

Boreal Sun Charter School



Family Handbook 2026-2027 School Year

*Boreal Sun Charter School
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2026-27 Academic Calendar

WWW.K12NORTHSTAR.ORG • DISTRICT OFFICE: (907) 452-2000 • 520 FIFTH AVE

JULY

2-3 Schools & District Offices Closed

AUGUST

11 Teacher Work Day (No School)
12-14 Professional Development (No School)
17 Teacher Work Day (No School)
18 **First Day of School**

SEPTEMBER

7 Schools & District Offices Closed
17-18 Professional Development (No School)

OCTOBER

8-9 Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
16 End of 1st Quarter (Early Dismissal)

1st Quarter: 46 Days

NOVEMBER

25 Early Dismissal
26-27 Schools & District Offices Closed

DECEMBER

16-18 Early Dismissal
18 End of 2nd Quarter/
1st Semester
21-31 Winter Break (Schools Closed)
24-25 District Offices Closed

2nd Quarter: 43 Days
1st Semester: 89 Days

SYMBOL KEY	
	District Offices Closed
	Early Dismissal
	No School
	Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
	Professional Development (No School)
	Teacher Work Day (No School)
	Testing Window

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution, as well as a tobacco and nicotine-free learning and work environment.

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2026

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30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2026

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OCTOBER 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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29	30					

DECEMBER 2026

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27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2027

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31						

FEBRUARY 2027

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28						

MARCH 2027

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APRIL 2027

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MAY 2027

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30	31					

JUNE 2027

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JANUARY

1 Schools & District Offices Closed
4 Teacher Work Day (No School)
5 Professional Development (No School)
18 Schools & District Offices Closed

FEBRUARY

11-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)

MARCH

5 End of 3rd Quarter (Early Dismissal)
3rd Quarter: 43 Days

8-12 Spring Break (No School)

11-12 District Offices Closed

29 Statewide Testing Window Begins

APRIL

23 Schools Closed
30 Early Dismissal
Statewide Testing Window Ends

MAY

18-20 Early Dismissal
20 **Last Day of School**
End of 4th Quarter/
2nd Semester
4th Quarter: 48 Days
2nd Semester: 91 Days

21 Teacher Work Day (No School), Tentative Make-Up Day for Inclement Weather

24-27 Tentative Make-Up Days for Inclement Weather

31 Schools and District Offices Closed

NUTRITION SERVICES

(907) 451-1004
(free & reduced meal application, menus, nutrition, and allergy info)
k12northstar.org/food

TRANSPORTATION

Durham Dispatch - (907) 206-7789
(drop off/pick up issues, late bus, missed stops, lost items, etc.)

FNSBSD - (907) 452-2000 ext. 4
(bus stop, route info)
k12northstar.org/bus

Adopted by School Board: June 3, 2025



Dear Boreal Sun School Community,

It is my honor and delight to welcome you to Boreal Sun Charter School for the 2026-27 school year. We look forward to a fresh year of learning and partnering with you as caregivers and community members of our school. We know we are all our children's teachers.

This handbook is a key communication document. It summarizes the essential information that caregivers and children need for a meaningful school year. In anticipation of questions that will arise from day-to-day and situation-to-situation, this handbook provides an overview of how we operate. Please read it thoroughly and keep it handy for reference throughout the year. If you have questions or comments, please share them with your child's teacher or staff.

Through clear communication and understanding, we strive to provide the best possible way to meet and serve your child and the community.

Kind Regards,
Stacy Foshee, Principal

Guiding Principles

Mission Statement

Boreal Sun Charter School provides K-8 students with a cross-curricular arts-integrated program inspired by the philosophy of Waldorf Education. State standards are met with significant attention given to the developmental model of the unfolding child as practiced in the Waldorf philosophy.

Teachers at Boreal Sun Charter School strive to teach the whole child—the head, as well as the heart and hands—by cultivating each child’s innate creative, intellectual, emotional, physical, and social capacities. Children experience core curriculum themes through multiple modalities enlivening their curiosity and desire to learn.

Community is the foundation upon which all work at Boreal Sun Charter School is built. Our goal is to provide an environment where students, parents, and teachers will experience a strong sense of belonging and ownership through seasonal gatherings, school assemblies, quarterly parent evenings, volunteering, and the relationships that are built through the experience of looping with one teacher through grades 1-5 and 6-8.

Boreal Sun Charter School students spend their elementary years in our warm and nurturing environment. Through the curriculum, students gain an appreciation of the interconnectedness of all subjects and human beings. As a result of this firm foundation of wholeness, Boreal Sun Charter School intends for students to graduate as confident, creative, independent-thinking individuals who are motivated by a love of learning to further their educational goals.

