

**Amherst Middle School at The Ecology School
Monday, September 30– Friday, October 4th, 2019**

In order to ensure student health and safety, it is critical that parents check your child’s luggage carefully for prohibited items before departure and discuss the following with your child:

Possession of any of the following will result in a student being sent home:

- knives, weapons, items that can be used as or mistaken for weapons
- matches, lighters, smoking materials, fireworks, hazardous materials
- alcohol or other drugs
- medications

Possession of the following is also prohibited and would result in significant consequences, including the possibility of being sent home:

- CELL PHONES and other electronics except cameras without internet access
- food, candy, gum, soda, aerosol sprays

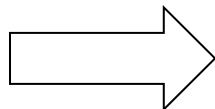
Students must be in areas where there is adult supervision at all times, 24 hours a day, and must stay in their assigned rooms after lights out, except to use the bathroom. Leaving supervised areas, including “sneaking out” at night, will result in a student being sent home. Students may not visit other students’ rooms. There are a variety of common areas and plenty of time each day for visiting. Without the express permission of custodial parents/guardians, students are not allowed to leave The Ecology School campus. Any visits and/or removal of students from the TES program (due to appointments, illness, family emergency, etc.) must be arranged in advance with the classroom teachers and TES.

Students are expected to exhibit respect for and follow the direction of all adults who will be working with them on this trip. Everyone is expected to demonstrate good manners and respect for people, property, nature and the learning environment at all times.

There are good reasons for these rules and they have been discussed with students. We know that the most controversial rule is the one regarding cell phones, but we insist that you be very sure students do not bring them. They can and have been used in very inappropriate ways and have no place at TES. With the number of students we have on this trip, regular phone access during the week is not practical. However, if your child feels the need to call home, they should approach one of the Amherst Middle School teachers. We will get them to a phone to call you. Contact information for parents is provided in another section of this handout.

Please Note: Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to the Amherst Wal-Mart parking lot on Monday morning and home from Wal-Mart on Friday afternoon.

OVER



Departure: Students will leave by bus from the Amherst Wal-Mart parking lot on the morning of **Monday, September 30th**. Please plan to arrive at the far end of the Wal-Mart parking lot **between 7:15 and 7:30 AM**.

Students should eat a good breakfast and use the bathroom just before leaving home on Monday morning.

Return: We will return to the Amherst Wal-Mart on Friday, October 4 between 1:45 and 2:00 PM. **Be sure to pick up medications from Mrs. Kalenik before leaving for the weekend.** Medications must remain in the possession of the adults while they are under our care and cannot be distributed to students before returning from Ecology School. Please be prompt on pick up day!

Packing: Each student is allowed no more than **TWO pieces of luggage** plus a SMALL carry-on bag for the bus. Sleeping bags or bedding material (pillow, sheets, and blankets) must be included in the two pieces of luggage. Trunks and footlockers are not allowed. Duffle bags, knapsacks or suitcases are appropriate. Plastic bags are not appropriate as they can break open and spill their contents. Set aside ample time over the weekend to pack carefully, bringing everything needed without overloading. Close and secure luggage tightly so that it does not break open when handled. The packing list can also be found on the Amherst Middle School web site (click Academic Programs, then Grade 8 The Ecology School) as well as The Ecology School web site (click Pages for Parents or Pages for Teachers). Be sure to pack for both warm and cold weather and **be prepared for outside lessons, rain or shine. A waterproof raincoat or poncho is an absolute must!!**

Medications: The Ecology School maintains an ample supply of regular, over the counter medications for student needs. TES nurse will be on site 24 hours a day. **Students may not keep any medications with them.** **ALL medications must be clearly labeled and turned in before boarding the bus on Monday morning. Do not pack any medications in the luggage.** Please be sure to pick up medications upon our return on Friday. Otherwise, medications will not be available until the following Monday morning.

Instructions for the administration of medications must be included on the health forms that you turned in previously. If new medications have been prescribed since the form was turned in, send a note with the student's name, name of medication, administration instructions (dosage and times) and parent signature. **All medicines must be in their original container.** The Ecology School nurse will not dispense any medications that are not in their original containers. Be sure the student's name is clearly written on all medicine containers.

Contraband: The Ecology School does not allow students to bring food, candy, gum, soda, or any electronic items, including boom boxes, cell phones, walkie-talkies, DVD players, electronic games, alarm clocks, etc. **The only exceptions are that students may bring cameras. Again, there are good reasons for these rules and we appreciate parents' efforts to reinforce them.**

Contact Information: Mail is always welcome. The address is The Ecology School, 640 Main Street, Poland, ME, 04274. Be sure the student's name and the words "Amherst Middle School" appear on the envelope. In an **emergency**, we can be reached at The Ecology School number, 207-283-9951 (between 7:30 AM and 9:00 PM), or you can call Amherst Middle School between 7:15 AM and 3:30 PM. In a dire emergency outside of those times, call the Saco, Maine police. For more information about The Ecology School, visit their informative web site:
www.theecologyschool.org

****Learning Assessment and Accountability:** We have attached a copy of the *Student Participation and Learning Rubric*. It clarifies the learning skills students are expected to practice in their study groups. At the end of the week, each student's Ecology School Educator will assess him/her in the five areas shown. Please review these expectations with your child then sign and return the rubric to Mrs. Kalenik by Wednesday, September 24th. Our goal is to provide students with an exciting, hands-on, immersion learning experience in ocean ecology. It is important to understand that this is not a vacation, though there is plenty of recreation time each day. The week will also stress good citizenship within our team as well as the world community. Students should arrive on Monday morning well rested and with a positive attitude, knowing that you are about to have an experience you should treasure the rest of your life!