



August 12, 2022

Dear Sixth Grade Students & Families,

Orientation trips are unique experiences for middle school students at VMS. They serve as both a transition back to the school community and an essential exercise in building community. Students unite and support each other through character and team-building activities that will take place over the course of two, day-long, trips.

The sixth grade will be divided into two groups to participate in two day trips occurring Tuesday, August 23rd and Wednesday, August 24th. One group of students will visit the high ropes course in Breckenridge while the other group will split the day between hiking to Booth Falls and then scaling the VMS climbing wall. The Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC), a local outfitter that specializes in outdoor adventures for youth, will be leading the day on the ropes course in Breckenridge. On the day that students go to the BOEC they will depart from the VMS cabin parking lot in parent volunteer cars at 8:00am and return to campus by carpool at 3:15pm. **Students will need to pack a sack lunch for the day they are on campus hiking Booth Falls. The BOEC will provide lunch for the day on the ropes course.** See the packing lists below for more information.

A few things we need from you:

- **Parent volunteers to drive to Breckenridge on both Tuesday, 8/23 and Wednesday, 8/24** (drop-off and pick-up from VMS at 8am and 3:15pm). Please e-mail Liana Sideli at lsideli@vms.edu if you are able to volunteer.
- **Fill out the following online forms for the BOEC:**
 - [CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT BOEC FORMS ONLINE FOR 6th grade](#)
- **Fill out the mandatory back to school forms in Veracross: [VMS Parent Portal](#).** Students will not be able to attend Orientation Trips without completion of health forms and if applicable to the student, medical forms and medication delivery to school. If you have not yet received an email inviting you to set up your Parent Portal account, please reach out to support@vms.edu.

Equipment list for the Booth Falls Hike:

- Sack lunch, water bottle & snacks
- Day pack
- Hiking clothes, raincoat and extra layer
- Sturdy sneakers (students may bring climbing shoes for rock climbing if they own them)
- Sunscreen

These expeditions are designed to give students the opportunity to strengthen their skills in the outdoors and to foster unity and camaraderie. Students will learn the importance of collaboration and communication when faced with various tasks and obstacles in the wilderness. We are looking forward to a memorable experience! If you have any questions or concerns about these upcoming outings, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Liana Sideli, Director of Outdoor Education, 970-477-7187, lsideli@vms.edu

Trevor Adams, Middle School Director

6th Grade Schedule:

Monday, August 22: First day of school. Students will have a pre-trip meeting to review the equipment list with VMS teachers during the day.

Tuesday, August 23: Orientation day! Students will be participating in the Booth falls hike/ climbing gym activities or the Ropes Course at the BOEC. Please bring a sack lunch.

Wednesday, August 24: Orientation day! Students will be participating in the Booth falls hike/ climbing gym activities or the Ropes Course at the BOEC. Please bring a sack lunch.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST
Vail Mt. School 6th Grade Orientation
BOEC-WILDERNESS PROGRAM ROPES COURSE
BRECKENRIDGE, CO
ELEVATION, 9,600 FT

Daytime temperatures range from 40-85 degrees Fahrenheit. Please bring all items listed so you will be prepared for all types of weather. Please clearly label all items. Because of the wide range of temperatures possible, it is best to bring several layers of clothing that can be taken off or put on to accommodate the weather and varying activity levels. Cotton clothing of any type does not work as well as an isolative fabrics such as wool or polypropylene. These fabrics breathe and retain heat even when wet. These fabrics are recommended for all programs.

- Long pants-loose fitting
- Short sleeve shirt
- Long sleeve shirt
- Wool/Polypropylene sweater or jacket
- Hiking boots/sturdy sneakers
- Rain jacket and pants
- Hat w/visor
- Sunglasses
- Lip balm/chapstick
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)
- Bandana (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Day pack for extra clothes

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE BOEC

NO CELL PHONES OR PERSONAL ENTERTAINMENT DEVICES!!
THE BOEC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONAL BELONGINGS. A REPLACEMENT COST WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY LOST OR DAMAGED BOEC EQUIPMENT.