



Nature Matters I

The Why and How of Nature-based Learning in Schools

DGCNM-02

1.5 quarter credit through District 196

Course Description: Time spent near nature matters. World-wide children spend less and less time outside and in natural environments each year. But the benefits of nature exposure are significant, including academic outcomes such as increased knowledge retention and better focus, health outcomes both physical and mental, and soft skills like leadership and environmental ethics development. Research indicates that nature-based learning is even a tool to build equity in the classroom, leveling the playing field across a variety of disadvantaged students. This class will explore the “**why**” behind nature-based learning by examining current research across a variety of contexts and approaches. We will also focus on the “**how**”: how you can use nature, from plants inside your school to your school yard, to the neighborhood and local natural areas as a resource for improved learning in your classroom and school. **This is a great class to take with other staff from your school!**

Suggested Audience:	pre-K-12
Adjunct Instructors:	Hillary Wackman and Michael Barnes
Dates:	Weeks of June 14, 21 and 28, 2021
Time:	There will be an optional 4:00 PM Zoom each Monday
Location:	N/A
Cost:	\$74 per district quarter credit* for a total of \$111.00**

* District graduate quarter credits can be used for movement on the salary schedule but generally will not transfer from district to district.

** Individuals at MA+60 may audit any courses for \$15.00 per quarter credit. Individuals’ “auditing” classes are expected to complete class assignments.

- \$111.00 (District Graduate Credit)
- \$37.50 (I am at MA+60)

Register at: [Nature Matters 1](#)

If school and/or Community Education classes are canceled because of severe weather, district graduate classes will also be canceled. If the course is canceled, your registration fee will be refunded.

Questions? Contact Michelle DeMers (651-423-7856) at the District Office.