Philosophy

Waldorf-inspired Education strives to meet students’ readiness at each age and stage of development, and the curriculum is designed to reflect that. Movement, experiential, and artistic elements are incorporated into every subject, so the children have a hands-on experience of learning. Teachers aim to teach the **whole** child—the head, as well as the heart and hands. The methods long employed by Waldorf Schools are proven to be sound practices in education, such as arts-integrated subjects and play-based kindergarten. A great emphasis is placed on penetrating subjects deeply and thoroughly from many different perspectives. We want our children to see, smell, taste, feel, think, and live in the world as fully as possible. For this reason, subjects are taught in thematic blocks during a “main lesson” time every morning. This rich experience translates to high engagement and a depth of knowledge.

We strive for the rich experience described above in the social realm as well. Boreal Sun has a looping model, which allows for deeper connections between students, teachers, and parents. Children loop with the same teacher and class (whenever possible) for first through fifth grades

and again for sixth through eighth grades. The benefits are well known. In planning for these long-term classroom relationships, it is important that, from the beginning, students, teachers, and parents build a strong foundation of commitment to each other. Additionally, teachers hold a high standard of professional development for themselves, knowing that they must be well-rounded and adjust and grow with the children every year. Teachers at Boreal Sun are in varying stages of attaining Waldorf Certification to complement their state teaching credentials.

The kindergarten focuses on hands-on activities and experiences that promote students' physical development, sensory-motor skills, and social development. In the first through seventh grades, our teaching approach and curriculum emphasize the development of imaginative thinking (key to problem-solving and analytical reasoning) while helping students deeply understand and connect to what they learn.

Grades 1-8 students engage in artistic activities that are directly integrated into the academic curriculum, thus deepening their social and emotional "feeling" or connection to their subject matter, with the goal of creating a lifelong love of learning. Using a Public Waldorf curriculum, Boreal Sun will unfold the Alaska State Standards in a developmentally appropriate way so that students will meet all Standards by the time they exit eighth grade. ***Please note that the Public Waldorf curriculum determines that some of those standards will be addressed at grade levels that are different from those stated in the Alaska State Standards.*** Some of the sequencing within the standards shall be accelerated or decelerated based on the developmental model of the child upon which our curriculum and methodology are based.

Waldorf Curriculum Standards are available to parents upon request. Based on the needs of the individual student, a transition plan for students who leave prior to the 8th grade will be developed at the request of the parent or the suggestion of the teacher.

2026-27 Boreal Sun Charter School Staff

Kindergarten Teacher - Susan Kerndt Email: susan.kerndt@k12northstar.org

First Grade Teacher - Genevieve Pfisterer Email: genevieve.pfisterer@k12northstar.org

Second Grade Teacher - Trinity Thompson Email: trinity.thompson@k12northstar.org

Third Grade Teacher - Alisa Butcher Email: alisa.butcher@k12northstar.org

Fourth Grade Teacher - Amanda Edwards Email: amanda.edwards@k12northstar.org

Fifth Grade Teacher - Heather Snell Email: heather.snell@k12northstar.org

Sixth Grade Teacher - Nancy Cook Email: nancy.cook@k12northstar.org

Seventh Grade Teacher - Lucia Zackowski Email: lucia.zackowski@k12northstar.org

Eighth Grade Teacher - Joe Krause Email: joseph.krause@k12northstar.org

Special Ed Resource Teacher - Carmel Magno Email: carmelnicey.magno@k12northstar.org

Special Ed Resource Para - Emily Boynton Email: emily.boynton@k12northstar.org

Special Ed Clerk - Myrtle Dick Email: sam.dick@k12northstar.org

Speech-Language Pathologist - Marcia Nash Email: marcia.nash@k12northstar.org

World Languages/Music Teacher - Ryan Edwards Email: ryan.edwards@k12northstar.org

Handwork Teacher - Heidi Collins Email: heidi.collins@k12northstar.org

Principal - Stacy Foshee Email: stacy.foshee@k12northstar.org

School Success Coordinator - Kate Standlee-Strom Email: kathleen.standlee-strom@k12northstar.org

Kindergarten Aide - Lauren Bonham Email: Lauren.bonham@k12northstar.org

Teacher Assistant - Elizabeth Pennington Email: elizabeth.pennington@k12northstar.org

Administrative Secretary - Kayla Richards Email: kayla.richards@k12northstar.org

Drop Off and Pick Up Policies & Procedures

Drop-Off -- Drop off children at the front door. Please drive cautiously and slowly through our drop-off and parking area. Children must wait to exit their vehicle until it is pulled up to the awning.

