



Bayou & Bloom Nature School

2026-27 PARENT HANDBOOK

Rooted in Play. Growing with Nature.

109 Smart Place

Slidell, LA 70458

504-777-9118

Idunn Haavardsholm

Director of Operations

admin@bayouandbloom.com

Table Of Contents

Welcome

The Bayou & Bloom Difference

About Our Program

Mission

Philosophy

Core Values

Nonprofit Organization

Licensing Information

Non-Discrimination Policy

A Day at Bayou & Bloom

Tuition & Fees

Billing & Payment Policies

Attendance & Arrival

Dismissal & Authorized Pick-Up

Health & Wellness

Behavior & Positive Guidance

Outdoor Essentials

Family Partnership

Family Involvement

Field Trips & Special Events

Emergency Procedures & Safety

Lunch & Personal Belongings

Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

Welcome

Welcome to Bayou & Bloom Nature School,

Thank you for trusting us with your child and for allowing us to be part of such an important season in their life. At Bayou & Bloom, we believe childhood should be filled with wonder, curiosity, creativity, and plenty of opportunities to explore the world around us.

Our days are intentionally designed to encourage children to slow down, ask questions, get messy, solve problems, and discover through hands-on experiences. Whether we're digging in the garden, splashing during water play, creating art inspired by nature, or searching for bugs after a rainstorm, every day brings new opportunities to learn and grow.

We believe children learn best through meaningful experiences, strong relationships, and plenty of time outdoors. Our goal is to create a place where children feel safe to take healthy risks, build confidence, develop independence, and simply enjoy being kids.

This handbook is here to help answer questions about our school, our policies, and what you can expect throughout the year. More importantly, it's a reflection of the values that guide everything we do at Bayou & Bloom.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our school community. We are looking forward to a year filled with laughter, muddy shoes, new discoveries, and unforgettable memories.

With gratitude,
Idunn Haavardsholm
Founder & Director
Bayou & Bloom Nature School

The Bayou & Bloom Difference

At Bayou & Bloom Nature School, we believe childhood should be filled with exploration, connection, and joy. Every decision we make is guided by our commitment to providing meaningful experiences that support the whole child.

Nature is Our Classroom

Children spend time outdoors every school day whenever weather conditions allow. Nature provides endless opportunities for discovery, creativity, movement, and hands-on learning.

Play is Meaningful Learning

Play is the foundation of everything we do. Through play, children develop problem-solving skills, creativity, communication, confidence, and resilience while building the academic foundations needed for future success.

We Embrace Messy Childhoods

Mud, water, paint, sand, and dirt are all part of learning at Bayou & Bloom. We encourage children to explore with all their senses and ask families to dress them in clothing appropriate for active, outdoor play.

We Encourage Healthy Risk-Taking

Children are given opportunities to climb, balance, build, explore, and challenge themselves in developmentally appropriate ways. Through supervised risky play, children learn confidence, body awareness, decision-making, and resilience.

We Build Community

Bayou & Bloom is more than a school; it's a community. Through family involvement, volunteer opportunities, our Harvest Basket Program, field trips, and special events, we strive to create meaningful connections between children, families, educators, and the natural world.

Every Child Blooms at Their Own Pace

We recognize that every child is unique. We celebrate individual growth and provide opportunities for children to develop confidence, independence, kindness, and a lifelong love of learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued, and supported.

About our Program

Our Mission

Our mission is to inspire a lifelong love of learning by providing meaningful experiences rooted in nature, play, and community. We strive to nurture confident, compassionate, and curious children while creating a safe, engaging environment where every child feels valued, capable, and encouraged to grow.

Philosophy

We believe childhood is meant to be explored, not rushed.

Children learn best through meaningful experiences, hands-on exploration, and strong relationships. Our nature-based, play-based approach encourages children to investigate, create, problem-solve, and discover the world around them at their own pace.

At Bayou & Bloom, learning extends beyond the classroom walls. Whether children are tending the garden, observing insects, creating art, building with natural materials, or working together to solve a problem, each experience becomes an opportunity for growth.

We believe that confidence, kindness, resilience, creativity, and independence are just as important as early academic skills. Our goal is to nurture the whole child while fostering a lifelong love of learning.

Our Core Values

Respect for Childhood

We honor childhood by allowing children the time, space, and freedom to learn through play and exploration.

