Outdoor Classroom

Newbury Elementary School

**Our Vision:** World Peace through Harmony with Self, Harmony with Others, and Harmony with Nature

**Our Mission:** Education for Sustainability

**Our Goals:** Project/Service-Based Learning, Differentiation, and Backward by Design Lesson Planning
Why use outdoor classrooms?

- Child centred learning process
- A long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking
- Develops confidence and self-esteem
- Inspires a deep and meaningful connection to the world and an understanding of how a learner fits within it
- Sense of Place: Students form a connection and commitment to Newbury’s land and community
- Helps participants to become, healthy, resilient, creative and independent learners.
- Educational theorist, such as Dewey, Kolb and Piaget’s work support the need for outdoor learning experiences.
- Current research is out there to support the outcomes of Forest School
Academic

- Supports opportunities for daily writing with real world experiences
- Develops opportunities for descriptive vocabulary
- Provides opportunities for counting, sorting, measuring, geometry, data collection and analysis
- Supports learners understanding of NGSS’ Three Dimensions of learning (Cross cutting, practices, core ideas) through Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering.

Example of a Literacy Lesson

Example of a Multidisciplinary Lesson
Accessible to all grades and all subjects
Forest For Every Classroom

- Get to know the trees of our forest
- Students learn how to take care of their forest
- Tree diversity
- Compare the forest floor, understory, and canopy of our forest

What shapes the land and how does the land shape us?

Where is your place in the world?
Social Emotional:

- H Cubed Program

Community Projects and Stewardship

- Bird Houses
- Land Planning Work
- Community Walk & Talk
- Art installations
Future Ideas

- Poetry in the Forest
- Tracking in the Snow
- Primitive Cooking
- Ornithology Study with guest speaker
- Abanaki Archeology
- Stream Study
- Curriculum & Pedagogical Development
- Natural Land Art
Research in support of Outdoor Education
Staff Training & Risk Management

VSBIT Risk Management Strategy for Forest Management Programs

Staff Curriculum Development & Training