Dear parent:

I welcome your student to my class! This year our class will be visiting the \_\_\_\_\_ School Forest. A School Forest is an outdoor classroom where we can study real-world situations, observe natural occurrences, do investigative studies, and many other things. I use our School Forest to teach lessons such as *(describe subject or topic: mathematics, soil study, science journaling, etc.)*. Most likely, we will visit the School Forest (*choose one: periodically, once a month, every other Friday, or other schedule*)

Your child will learn more easily if they are comfortable. Please help your child by ensuring that he or she leaves your home dressed appropriately for the weather. Because daily temperatures can vary widely, please prepare your students to be dressed for the warmest or coldest part of the day. You can do this by having them wear layers that they can take on or off to adjust. (for example a shirt, sweater, and jacket).

**Suggested clothing:**

**Cold weather: fleece/sweater, coat, snow pants, winter boots, hat, mittens**

**Wet weather: rain jacket, rain boots, hat with brim (baseball caps OK)**

No matter the weather, closed-toed shoes (sturdy footwear that protects their feet) are always required in the School Forest. No flip-flops or sandals please.

If you cannot get these items, please contact me and we can find a solution together. I often have extra clothing your child can borrow for the year, if needed. I want your child to be comfortable outdoors so they can learn effectively and enjoy the experience.

Why I teach using the School Forest: A growing body of research suggests that students who learn outdoors are better able to focus, practice positive social and interpersonal skills, have more enthusiasm for learning, and may increase their academic achievement. I have noticed these benefits and I hope you do too.

 *Signature*

Our School Forest is enrolled in the Minnesota DNR’s School Forest program and receives a number of benefits. For information about the program, visit [www.mndnr.gov/schoolforest](http://www.mndnr.gov/schoolforest).