Dismissal/Pick Up -- We ask that all drivers park and come into the school to pick up their children.

We value you and your children in our school. We are focused on developing a healthy community, and having daily opportunities for interaction with other parents and teachers in the school helps foster that sense of community.

In addition to the main lot, there are parking spaces on the Wilson St. side of the building (outside the 3rd/4th/5th-grade classrooms) and the S. Barnette side of the building (in the gravel section outside the kindergarten classroom). There are accommodations and parking spaces on the 24th Ave. side of the building (alongside the 2nd-grade classroom windows). There is a sidewalk along the wall of the 2nd-grade classroom for pedestrian safety. The wheelchair parking spaces are on the front side of the building, next to the shelter at the front door. There is no vehicle access to the shelter space or awning.

Accommodation Parking-- We have a few parking spots available for pick-up drivers who are unable to come into the school to pick up their child.

- Accommodation parking can be granted for all five days of the week, on certain days of the week, or on an as-needed basis (e.g., for an after-school appointment).
- Families who need accommodation parking will need to complete an accommodation parking application online.
- The children who will be riding in these cars will be dismissed from their classrooms at 3:15 and will walk to the front of the building to load into cars.
- Children exit the building upon arrival of their ride and allow other drivers to pull into the spaces behind them.

Late Pick-up: Children who are not picked up by 3:22 will be considered late pick-up.

- At 3:22, children will be dismissed to the Great Hall, where they will wait for their driver.
- At 3:30, they will go to the front office, and caregivers will be called. Please see the section of this handbook for an explanation of the late pick-up policy.

- Parents/Guardians who are continuously late picking up their student(s), will be asked to meet with the principal to create a plan.

NO IDLE POLICY

There will be no idling of vehicles in the parking lot, whether in the accommodation parking or regular parking spaces. The parking lot will be monitored for safety, including idling engines. Please honor this effort to keep our breathing air as clean as possible.

Attendance

We value rhythm at Boreal Sun. Regular daily attendance is vital to learning and social dynamics in the classroom. The days, weeks, and months are a carefully prepared sequence involving the unfolding of a whole curriculum. Little else replaces the experience of lessons delivered as live education, particularly in Waldorf education, where learning, especially during main lesson time, is primarily auditory and experiential. Therefore, it is important that a child be present each day.

When a child does not attend school on any school day, he or she is considered absent. Parents must notify the attendance office within 24 hours of each day missed to excuse the absence. The parent can come to the attendance office, send a note to the school, call the school, leave a message, or email the school secretary.

There are consequences for chronic tardiness and unexcused absences. Boreal Sun Charter School follows the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's policy regarding Truancy. For additional information, please refer to the Truancy policy in the FBNSBSD's document "Student Rights and Responsibilities."

Arriving Late/Tardies

School begins at 8:45 am. A student is marked tardy at 8:50 am. Four tardies equal one half-day absence and will count toward the 25-day absence limit. A half-day absence is missing more than 60 minutes of the school day. A full-day absence is missing more than one-half of the school day.

- **At 15 absences**, parents may receive a letter or phone call from the Principal indicating that their child has missed 15 days.
- **At 20 absences**, parents receive a letter requesting that they call the office to schedule an appointment with the principal.
 - If excessive absences have occurred due to illness, parents are expected to produce medical documentation for illness-related absences and a plan to make up for missed work.

- **At 26 absences**, parents will be required to re-enter the lottery for the following year.
 - Except for extenuating circumstances, continued enrollment will not be possible for the remainder of the year.

Student Leave of Absence

Families may request a long-term leave of absence to hold a spot in their child's class. The long-term absence must begin after November 1 and end before school is over. This decision is at the discretion of the teacher and the principal.

Early Pick-Up of a Student

When a parent or guardian picks a child up early, they must go to the school office to sign their child out before going to the classroom to pick up the student. Children will not come to the office early to await an early pick-up. Any absence from school for more than 60 minutes is considered a half-day absence as per district policy.

Boreal Sun Charter School Dismissal Agreement

Boreal Sun Charter School's regular dismissal time is 3:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday, dismissal time is 1:45 p.m. Children must be picked up within 15 minutes of their dismissal time, which is 3:30 p.m. and 2:00 pm, respectively.

After dismissal, a parent or guardian must directly supervise children at all times. This includes all areas of the school property, i.e., classrooms, hallways, parking lots, etc. Students are not to be on the playground after dismissal.

Supervision Before, During, and After School

Children are not to be unsupervised at school, and parents are responsible for keeping children in sight.

There is no faculty supervision of children on the school grounds before 8:30 am on school days and after 3:15 pm when the school day ends. You are solely responsible for supervising your child(ren).