Connection to Nature

Nature is an essential part of our classroom, inspiring curiosity, creativity, and respect for the world around us.

Learning Through Play

We believe purposeful play provides the foundation for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.

Community & Relationships

Strong relationships between children, families, and educators create the foundation for meaningful learning.

Growth Through Experience

Every challenge, discovery, and new experience is an opportunity for children to build confidence, resilience, and independence.

About our Program

Nonprofit Organization

Bayou & Bloom Nature School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to providing meaningful, nature-based early childhood education.

As a nonprofit, every dollar earned, donated, or awarded through grants is reinvested into our school to enhance learning experiences, improve our environment, support teacher development, and provide opportunities for the children and families we serve.

Donations & Fundraising

Throughout the year, Bayou & Bloom may host fundraisers, apply for grants, and accept tax-deductible donations. These efforts help us continue to grow our program and expand opportunities for our children. Participation is always appreciated but never required. Every investment made in Bayou & Bloom directly supports the children, families, and future growth of our school. As a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible donations may be tax-deductible.

Licensing Information

Bayou & Bloom Nature School is a part-time educational program operating under Louisiana's license-exempt provisions and is not licensed as a child care center. Although we are license-exempt, all staff members complete comprehensive background checks, Pediatric CPR and First Aid certification, Louisiana Mandated Reporter training, and ongoing professional development.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Bayou & Bloom Nature School welcomes all children and families and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or any other protected status.

A day at Bayou & Bloom

Bayou & Bloom Nature School is a nonprofit, nature-based early childhood program operating under Louisiana's license-exempt provisions.

School Days

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

School Hours

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Classroom Organization

Children are grouped by age to provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences.

- 2-Year-Old Class
- 3-Year-Old Class
- 4-Year-Old Class

Each classroom follows the same nature-based philosophy while providing experiences appropriate for the children's age and developmental stage.

Our Daily Rhythm

While each classroom follows its own daily rhythm, every class includes a balance of:

- Outdoor exploration
- Play-based learning
- Teacher-guided activities
- Child-led discovery
- Snack and lunch
- Storytime
- Social-emotional learning

Rather than following a rigid schedule, our teachers remain flexible, allowing children to follow their curiosity while maintaining a consistent and predictable routine.

Small Class Sizes

We intentionally maintain small class sizes to foster meaningful relationships, individualized support, and a calm learning environment where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to thrive.

Tuition & Fees

Enrollment at Bayou & Bloom Nature School is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and is not guaranteed until all required enrollment forms, fees, and the enrollment payment have been received. Tuition reserves your child's space for the entire school year and is based on enrollment rather than attendance. To reserve your child's space, families are required to pay the first month's tuition and last month's tuition, along with the registration and supply fees, at the time of enrollment. The remaining tuition is divided into eight equal monthly payments.

Fee	2-Year-Old Class	3-Year-Old Class	4-Year-Old Class
Schedule	M/W/F 8:30 am - 12:30 PM	M/W/F 8:30 am - 12:30 PM	M/W/F 8:30 am - 12:30 PM
Monthly Tuition	\$325	\$295	\$295
Registration Fee	\$49	\$49	\$49
Supply Fee	\$85	\$85	\$85
Enrollment Payment	Registration Fee, Supply Fee, First & Last Month's Tuition	Registration Fee, Supply Fee, First & Last Month's Tuition	Registration Fee, Supply Fee, First & Last Month's Tuition
Payment Plan	8 Equal Monthly Payments	8 Equal Monthly Payments	8 Equal Monthly Payments

Non-Refundable Fees

Registration fees, supply fees, and tuition payments are non-refundable.

Tuition is based on enrollment rather than attendance and is not prorated or refunded for absences, illness, vacations, holidays, weather-related closures, emergency closures, or withdrawal from the program.

Withdrawal

A 30-day written notice is required to withdraw from Bayou & Bloom Nature School. Families are financially responsible for tuition during the 30-day notice period. The prepaid last month's tuition collected at enrollment will be applied toward the required 30-day notice period or, if the child remains enrolled through the end of the school year, toward the final month of attendance.

