



North Star & Shooting Star

Our Common Agreements: Be Safe Be Kind Be Responsible Be Yourself

Research has shown that our pre-teens and teens are developmentally ready to develop more autonomy and self-regulation while continuing to need adult guidance in navigating the social norms and expectations of their world (school, home and other environments). While they may roll their eyes, they still need us to be there, not with heavy handed, eagle-eyed, micromanaging but with the care and understanding that they are still growing and developing and need our modeling, coaching and acceptance.

As a part of the Bellingham Family Partnership Program you are choosing to homeschool your student, for a variety of reasons and with a range of needs, involving your student, yourself and your family. BFPP is a partnership; we provide supplemental support for your home learning. The current model is not intended to replicate the comprehensive middle school model. The main difference is the family's role in educating their student. Our program values that role and wants to include you in the learning community as a valued member. In this unique setting, you have the opportunity to contribute to your student's experience and to the whole community.

As a valued member of the community the willingness of our families to model exemplary citizenry and community participation is essential. We hope to support students as leaders, collaborators and compassionate, well-rounded community members who are engaged with their local and broader world. By contributing your talents and being an active and engaged BFPP parent/family you are modeling these goals for our students, and therefore encouraging their involvement, too.

Opportunities to partner include:

- Take a turn as a parent helper by supervising student groups both upstairs and in other school areas (see "job" description - TBD)
- Advise a club - Music Jam Session, Chess, Yearbook, Community Service, Pokémon, D&D, etc.
- Organize field trips
- Plan community activities or events
- Share expertise - our biggest resource is our human resource. You are valued! Sharing your passions, knowledge and experience with our community are what makes BFPP so rich.
- Organize adult learning opportunities, share curricular resources, articles, book clubs, etc.

A Suggested Tiered Approach

- Start with a parent or family member on site to establish routines, i.e., family connects with program and determines ways they wish to contribute and ensures that their student understands their responsibilities in navigating their day
- Progress to having a North Star, i.e, student and family connect with an adult to be their student's North Star (can be the teacher or another adult on site) With an established North Star, parents are able to leave campus on occasion, giving the student increased independence and allowing the parent to be off-site
- Develop into a "Shooting Star" - once the student has demonstrated that they are ready for the responsibility of being self-navigating (with input from their North Star) they can earn the opportunity to be self-supervised

If there is ever a "violation" of the privilege/responsibility the program reserves the right to put a plan in place that may include returning to a previous tier or first tier (parent/family member on site).

The Student Responsibilities

- Sign in each day
- Be Safe - you must be in safe places
- Be Seen - you must be in places where you can be seen
- Be Kind - your behavior matters; you are leaders and models for your peers and the younger students
- Be Responsible - Be on time to class, be respectful of materials and space and use them appropriately
- Be a Communicator - share what is happening at school with those at home (school work, interactions, how things are going)
- Be Yourself - "Check Yourself before you Wreck Yourself" Be you!

The Family Responsibilities

- Ensure your student understands the privilege and responsibility
- Check in with your student, their North Star (when applicable) and others OFTEN
- Be a part of the partnership - contribute to the school and learning community

The Program Responsibilities

- Provide educational opportunities
- Support families with home learning
- Provide a learning community - a learning place and a growing place
- Our mission: We promise to inspire learning and support families because together we achieve more!