During after-school events, such as parent conferences, plays, board meetings, etc., if children are present, they must remain with their parent/guardian.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks

FNSBSD Nutritional Services breakfast and lunch are available every day for all children attending Boreal Sun. For the 2026-27 school year, the full elementary price for breakfast is \$3.25 and for lunch is \$4.75. Middle and high school breakfast prices are \$3.50, and lunch is \$5.00. If your child qualifies to receive meals at the reduced price, breakfast is free, and lunch is \$.40. Free and reduced-price meal benefits do not extend to additional milk or milk-only purchases or partial meal purchases. All portions of a meal can be purchased at a la carte prices. Milk is included with breakfast and lunch. If your child purchases additional milk with his/her meal or a drink to take with his/her lunch from home, the cost is \$1.00.

Visit <https://www.schoolcafe.com> to make payments, view the menus, and see what your child purchases. Families who may be eligible for free/reduced lunch are encouraged to apply this year, as there are additional benefits available and it supports the Nutritional Services department.

Middle School students need to have a mid-morning snack provided by their parents. We encourage whole and healthful foods such as whole grains, protein, fruits, and vegetables. We ask that gum, candy, and sugary foods/drinks be left at home.

School Nurse

Boreal Sun does not have a school nurse. Our Administrative Secretary, Principal, and School Success Coordinator assist with students' medical needs.

No over-the-counter medication can be given by a Boreal Sun staff member. Over-the-counter medications include cough drops, Tylenol, Motrin, etc. Prescribed medications can be issued with proper paperwork.

All district paperwork must be filled out and approved by the district nurse prior to administering any medication.

If your student(s) have a fever or have been vomiting in the last 24 hours, or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please keep them home. Parents will be asked to pick up any students who have a fever of 100.0F, have vomited at school, or are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms. Return to school or work when free of major symptoms without medication for 24 hours.

You may reference the Wellness Check for Staff & Students on the district website in order to

keep our school symptom-free.

Emergency School Closures and Snow Days

Boreal Sun follows the school district's decisions regarding school closing due to inclement weather.

Birthday Celebrations

Each class has its birthday protocol to honor students. If you would like to bring in a wholesome snack in celebration of your child's birthday, please check with your child's teacher regarding food allergies. In general, we suggest birthday treats such as popcorn, fruit, vegetables, or homemade goods. Please avoid artificial dyes and additives, as some children are sensitive to these ingredients.

Field Trips and Walking Field Trips

Classes may go on a walking field trip as part of their daily activity at the school. Parents complete a walking field trip permission form for their child(ren) to participate in those field trips. Siblings are not allowed to attend field trips. Each class trip is a special occasion for that grade/class.

Field Trips/Walking Field Trips Guideline for Chaperones

Chaperones must be registered and **approved volunteers** to attend **ANY** field trip. Volunteers act at the teacher's discretion during field trips. Specific information about volunteers is listed below.

School Family Partnership

Parent Evenings

Please plan to attend ALL parent evenings held by your child's class teacher, as these events are vital for staying up to date on classroom and school-wide happenings, building parent relationships, and providing a link to your child's education.

Held ideally three times per year, class parent evenings are a time for classroom parents to engage with one another and their child's class teacher. Teachers share a "picture" of their classroom dynamic and a curriculum overview, as well as provide insights into these elements as they relate to child development. There may also be time for parents to discuss a particular theme or to experience a particular element of their child's education. It is a time for questions

and experiences to be shared.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are important. Conferences give you an opportunity to meet individually with your child(ren)'s teacher and discuss their individual progress. A Parent-Teacher Conference will be held once in the Fall (October 8-9th) and once in the Spring (February 11-12th).

Volunteerism

Our school runs on volunteer hours. We request that all families contribute 20-45 volunteer hours per school year or more!

The BSCS model requests active engagement by families & caregivers. This family participation creates a school community that enriches all aspects of the child's growth and education.

We understand that a diverse community of families will have varying opportunities to participate. This request is per family, not per student, and can be achieved through the combined efforts of multiple family members (parents, 18+ years of age, older siblings, grandparents, etc.).

There are several ways families can become involved in the life of the school and fulfill the school's request for volunteer participation. If you have a fundraising idea, please contact the office.

