

Blair Outdoor Education Centre Compass Use Program, Grade 6

- This topic is a 1/2 day program
- Compass Use is Grade 6 only

Maps – and the spatial skills associated with them – may be integrated into any component of the inquiry process, as the following examples illustrate. **(The Ontario Curriculum, Social Studies Grades 1 to 6)**

- **Formulating questions:** Students formulate questions related to the type of map or maps best suited to their inquiry.
- **Gathering/organizing:** Students determine the purpose of different maps and which are most relevant to their inquiry.
- **Analysing/interpreting:** Students extract information from, plot information on, and/or analyse various types of maps to help them determine patterns, trends, and/or interrelationships.
- **Communication:** Students construct maps in order to communicate key pieces of information. Activities will be of a hands-on, experiential nature. In order to prepare your students, please try to present or review some of the above concepts prior to the trip. Also please ensure that they are well dressed for the season.

Bus Times:

Schools are responsible for booking the bus for the trip. Please complete the form, **Off-Campus Excursion Category 1 IS-11-FA**. Busing costs are paid for by Learning Services, but you must book your bus through **STOCK Transportation (brendaj@stocktransportation.com 519 742-6224)**. When you book with STOCK please specify that it is an outdoor education field trip and they will bill Learning Services directly.

Please book your bus according to the following times:

If your school start time is between 8:30 and 8:50, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:15 a.m.	Depart from Blair 11:30 a.m.	Arrive at Blair 12:00 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:15 p.m.
If your school start time is between 8:55 and 9:25, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:45 a.m.	Depart from Blair at 12:00	Arrive at Blair 12:15 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:30 p.m.

- **All planning information for this trip is either contained in this document, or can be found on the Blair website.**
Blair Teacher Planning Page: <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/blair-teacher-planning/>
- **Please complete the Blair Planning Form at least one week prior to your visit date.** This is the only written information I have regarding your class and I cannot be fully prepared for your visit without it. Of particular importance are life-threatening allergies that require an epipen or other medication.
Centre Visit Planning Form: <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/centre-planning-form/>

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Nathan Mantey, OCT
 Blair Outdoor Education Centre
 653-9855
nathan_mantey@wrdsb.ca

Compass Use Activities

A sequence of 4 activities using a magnetic compass to navigate from place to place.

1. Learning about the compass (indoors)
 - How and why does a compass work?
 - Compass parts, terminology
 - Cardinal points (NSEW)
 - Setting a bearing
 - Following a bearing
2. Circle game (outdoors)
 - A fun game reinforcing accuracy in setting and following compass bearings
3. Pacing (outdoors)
 - Learning to travel prescribed distances with some accuracy (i.e “go 10 metres and stop”). This skill is a lead-in to the following activity, Point to Point Compass Course
4. Point to Point Compass Course (outdoors)
 - Following a series of bearings over given distances in order to locate “Controls” in the correct sequence.

Notes:

- Equipment for all activities will be provided here at the Centre. Students may bring their own pencils/pens.
- I have some books and resources on Orienteering for loan. If you are interested, give me a call.

- Teaching Orienteering - A Handbook for Teachers, Instructors, Coaches

- Teaching Orienteering - Jim Gilchrist

- START Orienteering with 9-10 year olds