



Jennifer Murphy
Principal

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Serving the Communities of
Middlebury and Southbury*

**One Memorial Drive
P.O. Box 903
Middlebury, Connecticut 06762
203-758-2496**



Jennifer Bourque
Assistant Principal

Dear Incoming Sixth Grade Families,

Spring 2024

We are excited to partake in our Nature's Classroom trip once again. This trip is an exciting part of our sixth graders' first year at Memorial. The trip is a one-week overnight experience at Incarnation Center in Deep River, CT. Nature's Classroom provides our students with hands-on, outdoor activities and programming run by the Nature's Classroom staff. This experience enables students to experience the connections between their classroom academics, their community, and their environment.

We recognize that taking our students off campus for a 5 day/4 night trip is a tremendous responsibility. Your child's physical, mental, and emotional safety are our number one priority during their time with us. During instructional activities and meal times, your child will be supervised by enthusiastic and experienced Nature's Classroom staff who have undergone background checks and training to provide your child with an inspiring and safe experience. The Nature's Classroom staff are also certified in CPR and First Aid. During free time and night time, students are in the care of their MMS teacher chaperones. Children are lodged in comfortable accommodations with bunk beds and regular bathrooms.

To register your child for our Nature's Classroom trip, **please complete all the gold forms and return with a \$150 deposit to the school by Friday, September 6th.**

If the cost of the trip is a concern, or if you have any other questions, please reach out to the Main Office at 203-758-2496 or administration at jmurphy@region15.org or jbouque@region15.org.

Important Details:

Date: October 21 - 25, 2024

Deposit: \$150

Total cost: \$465

Location: Nature's Classroom at Incarnation Center, 253 Bushy Hill Road, Deep River, CT 06417.

Deposit due: Friday, September 6, 2024

Balance due: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Checks Payable to: Memorial Middle School

Forms to return by September 6, 2024:

- Region 15 Field Trip Permission Form
- Nature's Classroom Consent Form
- Emergency information form

- Medication forms - EVERYONE
- Allergies and food restriction form
- Deposit (\$150)

Program Overview

Nature's Classroom is a residential outdoor education program that focuses on science and engineering, social and emotional learning, and team building. Each program is customized to support student learning in the classroom. Hands-on lessons focus on building critical thinking skills and Nature's Classroom works with each school group to help design a program that best fits the needs and outcomes of the group. Each program consists of Field Groups, Class Choice, Large Group Activities, Evening Programs, Meals and Free Time.

Typical Day

Below is an example of a typical day:

7:00 AM Wake Up
8:00 Breakfast
9:15 Field Group or Large Group Activity
11:30 Free Time
12:00 Lunch
1:15 Class Choice
2:45 Class Assignment/Snack
3:00 Class Choice
4:30 Free Time
5:30 Dinner
6:45 Evening Activity
8:30 Quiet Sing
8:45 Back to Cabins

Medications

In an effort to minimize interruptions, Nature's Classroom typically dispenses medications during meal times. If your child received daily medications outside of these times we will administer those as ordered by your child's doctor. All "scheduled" medications will be overseen and distributed to your child by a medical staff member. Children are not permitted to keep medication on their person, including prescription and over-the-counter medications; examples are Tylenol or cough drops. Emergency medications such as Epi-pens and rescue inhalers will be available to your child at all times. When possible, children are encouraged to self administer under the care and guidance of trained medics or staff members. **Please return the medical forms if your child will need any medication during the trip.**

Please communicate with our school nurse, Mrs. Iacono with medication questions biacono@region15.org or 203-758-1912

Food Allergies/Dietary Needs

Food Allergies / Dietary Needs
Nature's Classroom facilities can accommodate a variety of dietary needs. There is a section in this packet where you may indicate any dietary allergies, restrictions, or preferences. If you have concerns about your student's dietary needs while at Nature's Classroom, please contact us as soon as possible.

Visitors & Communication

We ask you not to visit your student during their field trip. Visiting parent/guardians can distract students and may make some students homesick. Students are not permitted to have cell phones at Nature's Classroom. This is to encourage them to enjoy life "unplugged", living in the moment and appreciate their surroundings. If there is an emergency and you need to reach your child, you may reach out via email to school staff on the trip, or contact Nature's Classroom at (603) 539-8053. You may always contact the MMS Main Office at 203-758-2496 if you have questions or need assistance.