



Grade 4 STREAMS Parent Letter

Summer 2021

Dear GSB Families,

Welcome to the STREAMS Program! STREAMS is a synthesis of *sustainability, technology, research, engineering, agriculture, math* and *service*, emphasizing the skills of collaboration, problem-solving and cross-disciplinary thinking. In STREAMS, students in grades 4 through 6 utilize the natural resources of our 208-acre campus—including gardens, ponds, streams, and a working farm—to enhance classroom learning!

We look forward to a year full of new and exciting science explorations with your child. In anticipation of our time spent at Home Winds, here are some considerations:

Safety and Supervision: During each grade level's STREAMS block, students will always be supervised by two faculty members of the STREAMS team. It is required that lead teachers carry a portable first-aid kit and cell phone at all times. All members of the STREAMS team have received epi-pen training and are up to date with student allergies and security protocols on campus. Students are **NOT ALLOWED** on any part of the property without supervision.

Sun: It is a good idea for students to use sunscreen or wear long sleeves. Shady places are provided around the campus, and students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle with them. If you choose, you may send pump spray or cream sunscreen with your child (please do NOT send aerosol spray). Students may also wear a hat or cap *without words on it*.

Mud and Water: Students will interact with water in the Peapack and Gladstone Brook, the Home Winds Pond, the garden, and mud on the farm and hiking trails. On any given day, the grass may also be wet, and the ground can be muddy. For this reason, students are required to bring ***comfortable and tall (to the knee) waterproof boots, extra tall crew or hiking socks, and an extra set of clothes***. Please reach out if you are unable to acquire boots or an extra change of clothes.

Insects/Plant Irritants: As the trail and fields are natural spaces, we may encounter insects and plants. Students will be taught the best ways to behave around different types of insects, poison ivy, and plant

irritants with thorns, fine hairs, and secretions. We always recommend daily tick checks following outdoor activity. If you choose, you may send a pump spray or cream insect repellent of your choice with your child (please do NOT send aerosol spray).

Animal Interactions: The Farm Educator MUST be present when farm animals are handled in any way. Anyone planning to interact with animals MUST wash their hands BEFORE and AFTER. Students will be instructed to use soft, quiet voices and slow movements around animals. Natural artifacts such as rocks, leaves, sticks, bones, and living organisms (plants and animals) will be carefully handled both hygienically and ethically.

Weather: Since outdoor explorations will take place in all types of weather, rain or shine, it is recommended that students bring appropriate outerwear and rain gear to the STREAMS classes.

Finally, there will be a fall STREAMS Parent meeting. Please look out for the date and time in September. We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to a new school year of exploration and discovery!

For any questions, please contact the STREAMS Program Director, Montana Vasquez-Grinnell, at mvasquezgrinnell@gsbschool.org

Sincerely,
The STREAMS Team