Some ways to volunteer are:

- Assist in the classroom or teach a class using special skills you have to offer
- Serve on the Parent Community Group (PCG), Academic Policy Committee (APC), and Friends of Boreal Sun (FOB) or any BSCS-based committee.
- Serve as a Class Parent Representative (see your child's teacher for more info)
- Participate in class field trips
- Assist with class plays – costuming, sets, lighting, etc.
- Help assemble class furniture, paint, and prep classrooms before and after the school year
- Assist in student reading groups
- Festivals support
- Sewing projects or other take-home projects, such as baking for the class
- Chaperone nature walks, field trips, and camping trips
- Playground, garden, and site beautification
- Provide snacks for staff, students, and events
- Other important tasks to improve the quality of classroom life, as needed
- Lawn maintenance

Volunteer sign-ups and record log: We use Parent Square to track volunteers.

Volunteering Paperwork Process

In order to volunteer with children, you must complete the district's volunteer packet and training. This includes serving as a chaperone on field trips, helping in the classroom, or participating in any other event where students are present.

1. Use the link below or come in and fill out a paper copy of the application and complete the online training.
2. Once the online training is complete, you must print the certificate for Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting. Please bring your packet and certificate to the office, or email them directly to email it to training@k12northstar.org
3. You will be notified once your packet has been approved or denied. You will **not** be allowed to volunteer with children without this packet completed and approved.

You can find the volunteer packet online at:

<https://www.k12northstar.org>

Departments

Human Resources

Volunteer (3rd option from button on left side of page)

Click on the Green Volunteer Application button in the top right

Healthy Family Habits

Children flourish in environments that are loving, orderly, and predictable. With an external sense of order and routine, children feel comfortable living in the moment. Just knowing what is expected at different times of day can help children feel secure in the world.

These healthy family habits support the work of the school:

- A regular bedtime that allows 10-12 hours of sleep
- Eating a healthy, protein-rich breakfast consisting of whole foods and minimal sugar
- Reading to your child daily
- Household or yard chores
- Outdoor play
- Gardening

- Indoor creative play
- Hobbies (if these are scheduled activities such as lessons, team sports, etc., these should be monitored in order to prevent them from becoming overwhelming to the child)
- Artistic and musical endeavors
- Cooking
- Nature hikes and walks
- Picnics
- Community activities
- Volunteer or community projects
- Providing a quiet, uncluttered space and time set aside for homework, when necessary

Screen Media Policy

We request that our families make a conscious effort to significantly reduce screen media use.

The educational philosophy of Boreal Sun Charter School is based upon a deep understanding of child development. The school is committed to nurturing each child's unique qualities so that his/her academic abilities may flourish. We understand that while television and other screen media/activities can serve as sources of information and entertainment for adults, children are not at the same developmental stage as adults. Please make efforts to avoid screen time the night before school and reserve screen time for days off and weekends.

Please note the following information taken from the American Academy of Pediatrics website:

“Studies have shown that excessive media use can lead to attention problems, school difficulties, sleep and eating disorders, and obesity. In addition, the Internet and cell phones can provide platforms for illicit and risky behaviors.”

The AAP also recommends limiting “screen time.”

“The AAP recommends that parents establish 'screen-free' zones at home by making sure there are no televisions, computers, or video games in children's bedrooms, and by turning off the TV during dinner. Children and teens should engage with entertainment media for no more than one or two hours per day, and that should be high-quality content. It is important for kids to spend time on outdoor play, reading, hobbies, and using their imaginations in free play.”

See more at [All AAP](#) or [Common Sense Media](#)

Charter School Governance

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

Our Academic Policy Committee (APC) is the primary governing body that oversees all aspects of Boreal Sun Charter School. The board ensures the fulfillment of Boreal Sun's mission; they oversee and are accountable for academics, curriculum, staffing, budgeting, operations and maintenance, and other administrative tasks; and they review contracts.

The committee is composed of three staff members, six parents/guardians of students enrolled at the school, and the Principal.

The APC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 5:00 PM. Public comment time is allotted at the beginning of every meeting.

Parent Community Group (PCG)

The PCG's mission is to promote the school's vision and goals through community building, supporting parent education, fundraising, and event planning, thereby enriching our students' lives.

Participation in PCG events and activities is strictly voluntary. However, we need and encourage your participation to make our school a healthy, viable, and friendly community.

The PCG core membership will send emails outlining the events and activities in which the PCG will be involved throughout the school year. Please choose volunteer activities or events that interest you. All participation counts towards your yearly pledge of 20-45 volunteer hours to the school.

The PCG will meet in the fall, during which the members will get to know each other, discuss our events for the year, and share ideas.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Council

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Council provides all guidance regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion decision-making and interests, including, but not limited to, initiatives, policies, curriculum, training, advocacy, and hiring. It is made up of caregiver volunteers and community mentors. This committee is currently inactive.

