

November 2019

Dear B-ESD Parents and Guardians,

Enriching outdoor learning experiences are essential to fulfill the Burlington-Edison School District's mission of educating each student for lifelong success. We are very excited that more than 273 students in 5th grade will come together and attend Mountain School this fall. We want to thank the community partners who made this possible for all students. Due in no small part to the efforts and continued support of these community partners, the District is committed to sustaining this valuable outdoor learning experience as part of the B-ESD 5th grade science curriculum for years to come at no cost to families.

We are also excited at the community support for the Camp Orkila outdoor learning experience and at the possibility of sending B-ESD 6th graders to the camp this spring. Working with the Outdoor Education Committee, as well as the newly-formed, District-recognized Camp Orkila Booster Club, we have asked for a multi-year plan that addresses sustainable funding, fundraising hardships on families and community, and issues of equity for all students. The Camp Orkila Booster Club will be responsible for raising funds for Camp Orkila. The tentative dates for the B-ESD Camp Orkila experience are March 18-20, 2020.

To facilitate the significant fundraising that needs to occur to offset the costs of this experience, the B-E Boosters for Orkila group will support and assist individual school fundraising. This group will include a collection of parents representing each of our five buildings to work with their respective school booster clubs and PTA groups. There will also be a minimal fee for students to attend this experience.

They have asked for your support and participation throughout this process. The Booster Club will seek interested parents from each school to help support fundraisers and work on sustainable funding options for future years. (Please note this is not just for 6th grade parents, but all B-ESD parents.) The group is holding a booster meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6 pm, at the Lucille Umbarger (LU) library. More details about upcoming fundraising efforts and other ways to get involved will follow in the weeks to come. Keep informed with the B-E Boosters for Orkila's events by visiting their Facebook group "Camp Orkila Campaign" or their website at [www.orkilacampaign.com](http://www.orkilacampaign.com).

B-ESD recognizes the abundant opportunities for learning that outdoor education experiences provide students. We are proud that, through the support of the community, we can continue to provide our students with exceptional high-quality outdoor learning experiences true to the District's mission.

Warmly,



Laurel W. Browning  
B-ESD Superintendent