

BIRCH GROVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SERVICE LEARNING PLAN

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Plan is to provide organizational guidance and articulate expectations for service learning.

II. DEFINITION: Service learning is a method of teaching and learning that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service. This form of learning emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility.

III. STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS:

- A. Birch Grove Community School will engage in meaningful service at a minimum of four community events per year (W.E. Connect Senior Lunch, Monthly Community Lunch, Silver Bay Veterans Home or North Shore Care Center, Environmental/Natural Stewardship Project, etc).
- B. Each classroom will engage in a minimum of one service-learning project annually.
- C. Each faculty member and student will engage in and promote the value of ongoing service to others; within the school, the family, to friends and community.
- D. The school will designate a board to exhibit examples of service to others.

IV. Guiding Principles in Service Learning

A. Mission: Birch Grove Community School will promote academic excellence utilizing our unique natural setting allowing students to reach their potential, preparing them to become socially and environmentally responsible, self-directed, life-long learners.

B. Vision: Birch Grove Community School envisions quality curriculum, excellent staff, and committed families and community members.

Our vision also includes:

- A K-5 educational program in multi-grade classrooms.
- Low student/teacher ratios.
- A focus on: reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Preparing students to be active and responsible citizens in their community.
- Encouraging student/parent/community ownership in their community school.

Birch Grove Community School will provide a nurturing and safe environment where:

- Parents and community members are actively engaged in student learning.
- High expectations for students and staff are modeled and clearly defined.
- Quality programs are developed, evaluated, and continuously improved.
- All students' needs are met.
- Student-teacher ratios in the classroom are low.
- Students' lives are further enriched through active partnership with local citizens.