Friends of Boreal Sun (FOB)

The Friends of Boreal Sun group (FOB) oversees our school's non-profit designation. They meet monthly. FOB supports the school's growth and well-being and helps with fundraising. The group works to financially supplement the school's infrastructure and programs. FOB also reaches out to the community to promote Waldorf teachings and ideology.

Student Life

Electronic Device Policy: Cell Phone, iPad, etc.

All handheld electronic devices, such as cell phones, video games, headphones, and iPads, are not allowed for students during school hours. One exception is if a student uses a device for academic learning, specifically geared towards an individual learning plan.

We understand, however, that some students who bike or walk to school need a phone for safety and communication with their parents after school. Such uses are acceptable, but the electronic device must be kept in the student's backpack or with the class teacher and remain off until the end of the school day.

Dress Code Policy

The Boreal Sun Charter School adheres to the FNSBSD Dress Code Regulation and provides additional dress code guidelines that support the Waldorf philosophy.

Boreal Sun Charter School requests the active support and cooperation of all parents and guardians in creating an environment focused on learning by encouraging moderate clothing and grooming that promotes the healthy inner development of the child.

Clothing Policy

Clothing should be clean, in good repair, and comfortably allow a full range of motion.

All staff have the discretion to ask a child to change or otherwise conceal the clothing if they deem it distracting to the learning environment or unsafe. Teachers may contact parents to express their concerns and seek solutions for the good of the community. If you have questions, please speak with your child's teacher.

Clothing should be well-fitted (not overly tight or baggy) and cover undergarments, chest, midriff, and buttocks. Leggings and tank tops should be layered appropriately. Spaghetti straps, short skirts, and short shorts are not allowed.

Articles of clothing, accessories, or footwear that advertise, depict, or condone the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, violence, inappropriate language or sexual behavior/innuendo, purposeful harm to oneself, suicide, gang membership or gang behavior, disparage or humiliate any group, including but not limited to national origin, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability are prohibited.

Clothing Preference

Parents and guardians are **encouraged** to provide their children with clothing free from media advertisements, cartoon images, slogans, and commercial and political logos to the extent possible.

Media images suggest to children who they should be. We strive to help children become themselves, not live in the image of what a media corporation tells them to be.

Social and economic status can also be conveyed through clothing items featuring popular characters, bands, and athletes. It is our hope that children come to school not having to worry about how trendy their clothing is.

Footwear

Shoes and socks must be worn at all times on school grounds.

Children should come to school wearing comfortable, practical, flat-soled, and closed-toe shoes that are firmly secured to the feet, appropriate for the weather, and suitable for all outdoor play.

“Heelys” or other roller-type shoes and shoes with lights or sounds are not allowed.

Students should have a comfortable pair of “indoor shoes” that can be firmly secured to the foot (such as athletic shoes), for their time spent inside and for movement activities.

Jewelry

Jewelry should be limited, discreet, and should not interfere with school activities. Chains or studs hanging from clothes are not allowed.

Hair and Make-Up

Hair should be styled so it does not cover the face. Discreet makeup may be worn by individuals in grades 7 and 8 and must be applied at home.

Weather Prepared

Children should come to school dressed in seasonally appropriate layers and footwear. As long as there is snow on the ground, students in grades K-3 should have snow or rain pants.

Students should have rain/winter gear (weatherproof coat, mittens or gloves, boots, and hood or hat) for cold, rainy, and/or snowy days, as outside play is allowed in all but the most severe weather.

Winter Weather Chart for Boreal Sun:

+26° to +35°

Jacket/sweatshirt/long-sleeved layers, gloves/mittens, hat, long pants, boots
(Outdoor shoes for 4th-8th-grade students are allowed if there is no snow or mud on the ground.)

+1° to +25°

Coat, gloves/mittens, hat, insulated boots/footwear, snow pants for K-3rd grade students
Long pants for 4th-8th grade students

-20° to 0°

Warm coat, snow pants, gloves/mittens, hats, winter boots, and face covering recommended

Lost and Found

There is a lost-and-found cabinet in the lobby by the Great Hall. We put all the found clothing items, hats, gloves, boots, shoes, etc., in the cabinet. Please check this area regularly for any missing items. We want all lost items returned to their rightful owners. At the end of each parent-teacher conference, all lost and found items will be laundered and put in the "lending closet" for other children to utilize when they have forgotten or lost something.

Code of Conduct

Not all rules of behavior can be written into a handbook; trends come and go, and unexpected situations arise; however, students are expected to meet reasonable expectations and not violate others' rights. For information not included in this handbook, refer to the Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavioral Consequences Handbook, available at the front office, the

school district administrative center, or online at the FNSBSD website. The school welcomes student and parent assistance as witnesses to investigations of misconduct. School officials will make reasonable efforts to protect the confidentiality of the witness in such instances.

