where you are going before you leave the building and how you will travel there (i.e. in a line, walking). Have an auditory “signal” i.e. a verbal attention-getter, call and response, or whistle for bringing the group back together or signifying a danger. (Practice this with them before you go out!) If you are doing an activity that includes exploration, set clear boundaries before sending students off. This might sound like, “Please stay on this side of the sidewalk, and don’t go past that tree.”</p>  |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Duration</b></p>             | <p>There is no limit on the amount of time events can occur outside with the caveat that they need to be coordinated with other uses of the outdoor spaces on site (e.g. SAC, in person learners, small gatherings, athletics). Consider also that the longer the duration, the more likely there will be a need to use the facilities (restrooms, etc.).</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Performances/Events</b></p>  | <p>Consider hosting large school events outdoors.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Food Services</b></p>        | <p>Eating outdoors is encouraged. A process will be needed to return Food Service items (e.g silverware and trays) to the kitchen either by the students, or an identified staff member wearing gloves.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Playground</b></p>           | <p>Outdoor playgrounds/natural play areas only receive routine maintenance but will not be disinfected. Hand hygiene should be emphasized <b>before and after</b> use of these spaces.</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Partners</b></p>           | <p>Our community has a terrific collaborative of outdoor and environmental organizations that work together called the E-Movement. Staff of E-movement organizations are trained in outdoor learning strategies and can help with anything from group management to leading place-based lessons. Partners can not currently meet with students but can provide valuable information and training for teachers. For more details, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p> |

### Outdoor Learning Checklist for Teachers

Students -

- Backpack to carry all items
- Clipboards or white boards or other hard surface to write on (folder or book)
- Pencil, pen and paper and/or dry erase marker and eraser
- Hat (with brim for sunnier months, warm hats for winter) and sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Full water bottle, consider thermos with warm drink for cooler weather
- Seating (not required) from home could include a yoga mat, carpet square, camping seat or towel
- Blanket (for colder weather)
- Any materials needed for the assignment (given by group leader/teacher)

## Teacher -

- Health conditions and emergency medication list of students
- Wagon for easily moving materials
- White board
- Easel or stand
- Large paper
- Dry erase marker/eraser, dark colored markers
- Voice amplification (only if necessary- use speakers instead of a megaphone or yelling)
- Layers, brimmed hat (for sun), warm hat (for cool weather), sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Sun screen
- First aid kit
- Any materials needed for the assignment/project

## Creative Ideas for Outdoor Gatherings

- Freshman orientation
- Freshman seminar
- Teachers could meet with freshman students in person at least once, either one on one or in a cohort
- Meet with 360 or student leader in person
- Outdoor movie night (s) by cohort or last name
- Disc golf, hiking, or movement groups
- Outdoor [DIY activities](#)
- Lunch Bunch
- Scavenger hunt
- Covering hard concepts with teachers (specific classes)
- 8th period days for seniors
- Music, theater and athletic groups (must follow [these guidelines](#) when relevant)
- Clubs
- One on one meetings with students with IEPs (consider access)
- Specific opportunities for Emerging Bilingual students and newcomers
- If there is a garden on site, consider incorporating a lesson or group project around the [garden](#)

[FAQ](#) \*please enter your questions into this document and we will respond within the document with answers to common questions\*

## Other resources:

[Outdoor Learning Resources from Instructional Practices Team](#)

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home-in-the-vast-great-outdoors/guidance-by-sector/childrens-day-camps-youth-sports-camps>

(State of CO Department of Public Health & Environment- recommended by BCH)

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/recreation>

<https://www.greenschoolyards.org/covid-19-guidance>

[Outdoor infrastructure planning overview](#)

[Outdoor infrastructure cost estimate tool](#)

[See outdoor events](#)

[Schools Beat Earlier Plagues with Outdoor Classes](#)

[Interesting article about outdoor learning from OT perspective](#)

[Christian Science Monitor article on outdoor learning \(with BVSD feature\)](#)