Billing & Payment Policies

Late Payment

Tuition is due on the 25th of each month for the upcoming month. A 5-day grace period is provided. Accounts not paid by the end of the grace period will incur a \$25 late fee. Accounts that remain unpaid may result in suspension of attendance until the account is brought current. Accounts more than 30 days past due may be subject to withdrawal from the program.

Returned Payments

A \$25 fee will be assessed for all returned checks or declined ACH payments in addition to any fees assessed by the financial institution.

Late Pick-Up

Children may be picked up anytime between 12:15 PM and 12:30 PM. Children not picked up by 12:30 PM will incur a \$10 late pick-up fee, plus \$2 per minute beginning at 12:31 PM until the child is picked up. Late pick-up fees will be automatically charged through Brightwheel based on your child's recorded check-out time. Parents are responsible for checking their child out daily to ensure accurate attendance records and billing. If a parent forgets to check their child out, Bayou & Bloom reserves the right to update the check-out time based on staff records. Repeated late pick-ups may result in a conference with the Director and could jeopardize continued enrollment.

Brightwheel Billing

All tuition, fees, and late charges are processed through Brightwheel. Families are responsible for maintaining a valid payment method and ensuring their billing information remains current.

Tuition & Fees

Tuition and fees are subject to change for future school years. Current school-year tuition remains fixed once a child is enrolled. Families will be notified in advance of any changes.

Bayou & Bloom reserves the right to pursue collection of unpaid balances, including reasonable collection costs permitted by law.

Attendance and Arrival

Attendance

Regular attendance is important in helping children build routines, friendships, and confidence. We encourage families to arrive on time and attend consistently whenever possible.

If your child will be absent, please notify the school through Brightwheel before 8:30 AM, whenever possible.

Morning Arrival

Morning car line is from 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM.

Children arriving after 8:45 AM must be escorted into the building by a parent or guardian and checked in at the front entrance. To minimize disruptions to the classroom and preserve the learning environment, children arriving after 9:00 AM will not be admitted unless the late arrival is due to an excused absence, such as a medical appointment or another circumstance approved by the Director.

Check-In

Parents are responsible for checking their child in through Brightwheel each school day. Accurate attendance records are essential for your child's safety and school records.

Tardiness

Consistent tardiness can disrupt the classroom routine and your child's daily experience. We encourage families to arrive during the designated arrival window whenever possible.

Weather Closures

The safety of our children, families, and staff is our highest priority. In the event of severe weather or other emergency conditions, Bayou & Bloom Nature School may delay opening, close early, or cancel school. Families will be notified through Brightwheel as soon as a decision has been made. Please ensure your notifications are enabled and your contact information remains current.

Dismissal & Authorized Pick-Up

Dismissal

Dismissal begins at 12:15 PM and ends promptly at 12:30 PM. To ensure a safe and efficient dismissal process, families should follow the designated car line procedures.

Authorized Pick-Up

Children will only be released to a parent, legal guardian, or individuals listed on the child's emergency contact form. If someone not listed will be picking up your child, a written notification must be provided through Brightwheel before dismissal. Identification will be required before a child is released.

Changes to Pick-Up

If your child's dismissal plans change during the day, please notify the school through Brightwheel or by calling the office before dismissal begins whenever possible.

Child Safety

For the safety of every child, Bayou & Bloom Nature School reserves the right to refuse release of a child if the authorized adult appears impaired or unable to safely transport the child. In such situations, emergency contacts may be contacted, or additional assistance may be requested to ensure the child's safety.

Health & Wellness

Illness

To help maintain a healthy environment for all children and staff, children who are ill should remain at home.

Children should remain home if they have:

- A fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- An unexplained rash
- A contagious illness that may place others at risk
- Any illness that prevents them from comfortably participating in daily school activities

Children must be symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.

If a child becomes ill during the school day, a parent or emergency contact will be notified. Children must be picked up within one hour of notification.

Medication

Bayou & Bloom Nature School does not administer prescription or over-the-counter medications.

If your child requires medication during school hours, please discuss your child's individual needs with the Director prior to enrollment.

Allergies & Medical Conditions

Parents are responsible for informing Bayou & Bloom Nature School of any allergies, medical conditions, dietary restrictions, or other health concerns before enrollment and whenever changes occur.

Health Records & Immunizations

All required enrollment forms, health records, and current immunization records (or approved exemption documentation, if applicable) must be completed and uploaded to Brightwheel before a child may begin attending school.

