

## **Frequently Asked Questions From Parents**

### **What is the Phone Number at Balarat?**

The phones on site are for emergency purposes only. To reach the Balarat main office, call 720-424-2940. Office hours are 7am to 5pm.

### **Will my child be able to call home while at Balarat?**

Students are not allowed to bring cell phones or use Balarat phone to call home. In case of emergency, a staff member will contact you immediately. For many students, the overnight experience is as much of a learning experience as the curriculum. Often times calling home can make issues of homesickness worse.

### **Will I be able to visit my child at Balarat?**

Visitors, including family members, are not allowed. We are a closed campus for the protection of all the students on site.

### **Will my child get plenty of food to eat?**

Yes! All students receive 3 meals a day. Breakfast and dinner are prepared by our talented chef and served family style, students can get seconds if they are still hungry. They also get a sack lunch on their second day of the trip so that they can eat a picnic lunch when they are out on their adventure for the day. Please pack them a lunch for the first day of their Balarat trip.

### **What if my child has special dietary needs or food allergies?**

Our kitchen can accommodate nut free, pork free, and vegetarian diets. Students will need to bring their own food for all other special dietary needs including severe allergies. If you have questions about food, please call the Balarat office to discuss.

### **Where should I send the money for the trip?**

Cash and checks are collected by your student's teacher. The check for your trip should be made payable to your child's elementary school. If there is a need for financial assistance, this should be handled confidentially by contacting the teacher or principal. Fees cover your child's food and nothing else. All other costs to operate Balarat come from Denver Public Schools.

### **What should my child bring?**

Use the enclosed "What to Bring & What *Not* to Bring" list as a guide. Please *help* your child pack and do not pack for them. It is important for them to know what

they brought so it does not get mixed up with other students' belongings. Also, by including them in the packing process, the responsibility involved with being away at Balarat can begin at home.

### **What if my child doesn't have something they need to bring?**

If your child does not have something that is needed, please contact your child's 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. They will work with Balarat staff to accommodate your child's needs.

### **Who works on the Balarat staff?**

Balarat Instructors are all Denver Public Schools employees and educators who have undergone background checks. All of our instructors are CPR and Wilderness First Aid certified and are well trained, not only to teach, but to respond in an emergency setting.

### **What happens if there is an emergency at Balarat?**

Our staff is trained to handle emergencies on site. The students' parents/guardians will be contacted and if medical attention is needed, the closest hospital is 25 minutes.

### **What are the sleeping accommodations?**

Each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will be assigned its own heated sleeping lodge. In those lodges there is a boy's dormitory and a girl's dormitory equipped with bunk beds. Each dormitory has a bathroom inside. The classroom teacher and Balarat Instructor will also sleep in the lodge for supervision. The adults will each have a separate room attached to both the boy's or girl's dormitories.

### **What will my child learn during the Balarat trip?**

We have worked over the years with teachers, parents, and administrators in DPS in designing our curriculum and activities. We have aligned our curriculum with Colorado education standards to help support and incorporate what students are learning in the classroom. We guarantee that while students are having fun, they are also learning, and visa versa.