Public Displays of Affection

Our school is a place for learning, not inappropriate public displays of affection. Students are expected to exercise discretion in showing affection in public. Holding hands or a brief, friendly hug are the only appropriate public displays of affection allowed at Boreal Sun Charter and at school-sponsored activities. Prolonged hugging, kissing, and other inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited. Initially, consequences begin with an administrative conference and parent contact and progress in accordance with the Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavioral Consequences Handbook.

Guidelines for good play

- *Respect everyone's safety
- *Respect the playground and materials
- * Play fair and be kind
- *When you need help, ask an adult
- *Follow instructions from adults
- *After playing with an item, put it back in its place

Discipline

Boreal Sun Charter School follows the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's discipline procedures and regulations.

Student Conduct Agreement

This document will be signed by each student and parent at the start of the school year.

I understand that it is my responsibility to behave in a manner that supports a positive learning environment. A condition of enrolling at Boreal Sun Charter School, I agree to and will abide fully with the following conditions (please initial by each box):

- ☐ ____ To attend school each day and follow the school Attendance Policy.
- ☐ ____ To follow the school district discipline policy as stated in the “Student Rights, Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences” handbook. If a student is unable to adhere to the FNSBSD discipline policy, the guardian may be required to pick the student up immediately.
If a student is sent home, the absence is considered a suspension.
- ☐ ____ To respect other people and their property. I will be polite to the staff, students, and volunteers and will NOT make rude or hurtful remarks.
- ☐ ____ To do my best, I will put forth my best effort in the classroom and at school.
- ☐ ____ To comply with the philosophy of Boreal Sun Charter School, including a willingness to work independently, be a good role model, contribute to the school community, and take full responsibility for my actions.

Consequences for non-compliance:

There is a limit to the number of students who may attend Boreal Sun Charter School, and there is a waiting list. Failure to abide by the terms of this contract as stated above will, at the Administrator’s discretion, result in an immediate suspension or withdrawal from Boreal Sun Charter School. If suspended, the student and parents will attend a re-entry meeting with the Administrator. After the student is suspended for the 4th time, subsequent incidents may result in the student being withdrawn from Boreal Sun. The student will not be eligible to reapply to Boreal Sun Charter School. Conditions for reapplication to Boreal Sun Charter School will be at the discretion of the principal.

Bullying is Prohibited

Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes intentional aggressive behavior from one person towards another, which involves a difference in the balance of power. Bullying also includes one or more acts committed by a student group or group of students that may constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, or create an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment, directed toward one or more students that have or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a child or children in fear of harm to that child's or those children's person or property;
2. Causing a child to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health;
3. Causing a child to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance;
4. Causing a child to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by Boreal Sun Charter School.

Bullying can take various forms. The following are some examples of various forms of bullying:

- Physical Bullying: When a person repeatedly uses physical force to hurt another person. Physical bullying can also include repeated interference with another person's belongings.
- Verbal Bullying: When a person directs words at another person with the intention of scaring them, humiliating them, or harassing them. This includes repeated threats, taunts, insults, name-calling, or hostile gestures.
- Relational Bullying: When a person has a negative impact on another person's friendships/relationships by spreading rumors or gossip about them, or writing or drawing things about them that are designed to hurt or humiliate.
- Cyber Bullying: When a person uses a computer, phone, connected or digital device to send threatening or insulting messages, or post untrue or embarrassing information or pictures about another person.

Boreal Sun considers bullying a major violation of expected behavior, and it will result in a child entering the referral process. This could lead to suspension or expulsion.

Knives

Knives are prohibited in any shape or form on school grounds with the following exception: Our school takes part in several activities that might require a knife. However, a student is never to bring a knife to school or have one with them unless it is approved and supervised by their teacher. If a knife is needed for such an activity, the parent or guardian **MUST** bring it to the teacher, who will supervise the activity. The parent or guardian **MUST** also pick up the knife from the teacher.

