



OutTeach

Go Outside Expectations



 GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



Briya Public Charter School

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Briya PCS' mission is to strengthen families through culturally responsive, two-generation education.

Families enroll in the school together: Parents study English as a second language, digital literacy, and parenting while their children receive a high-quality education in dual-language, project-based Pre-K classes.



Source: Instagram



Outdoor Classroom Group Management

Set clear expectations.

For example, students should have clear physical boundaries to stay within. Unless you have a fenced in area or a courtyard, specify the area students should occupy and should not go beyond. Additionally, students are expected to respect all living things, including each other. Allow students to help define what respect for all living things looks like in the classroom.

Establish procedures.

Ensure students have necessary supplies.

Consider putting together a teacher backpack or bin for outdoor lessons that includes backup pencils and other basic tools such as rulers, hand lenses, and thermometers.

Maximize exploration time.



Source: Instagram



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Pre-COVID Uses

Recess

Playground space is used for early childhood classes recess times, ages 0-5 years

Shared Campus

The campus site and playground area is shared with Bridges PCS, a Pre-K 3 - 5th Grade school

Neighborhood Walks

Neighborhood walks are integrated into the school day

Off-Campus Outdoor Resources

The nearby Keene Park is available for outdoor activities



Source: Instagram



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Post-COVID Uses

Full Time Outdoor Learning

Classes are held fully outdoors except for nap time

Caregiver Support & Buy-In

The transition to outdoor learning was phased in with caregiver participation

Outdoor Equipment for Students

All students are provided with full rain and snow gear to be prepared for the outdoors

Outdoor Classroom Development

A forested area is developed by staff and local donations into a series of shady early education classrooms



Source: Instagram



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About the Project

The outdoor space planning considered is for the 0–5-year-old classes, which at times include parent involvement as well.

This site design is divided into two areas, which could each be built in phases, or at the same time.

Several the recommendations are flexible and “as-needed”. These include upgrading movable seating, worktables, and whiteboards, as well as adding additional learning features and outdoor facilities.

Long term recommendations include re-surfacing the forested early childhood classrooms and creating ADA circulation.

Additionally, a forested woodland path is proposed that connects the classrooms with the community garden.



Source: Instagram



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Map Key

1

E.C. CLASSROOMS

Option to update whiteboards and stump seating with in ground wood frame whiteboards and in ground benches. Use stumps or other movable seats for use with features. Add primary balances, little library, and water table. Add sheds for storage. Add a toilet trailer with hand washing station to occupy a parking space.

2

WOODLAND BUFFER

Use existing desire lines to create a mulch or gravel path through the woodland buffer and to the community garden. Add an outdoor classroom with veggie boards and veggie beds to the grassy area at the end of the path, if use restrictions allow.





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Source: Instagram

Thank you to the leadership at Briya PCS, for participating in the Technical Assistance Program. Engaging teachers, students, and families through outdoor learning!



Disclaimer

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