Parents are responsible for keeping their child's emergency contacts, medical information, and immunization records current throughout the school year.

Health & Wellness

Choking Emergencies & LifeVac

The safety of every child is our highest priority. All Bayou & Bloom staff maintain current Pediatric CPR and First Aid certification and are trained to respond quickly and appropriately in the event of a medical emergency.

Bayou & Bloom maintains a **LifeVac**® airway clearance device on campus as an additional emergency tool in the event of a choking emergency. If a choking emergency occurs, staff will follow established Pediatric CPR and First Aid procedures and, when appropriate, may utilize the LifeVac device as part of the emergency response.

Emergency medical services (911) will be contacted immediately in the event of a serious medical emergency, and parents or emergency contacts will be notified as soon as possible.

Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency, Bayou & Bloom staff will administer appropriate first aid, contact emergency medical services (911) when necessary, and notify a parent or emergency contact as soon as possible. If a parent or emergency contact cannot be reached, Bayou & Bloom staff will act in the best interest of the child and follow the recommendations of emergency medical personnel.

Mandated Reporting

All Bayou & Bloom staff are Louisiana Mandated Reporters and are legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. Reports are made in accordance with Louisiana law.

Behavior & Positive Guidance

Our Philosophy

At Bayou & Bloom Nature School, we believe behavior is a form of communication. Our goal is to guide children with patience, consistency, and respect while teaching age-appropriate social and emotional skills. Teachers use positive guidance strategies to help children learn self-regulation, problem-solving, empathy, and appropriate ways to express their feelings. Children are never subjected to corporal punishment, humiliation, intimidation, or any form of physical or emotional punishment.

Behavior Expectations

Children are expected to participate in a safe and respectful learning environment. Behaviors that place themselves, other children, or staff at risk will be addressed immediately. When appropriate, teachers may use redirection, problem-solving, natural consequences, or a supervised calming space to help children regulate their emotions before returning to activities.

Parent Communication

Families will be informed of significant behavioral concerns and will be asked to partner with staff to support their child's success. When necessary, behavioral incidents will be documented and shared with parents.

Suspension & Termination

Bayou & Bloom Nature School reserves the right to suspend or terminate enrollment if a child's behavior poses a safety risk, significantly disrupts the learning environment, or cannot be safely managed within the program.

Immediate termination may occur in cases of severe or dangerous behavior.

Children who receive three documented behavior write-ups may be subject to suspension or termination at the discretion of the Director.

Bayou & Bloom reserves the right to recommend outside evaluation or additional support if a child's needs exceed what can reasonably be accommodated within our program.

Outdoor Essentials

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing." - Norwegian Saying

To help your child fully enjoy our outdoor learning environment, please provide the following:

- A labeled pair of rain boots is to remain at school throughout the year.
- A yellow Tuffo® rainsuit (available on Amazon) for rainy-day outdoor exploration.
- A complete change of clothes labeled with your child's name.
- Closed-toe sneakers each school day.
- Weather-appropriate clothing for the season.
- A labeled towel and any additional items requested for scheduled water play days.

Please remember: Children should arrive each day dressed in clothing that can get messy. While rain gear helps keep children dry during rainy weather, it is not intended to protect clothing from paint, mud, dirt, grass stains, or other hands-on learning experiences.

Bayou & Bloom Nature School is not responsible for damaged, stained, or soiled clothing resulting from normal school activities. We believe that messy clothes are often a sign of meaningful learning, exploration, and fun.

Family Partnership

Family Partnership

At Bayou & Bloom Nature School, we believe a strong partnership between home and school creates the best environment for children to learn and grow. Open communication, mutual respect, and family involvement are an important part of our school community.

Communication

Brightwheel is our primary form of communication. Families are responsible for checking Brightwheel regularly for announcements, invoices, daily updates, and important school information.

Please ensure your contact information remains current throughout the school year.

Classroom Cameras

Bayou & Bloom provides live-stream classroom cameras for parent viewing during school hours.

Camera access is intended for live viewing only. Recording, photographing, sharing, or distributing camera footage is strictly prohibited.

Each family may register up to two email addresses for camera access.

Bayou & Bloom reserves the right to suspend or permanently revoke camera privileges if this policy is violated.

