

Dear Parents,

BCS Beekeepers is a unique choice hour class offered to students in **grades 5-8**. It is a class that will provide an opportunity for the students to learn to take care of honey bees. Students will learn basic processes and skills of checking bees and inspecting hives to determine the health of the colony. Students may also learn about queen rearing and expanding the number of hives in the bee yard (apiary).

This group meets every Tuesday for choice hour. On weeks we are in the classroom, the students will be dismissed at the end of normal choice hour to ride home on the bus or get picked up at school. On weeks we are at the Environmental Center, students need to get picked up at 5:00 at the Environmental Center.

Calendar*

April 18	Classroom	
April 24	Environmental Center	Pickup at 5:00 at Environmental Center
May 1	Classroom	
May 8	Environmental Center	Pickup at 5:00 at Environmental Center
May 15	Classroom	
May 22	Environmental Center	Pickup at 5:00 at Environmental Center
June 5	Classroom	
June 12	Environmental Center	Pickup at 5:00 at Environmental Center

***This calendar is subject to change.**

Parent participation is a necessity for this class. We will need enough drivers to accommodate transporting the students from BCS to the Environmental Center (23400 West 13 Mile Road, Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025). Also, parents need to pick up students from the environmental center at 5:00 on days we are inspecting the hives.

Classroom work will include establishing a code of conduct around the bees and discuss practices associated with keeping bees. On Environmental Center days, we will be inspecting and caring for the honey bees. The hives are located at the Environmental Center behind Bingham Farms Elementary School on 13 Mile Rd.

There will be strict behavior requirements for this class. This will include teamwork, respect for each other, respect for property and respect for the bees. Failure to follow these guidelines creates a dangerous situation for everyone and will not be tolerated.

Students who wish to participate in BCS Beekeepers need to fill out an application form and return it with your Choice Hour selection sheet no later than 4:00 PM on Monday March 13.

We have at our disposal all equipment and safety measures to keep the kids reasonably safe. These things include bee suites (total coverage except for feet), gloves (up to elbows), tools (smoker, hive tools,...).

Note: Although the bee suites provide a great deal of protection, bees can still sting through the suite material. This has not happened to any of our students yet and is unlikely. The most common sites of stings are hands and ankles if not protected with gloves or boots. Again, this is pretty rare.

If you have any questions, please contact me at davesplants@gmail.com.

Sincerely

David Cryberg

BCS Beekeepers Application Form

Student Information

Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

I am willing and able to follow instruction? _____ Yes _____ No

I am willing and able to participate? _____ Yes _____ No

I am willing and able to work with others? _____ Yes _____ No

I am willing to record data at our hive visits? _____ Yes _____ No

I am willing to take photos at our hive visits? _____ Yes _____ No

I ask questions to enhance my knowledge? _____ Yes _____ No

I am able to receive and handle critical feedback? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you have experience around honey bees? Please explain:

What specifically do you wish to learn from this class?

What skills can you contribute to the team?

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please return to Mrs. Bassett's mailbox.