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5 responses

Age appropriate sex education

Positive Discipline, montessori mindset at home

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Elementary and middle school academic standards and goals, teaching and behavior management strategies

Screen Time, Emotional Connection and Support, Culture of Winona and of Self



What are some things that Bluffview does well in general terms?

20 responses

Foster independence, encourage enthusiasm for learning, encourage a healthy respect for nature

Bluffview has a great, close knit community of families that are involved and easy to be in community with. The administrative and support staff are incredible. The teachers are incredibly devoted. I appreciate all of the time and effort that has gone into my children and our family.

Bluffview's interest in fostering values like integrity and community are deeply important to me and I think you all do a lovely job embodying that.

Finding and being accepting of the right content and pace for each child while upholding high academic and social expectations.

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Makes sure my child is on track to where he should be

fostering a great learning environment

Student interests are well supported.

Developing community and character - beyond academics. Fostering self-motivation in its students.

Community Gatherings

Communication, relaxed and comfortable atmosphere

promotes responsible self determination; encourages students to pursue their interests

Creating a positive learning environment for students

The teachers and staff genuinely care about the students' success and well being.

family events, parent education opportunities, food program!!!, generally supporting the students



Bluffview does an excellent job of creating an accepting and loving environment for all students. It's a lovely community to be apart of.

Fostering an environment of creativity, flexible learning, and compassionate support

I love that there are multiple teachers in every classroom. My kindergartner loves school. I appreciate that they learn about core curriculum and practical, hands-on things they can use at home.

Communicate and Advocate for the community of learners and staff



Do you have suggestions about what could be done to make Bluffview better?

21 responses

Bluffview has lost several veteran Montessori trained teachers and not been able to replace those teachers with Montessori trained teachers. I think that the lack of Montessori training in a Montessori environment is the worst overlap. There is little support and guidance but the works have all disappeared. It's confusing and severely lacking and I think that it makes it difficult for students to navigate. In my opinion, it's the worst combination aside from an untrained mom trying to "homeschool". I've lost hope in Montessori for my child this year. It's been very difficult to navigate the year with his teacher who seems to be very immature and extremely inappropriate with the ways that she speaks to him, especially in saying things like, I don't know how you'll make it at the middle school if all you want to do is read. Or, If I had free college tuition, I would be grateful and try my hardest. I feel the weight of the dilemma the school is in and our community is in with losing so many of the Montesorri trained teachers. I don't want to dissuade any educator from teaching and I don't wish to make anything more difficult for this teacher. We are moving to the middle school so that our older child can stick with one model and have more direction and clear guidance of expectations.

Maybe training for the classroom assistants? A little more consistency between classrooms, at least on the different levels.

Communication has dramatically improved and I really appreciate it, but last year I had mentioned and probably will continue to say that my family and I need significantly more time to plan for school wide events. We want to come to all of them, but I often don't know until a few weeks prior. Events like concerts, may display, family picnic which happen every year. I'd love those dates much further in advance so I can make sure that we can attend.

More field trips!

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Actually take care of the bullying that is going on. Telling a child to simply "Try to stay away from the Bully" is not solving the issue.

Overall academic rigor could be improved. My child is not being challenged in language arts or math. A more consistent daily instruction/work time schedule in Erdkinder would better support my child.

Even more support for teachers with challenging students (both with academic and social struggles)

Sometimes I don't see my children being challenged in areas where they excel.

Create ways for parents to communicate and connect. Allow for in school friendships to flourish outside of school.



planning and communicating events with more planning time. some of us work jobs that arent flexible so events have been missed because I've received less than a months notice on time/date/event. Like bridging, has time been announced yet?

More outside learning

Offer recommendations/supports for families with students who are 'getting by' - students may not necessarily need to catch up but are not learning as much as they could. I undestand that resources are extremely limited.

Hiring and retention of quality teachers who have Montessori training and experience.

More opportunities for extra curricular activities. Perhaps surveying the students to explore their interests.

No improvement needed!!!

Communication is a little difficult at times. It would be great to get a bi-weekly or even monthly update from teachers about how the classroom is running and new expectations from students and any challenges or wins.

slowly increase homeowrk/assignment book planning in E2 before getting to Erdkinder

I would like to see more demand for excellence, academically. One of my children is capable but not being challenged to grow in the way we would like to see. It appears that because it's not a dire case or need, that this child is just left to "float along". Good enough attitude.

I wish there were more opportunities for parents to volunteer in the E1 classrooms. There was one email of opportunities sent out at the beginning of the year, I responded with multiple ways I'd like to help, and never heard back. When I asked again later in the year, there was only a school-wide event, but nothing in my child's class. She's asking for me to come to her classroom and I have to tell her no, it's really disappointing. I wish academic expectations felt more clear in E1 as well.

none



Open forum-any comments are welcome. Good, bad, or indifferent as it relates to Bluffview and the 2023-24 school year.

12 responses

Thank you for helping guide my kids to be their best selves!

We are so grateful for Bluffview and all of the families, teachers, administrators, and staff that make being part of Bluffview so fulfilling.

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Maybe have a counselor that a child can express their feelings and go to with issues that actually helps them work through them. When I child goes to them with an issue that's upsetting them, believe that child.

My kids are accepted and valued by their community. Bluffview is a very loving community and I'm grateful beyond words for this community. I do wish there was more value for and celebration of academic excellence.

How exactly is academic progress tracked? What happens when a student is struggling academically, or "falling behind"? What happens when social upset is throwing a student off of school completely? What happens when a student is 'bored' academically. These are things I feel like I should know - but still are ambiguous. More of a curiosity than a concern at this point??

I haven't had any children transition to high school yet, but I am anxious about whether my children will have the necessary skills to be successful when that occurs (particularly my less school-focused children).

Overall my family has been very pleased with Bluffview and love the support we get. The teachers have also been great. My Erdkinder student has expressed disappointment in the schedule and feels 3 work days is way too much.

It's been a rough year for both our kids - both have felt very disengaged due to a lack of challenging work/lessons. Happy to talk with you about it in more detail, but I know you're already aware of some of the issues.

Better clarity around what assignments are due each day. The E2 workplan was confusing for both child and parent.

Provide more time to eat at lunchtime.

I think the current schedule in Erdkinder is problematic- too much free time. I'm not sure the kids would agree! I worry about the ELA instruction moving forward. The difference in reading and writing from what was done last year is shocking.



As a parent of a young SPED student who has required a lot of attention to find his footing, I am really appreciative of all the ways Bluffview has supported my kiddo, our home arrangement (co-parenting at a distance), any questions/concerns we may have, etc. I love the way the school creates opportunities for extra engagement - for students & their families! Thank you for all that you do!

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