



# Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School

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## Vision

**Growing minds through nature!**

## Mission

**Our mission is to serve as a laboratory for outdoor learning which amplifies the outcomes of public education, fosters a deep connection to the environment, supports a whole child approach to learning and prepares students for success in school and life.**

## Core Beliefs

### Connectedness

- All members of ROLES have a shared responsibility for student learning and success.
- A connection for students with themselves, peers, staff, parents, and community.
- We strive to be part of nature, not separate from it.

### Stewardship

- All stakeholders have a responsibility to the environment.
- We advocate and make changes for the things that are important to us.
- We have a responsibility to each other.

### Equity

- Acknowledging all students for who they are and meeting them where they are at.
- Prioritize building relationships as a way to provide an equitable education.
- Provide Personalized Learning opportunities.

### High Expectations

- Support that all students will learn and grow
- Foster a data-driven learning community

### Active Learning

- Provide daily multi-sensory experiences that allow our students to take risks, develop grit, endurance, create flexibility, and develop cooperation

### Inquiry

- Support interdisciplinary learning
- Learning is driven by student interest, choice, curiosity, & observation

## Our vision includes the following elements

- Connecting students to nature
- Learning and enjoying the outdoors as much as possible
- Goal of making the outdoors our classroom
- We will always keep safety in mind
- We need to increase student outdoor stamina
- We need to connect students to the world around them
- Safety is always a part of the decision
- Safety is the priority if conditions allow students will be outdoors
- Meeting student needs is key

## Mission Action Steps

- Always keep students at the front of the conversation
- Refine teaching strategies over time
- Utilizing resources to support all other schools, educators, families, RNC
- Engage in professional development
- Share/spread our knowledge and experiences
- Use our strengths and experiences as a resource
- Learn and develop strategies to support inquiry and curiosity
- Collaborate
- Set goals as teachers, a school and students
- Schedule and collaborate with the experts in their fields
- Focus on individual needs of students
- Read books/online resources to learn new strategies
- Foster learning opportunities around our 3 pillars
- Invite guest speakers and specialist as a resource
- Open the outdoors of our classrooms for other educators
- Collaborate with peers/experts to differentiate instruction
- Work with partners at Riveredge to proactively plan
- Collect data to ensure that we are making the gains we aspire to.

## Core Values around 3 pillars

### 1) Inquiry

Inquiry based teaching style

Open Mindedness

Utilizing nature as a guide for inquiry based learning

Allowing students to lead their own learning through inquiry

Inquisitiveness

Curiosity and exploration should be part of the process

Interest led activities

Continuous education opportunities

Instruction should be authentic and meaningful to students

Students should be the primary focus of teaching and learning

Student freedom to explore and choose and discover and manage

Student come first

## **2) Community**

Support and collaboration of all stakeholders

Building classroom community

Student should be able to confide in a teacher

Emphasis on social and emotional development

Stewardship

Fostering relationships in our community

Involve our community in students education

Kindness

## **3) Nature**

Being outdoors lends itself to a variety of learners

The natural environment provides an ideal classroom

Being outside will enhance student learning

Learning outside is healthy

Every person involved has skills or assets that they bring to the table

Children learn best outdoors

Awareness

Being a good steward of our environment

Evidence based decision making

School should be fun