Volunteers

We love having families involved in our school community. Throughout the year, opportunities may be available to volunteer in classrooms, assist with special events, participate in field trips, or help with school projects.

All volunteers must follow Bayou & Bloom's safety policies and any applicable background check requirements.

Family Expectations

We ask every family to partner with us by:

- Communicating respectfully with staff and other families.
- Reading Brightwheel announcements and school communications.
- Arriving and picking up on time.
- Supporting school policies and classroom expectations.
- Working together with teachers to provide the best experience for every child.

Together, we can create a positive, supportive, and joyful learning environment for every child.

Family Involvement

Bayou & Bloom Nature School thrives because of the support of our families. Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities to get involved, and we welcome parents, grandparents, and family members to share their time, talents, and skills with our school community.

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Assisting with classroom activities
- Chaperoning field trips
- Reading books to the children
- Sharing a special talent, hobby, or career
- Gardening and outdoor projects
- Building or assembling furniture and playground materials
- Helping with campus improvement projects
- Assisting with school events and fundraisers
- Donating classroom supplies or materials through our Harvest Basket program

All volunteers must follow Bayou & Bloom's safety procedures and remain under the supervision of school staff while children are present. Bayou & Bloom reserves the right to require a criminal background check for volunteers participating in ongoing or recurring volunteer opportunities. We believe every family has something valuable to contribute, and we are grateful for the many ways our community helps our school grow.

Harvest Basket & Community Contributions

One of the ways families can support our school community is through our Harvest Basket program. Throughout the year, families may have the opportunity to sign up to contribute items that help support classroom activities, snack time, gardening projects, special events, and other school experiences. Examples may include fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers, seeds, classroom materials, or other requested items.

Participation is completely voluntary and never required. These contributions help enrich our program and provide meaningful experiences for the children while fostering a strong sense of community among our families.

We are grateful for the many ways our families choose to support Bayou & Bloom throughout the year.

Field Trips & Special Events

Field Trips & Special Events

At Bayou & Bloom Nature School, we believe meaningful experiences extend beyond the classroom. Throughout the school year, we plan to offer monthly or bi-monthly field trips, special visitors, and unique learning experiences that enrich our curriculum and create lasting memories for our children.

Field trips may take place on campus through special presentations or at off-site locations where families will meet us.

Participation

Families will receive advance notice of upcoming field trips and special events through Brightwheel.

Some events may require a signed permission form or additional information before a child may participate.

Field Trip Fees

Field trips and special events are not included in tuition and may require an additional fee. Costs will vary depending on the activity.

Participation in optional field trips is encouraged but is not required.

Transportation

For off-site field trips, families are responsible for providing transportation to and from the designated location unless otherwise communicated by Bayou & Bloom.

Children may only leave with and return with their parent or legal guardian unless prior written authorization has been provided.

Parent Participation

Parents and family members may have opportunities to volunteer during select field trips and special events.

Parents attending a field trip are responsible only for the supervision, behavior, and transportation of their own child, unless otherwise approved by the Director. All volunteers are expected to follow Bayou & Bloom policies and the directions of school staff throughout the event.

*Field trips and special events are subject to change or cancellation due to weather, enrollment, scheduling, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Emergency Procedures & Safety

Emergency Procedures & Safety

The safety and well-being of every child is our highest priority. Bayou & Bloom Nature School has established emergency procedures and staff training to help ensure children are cared for quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness

Staff members participate in regular emergency preparedness training and practice emergency procedures with children throughout the school year. Emergency plans are reviewed and updated as needed to help ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

Emergency procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Fire evacuation
- Severe weather and tornado sheltering
- Lockdown and secure campus procedures
- Medical emergencies
- Emergency evacuation and relocation

Emergency Communication

If an emergency occurs during the school day, families will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so through Brightwheel and/or by telephone.

Please help us by ensuring your emergency contacts and phone numbers remain current in Brightwheel throughout the school year.

Emergency Contacts

Each child must have at least two emergency contacts on file who are authorized to pick up the child if a parent or guardian cannot be reached.

Parents are responsible for notifying Bayou & Bloom immediately if emergency contact information changes.

Fire & Emergency Drills

To help children become familiar with emergency procedures, Bayou & Bloom conducts routine emergency drills throughout the school year in accordance with applicable safety requirements. Staff guides children through each drill in a calm, reassuring, and age-appropriate manner.

