



BERLIN  
METROPOLITAN  
SCHOOL



# Primary School Camp Program

“Berlin Metropolitan School consistently aims to build an inclusive culture of learning that inspires and challenges every individual to develop to their full potential and become active and responsible participants in our global society.”

As part of the Primary School curriculum we incorporate a camp program into our annual school calendar for all of our students in Grades 3 – 6. The overarching purpose of these camps is to fulfill our school mission and ‘inspire each other, grow together’. We aim to engage all of our students in a unique experience with their peers which is enjoyable, challenging and rewarding. These camps are organized in collaboration with the company Outward Bound who have the mission:

“To inspire people to discover and develop their potential to care for themselves, others and the world around them through challenging experiences in unfamiliar settings.”

The philosophy of Outward Bound aligns with our school values and mission and compliments that of the IB programs.

Four elements form the foundation of the camp program:

- Physical fitness
- Self-reliance
- Craftsmanship
- Compassion/service

## Camp Locations

In collaboration with Outward Bound we have selected the following locations for our Primary School Camp Program. All of the locations are familiar to the Outward Bound team and designed to facilitate groups of students in outdoor activities.

- Grade 3 and Grade 5 camps are held at the stunning, Schloss Kröchlendorff, in Berlin Brandenburg and the journey time to this destination is approximately 2hrs by bus from BMS.
- Grade 4 camp is held near the village of Köthen in Köthener See Youth Hostel and the journey time to this destination is also approximately 2hrs by bus from BMS.
- Our Grade 6 Camp is located in the Czech Republic in the small hamlet of Vyoská Lipa and the journey time to this destination is approximately 3 – 4 hours.

## Camp Duration

We recognize that our students come from a diverse cultural and linguistic background, and join our school at all different points in their academic and social emotional development. Therefore, we provide students with the opportunity to develop familiarity with the experience of overnight camps in a gradual manner. Our camps begin in Grade 3 with students spending two nights and three days at camp and build up to students spending four nights and five days at camp.

Grade 3: Two nights and three days

Grade 4: Three nights and four days

Grade 5: Four nights and five days

Grade 6: Four nights and five days

## Transportation

Coach transportation is booked for all of our camps with the company BerlinMobil and all buses are fitted with seatbelts and undergo a police safety check. Departure and arrival back to school is via the Torstraße entrance.

## Camp Activities

The camp activities are carefully designed in collaboration with our grade level teaching team and aim to:

- Develop community and social competencies. Build communication and problem-solving skills.
- Encourage taking appropriate risks, trying out new ideas and learning new skills. Develop self-awareness and reflective skills.
- Strengthen self-confidence and trust. Build self-confidence while facing physical and emotional challenges.
- Promote taking responsibility for themselves and others. Develop camaraderie amongst the grade level.
- Increase social and environmental understanding. Provide students with an opportunity to 'unplug' from a wired society and connect with nature.
- Have fun together!

Camp activities vary from grade level to grade level with a focus upon the development of both team building as well as learning new skills and gaining independence. Examples of activities are outlined below

- Nature walk
- Hiking
- Team games and challenges
- Building a camp fire
- Night walk
- Canoeing
- Raft building
- Climbing wall and outdoor climbing
- Overnight hike and camping
- Evening games and reflection circles

## Food and Accommodation

All food and refreshments are included during the camp week. Students are provided with a buffet style breakfast, a packed lunch during the day and a warm evening meal. There is always a vegetarian option at every meal. Students who have specific dietary needs must note all of this on the relevant forms and meals will be planned accordingly to meet needs. Students may bring some healthy snacks from home with them for the journeys and as additional snacks should they wish to do so.

Accommodation on all of our camps ranges from rooms for 2 or more students. Teachers plan and allocate rooms for students and take into consideration both current friendships but also opportunities for children to get to know other students across the grade level.

## Instruction & Supervision

Outward Bound instructors come from a diverse background, many of whom are multilingual. The Outward Bound team are experienced in working with both students and adults in the outdoors and have a range of expertise and training in leading a wide variety of activities and are also First Aid trained. On every camp there are 6-7 Outward Bound instructors supervising students and instructing activities. There are also camp instructors who are onsite and on duty in the evening.

