

WESTMINSTER WOODS

Class Meeting! (aka Teacher Time)

Teachers are responsible for daily one hour 'Teacher Time' sessions during the week at Westminster Woods. Immediately after dinner, students will follow their teachers to their meeting room for one hour of teacher organized activities.

Teachers have their students from 6:15 to 7:15; they have many options to fill the time. (Please note that this is the chaperone's one hour off). It may require some advanced planning, but the options listed below can allow students a much needed hour to reflect, unwind, and have time to regroup before Naturalist-led night activities. Teachers should assess their students and provide whatever activity will best suit their needs.

Teachers are asked to arrive with any necessary supplies such as pencils, crafting materials, athletic equipment, board games, etc.

CLASS MEETING IDEAS THAT HAVE WORKED IN THE PAST:

- Ask students to make an entry, or do an activity, in their Westminster Woods journals.
- Organize board games in the meeting room.
- Lead a sharing circle.
- Tell stories or sing songs.
- Lead a guided meditation
- Do art and craft projects. ie: bracelets, thank you letters, lanyards.
- Host a game show quiz on what they have learned.
- Write articles for a class newsletter.
- Write thank you notes.
- Write letters to a state/federal official or congressional representative, etc. about issues of importance to the class.
- Cover any pre- or post- outdoor education activities that you have not yet done with your class.
- Watch an informational nature video.
- Go on a photographic or sketching safari.
- Hold a nature scavenger hunt.
- Make trash art by collecting trash from around the cabins or common areas.
- Play outdoors on the big green field, playground, or basketball court.

AVAILABLE SPACES:

Please note that other schools may be present and it is best to coordinate spaces in advance.

Indoor spaces:

- Dining hall: A large indoor room with cafeteria tables that seats up to 200 people.
- Dining hall patio: A covered porch large enough for one class.
- Meeting Room: A building with chairs, A.V. equipment, fireplace, and a piano.

Outdoor spaces (consider that it may be dark outside during teacher time):

- Big Green Field: A playing field with a backstop and a field with goals.
- Redwood Grove: wooden tables located under the redwoods.
- Large campfire: A big stage with benches that seats up to 200 people.
- Small campfire: A smaller stage with benches that seats up to 150 people