Communication Guidelines

Parent/Teacher Communication Guidelines

It is our desire to foster a healthy, effective communication process between staff (teachers, assistants, tutors, and administrative personnel) and our parent community. To help us achieve this goal, we would like the community to join us in using the following process for addressing concerns:

1. If you have a question about how the curriculum is being delivered or how your child's teacher is working with her/his students, first bring your question directly to your child's teacher. He/she should be able to share with you the reasons behind the actions. If you feel that there are other aspects of the issue that your child's teacher should consider or be aware of, they will be open to hearing and considering this information. Additionally, ensuring timely communication about your concerns to your child's teacher is also extremely important.
**If you have any discomfort in addressing an issue with your child's teacher, you may request an advocate to assist you. Please contact the principal for guidance.*
2. If at all possible, the bringing of sensitive questions or concerns should happen face-to-face. Body language and voice intonation are so important for the accurate understanding of the other's intentions. If a face-to-face meeting is not easily achievable, a phone call would be the next best thing. However, at any time during the phone conversation, if either party feels that the phone call has taken a negative turn, she/he should request that the conversation be postponed until both parties can meet face-to-face. This meeting should occur at the earliest possible opportunity. It is never healthy to leave issues unresolved.
3. About the use of email: In many cases, email should only be used for the dispersal of information or clarifying information. When it is used to bring concerns or criticisms, it can be more damaging than helpful. Without the presence of voice intonation or body

language, emails can be easily misunderstood. A good use of email is to request a phone or personal meeting.

If your child reports anything to you that is of concern, please contact your child's teacher as soon as you are able.

4. If, after speaking to your child's teacher, you feel that the issue is not resolved, please contact the principal.
5. The grievance process should be initiated if the issue has not been resolved through the steps above.

Grievance Process

This procedure for redress is a sequential series of steps designed to assist in the resolution of disagreements in those instances where the parties are unable to settle their differences. Parents, students, or teachers may initiate this process. Such a request must be in writing and submitted to the principal for further action. The principal will then communicate with those involved in the conflict. A meeting will take place, resulting in an agreed-upon plan of resolution. If, after the completion of this meeting, the conflict has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the parties involved, it may then be taken to the BSCS APC for a final ruling. The procedure for filing concerns is as follows:

1. The parties will make every attempt to communicate the concern directly to the teacher, the principal, or the parent(s) for resolution. If the parties are unable to come to a resolution, they may file their concern, in writing, with the principal.

In cases where the concern has been addressed with the teacher and principal and any party remains dissatisfied with the decisions made to resolve the conflict at this level, that party may take their concerns to the BSCS APC. Such a complaint will be made in a written statement, which details the violation, procedures taken, and requested remedy. The complaint shall be submitted to the BSCS APC at least one week prior to the next APC meeting. Complaints submitted after that month's meeting will be addressed at the subsequent meeting. Emergency issues will be dealt with on an as-needed basis, with the APC responding at, or prior to, its next regular public meeting.

2. The APC will hear arguments from the parties, review prior decisions and evidence, and make inquiries as it deems necessary. The APC will then render a written decision within ten business days after the meeting unless additional time is needed. The Board of Trustees' decision shall be final.

Communication Tools

How do you know about upcoming events, needs, and any other school-related information? We use a number of communication tools to stay in touch as a community. Every week, your child's teacher may send home a classroom newsletter. Additionally, the Principal will share school-wide news in the "News from the Sun" newsletter via ParentSquare every other week.

ParentSquare is a powerful two-way communication tool for parents and families. You can send messages directly to your child's teacher using the direct message feature. ParentSquare is our primary communication platform. Communication is usually sent via email, but can also be sent as a text message if desired. Please log in to PowerSchool and ensure your email and cell phone are up to date so you can receive these messages.

Boreal Sun Charter School maintains a page on the school district website. Here, you can find school-related current events, our calendar of events, the current News from the Sun, our school's philosophy and vision statements, and other information about our school.

We have a Facebook closed group for parents and the Boreal Sun community. That group is called "Boreal Sun Charter School Families and Community," and you may request to join as long as you are associated directly with our school. Look [here](#) for photos from the school day and for updates on the great happenings in and around our building.



Wellness Check

Know when to go to school and when to stay home



See You at School!

Only Minor Symptoms

- **Mild congestion** - runny nose / little cough
- **Mild headache**
- **Mild sore throat**
- No fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours and no fever
- No diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours



Best to Stay Home.

Any Major Symptoms

- **Fever** - over 100° F (with or without medicine)
- **Cough** - persistent or severe
- **Diarrhea or Vomiting**
- Eyes - pink and crusty
- Sore throat - difficulty swallowing, white spots in back of throat

Every Day Counts Regular Attendance Matters

A day of missed school is a lost opportunity for learning and social development. By coming to school **every day they're not sick**, your child is gaining social skills that will support them throughout their lives.

- Time Management
- Collaboration
- Problem Solving

My Student is Staying Home. What should I do next?

1

Notify the school by phone or email.

- If possible, **notify them before 9 am**, or within 48 hours.

2

Repeat this checklist every morning. We hope to see your student back soon!

For more information, contact information for your student's school health office and other resources at k12northstar.org/nursing

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution, as well as a tobacco and nicotine-free learning and work environment.