We have a team of 10 members of BMS staff who accompany students each grade level on camp. This comprises of class teachers, CCEP educators, German and Specialist teachers.

## Packing & Equipment

As the purpose of camp outlined above is to provide students with opportunities to develop community, challenge themselves, engage in nature and be present with their peers throughout the camp experience no digital technologies or electronic devices are permitted.

Approximately 4 weeks prior to each camp departure there is a grade level meeting to share the details of the itinerary, departure and arrival procedures, communication whilst on camp and the complete packing list. This outlines everything your child needs to bring.

# Communication

We provide details of two BMS phone contacts (both a German and English phone line) as well as contact details of the camp location and an Outward Bound contact number. We also use our school twitter and blog accounts to provide parents with updates about activities and the camp experiences. If a student is struggling with homesickness or needs to call home for some specific reason our teachers coordinate this.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are camps compulsory?**

The camps are part of the BMS Primary Curriculum. If a student chooses not to attend camp and therefore stay home from school, these days would be noted as unexcused absences.

### **What forms and documents are needed to be submitted for camp?**

In advance of the camp trips the following forms must be submitted:

- BMS Agreement and Permission form
- Outward Bound Medical form
- A copy of your child's ID document and health/insurance card.
- In Grade 6 a copy of a valid passport is also required.

### **When are all the forms due back to the Primary office?**

All forms and documentation must be returned within the stipulated time frame, which is approximately 6 - 8 weeks prior to the camp dates. Specific dates will be communicated to you via an information letter about the specific grade level camp. Forms and documentation will only be accepted when all pieces are submitted together.

### **How is payment made for camps?**

Payment is made through an invoice and bank transfer for the given amount. This amount will be deducted in April approx. 6 weeks before the camps take place.

### **What if my child is particularly nervous or worried about camp?**

Every child will have questions, and perhaps concerns, about overnight camps. If your child is demonstrating anxiety about camp the first step is to inform the class teacher and they will provide additional support or suggest any steps that could be taken as needed. Our teachers talk to their classes and support students in feeling confident and prepared before attending camp, providing them with lots of information about their upcoming camp experience. Our counselors are also available to ask for advice if there are specific worries that need to be addressed or if a child needs further additional support in the run up to the camp departure.

**My child has a specific health needs, what steps do I need to take?**

Prior to the camp departure (approximately 4 weeks before camp) please make an appointment with our school nurse to review a specific health plan and ensure all the necessary people are informed of what additional medical needs there are and how these should be catered for. Please note that no students are permitted to bring any medication with them as this must be disclosed to the teachers. If your child needs to take any medication this should be clearly labelled with instructions and given to the class teacher in advance of the trip.

**What if my child is sick on camp or has an accident?**

All Outward Bound staff are trained in first aid as are some members of the BMS staff. A local doctor/clinic number is always provided for parents ahead of camp. Parents are informed if a child is sick or needs any kind of emergency care. If a child is very unwell parents may be asked to come and collect their child from camp. We also ask that all parents check students hair prior to camp for head lice. If a child has head lice on camp they also must be collected and treated.

**My child has a specific dietary needs, how will this be catered for?**

Information about specific dietary needs will be included on the form that is completed and submitted to Outward Bound. This enables meals to be planned according to any individual student needs. Students with specific needs are permitted to also bring special foods with them for camp. If you have specific concerns about this, or your child has severe allergies, please do contact your child's class teacher for further information.

**Can my child take money on the camp?**

Students will not have many opportunities to shop whilst at camp, however Outward Bound do have some merchandise that students can buy as a souvenir such as, bandanas, water bottles, bracelets. Information about this will be included with the Grade Level packing list.

**GRADE 3 | GRADE 5**

**Schloss Kröchlendorff e.V.**  
**Oskar-von-Arnim-Straße 1**  
**17291 Nordwestuckermark**



**GRADE 4**

**Jugendherberge Köthener See**  
**Dorfstr. 20**  
**15748 Märkisch Buchholz**



**GRADE 6**

**Vysoká Lípa, Czech Republic**