Campus Safety

For the safety of our children and staff:

- Exterior doors remain secured during school hours.
- Visitors must check in before entering the building.
- Children are released only to authorized individuals.
- Staff maintains current Pediatric CPR, First Aid, and Louisiana Mandated Reporter certifications.
- All staff members have successfully completed criminal background checks prior to employment.

Lunch & Personal Belongings

Lunch & Snacks

Children should bring a labeled lunch each school day.

To support healthy eating habits, we ask families to send nutritious, well-balanced lunches. Please do not send candy, soda, or juice with your child.

Each child should also bring a labeled water bottle filled with water each day. **Water is the only beverage permitted during the school day.**

Lunches should arrive ready to eat. Please avoid sending foods that require refrigeration, heating, or extensive preparation. Teachers are unable to heat meals or prepare lunches during the school day.

Please notify the school of any food allergies or dietary restrictions. Bayou & Bloom Nature School reserves the right to restrict certain food items when necessary to help ensure the safety of all children.

Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays at Bayou & Bloom Nature School!

Families who wish to celebrate their child's birthday at school should coordinate with their child's teacher in advance.

Birthday treats must be store-bought and individually packaged to help ensure the safety of all children. While not required, we encourage families to choose dye-free treats whenever possible.

To help provide a safe environment for all children, Bayou & Bloom Nature School reserves the right to restrict certain food items or treats based on classroom allergies, dietary restrictions, or other health concerns.

Birthday celebrations are intended to be simple and classroom-friendly. Party favors, balloons, and large decorations should be saved for celebrations at home.

Personal Belongings

Please label all personal belongings, including backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, jackets, sweaters, rain boots, Tuffo® rainsuits, and extra clothing.

Bayou & Bloom Nature School is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal belongings.

Children should leave toys, electronics, money, jewelry, and other valuable or irreplaceable items at home unless specifically requested by their teacher for a classroom activity or transition support.

Lost & Found

Items left at school will be placed in the Lost & Found. Unclaimed items may be donated periodically throughout the school year.

Photo & Video Release

Throughout the school year, Bayou & Bloom Nature School may photograph or record children participating in classroom activities, outdoor exploration, field trips, and special events. These photos and videos help us document learning, celebrate milestones, and share the joy of our school community.

Photographs or videos may be used for:

- Brightwheel classroom updates shared with enrolled families
- Classroom displays and documentation
- School newsletters
- Printed promotional materials
- Bayou & Bloom's website
- Official Bayou & Bloom social media accounts
- Grant applications and annual reports (when appropriate)

A separate Photo & Video Release form is completed during enrollment. Families may update their consent preferences at any time by contacting the Director.

Bayou & Bloom will never sell photographs or use images in a manner inconsistent with the permissions granted by the child's parent or legal guardian.

Photo & Video Release

Classroom Camera Access

Bayou & Bloom Nature School offers secure live-stream classroom cameras to help families feel connected to their child's day.

Parents or legal guardians are welcome to request camera access at any time during the school year. Each family may register up to two email addresses for camera access. Camera access is intended solely for live viewing during school hours.

To protect the privacy of all children and staff, the following are strictly prohibited:

- Recording or photographing the live stream
- Screen recording or taking screenshots
- Sharing camera access with anyone else
- Posting classroom images or videos on social media
- Downloading or distributing classroom footage

Bayou & Bloom reserves the right to suspend or permanently revoke camera privileges if these expectations are violated.

Parent Photography at School Events

Families are welcome to take photographs of their own child during school events, celebrations, and performances.

Out of respect for the privacy of all families, we ask parents to avoid posting photographs or videos that clearly identify other children unless permission has been obtained from those families.

Privacy & Confidentiality

The privacy and safety of every child is extremely important to us.

Bayou & Bloom staff will make every reasonable effort to honor each family's photo and media preferences.

Children whose families decline photo permissions will continue to participate fully in all school activities and will never be excluded from classroom experiences.

Additional Information

Potty Learning

We understand that every child develops at their own pace and are happy to partner with families during the potty-learning process.

Parents are responsible for providing extra clothing, diapers or pull-ups (if applicable), and wipes as needed. Accidents will be handled with patience, dignity, and encouragement.

If a child's toileting needs require one-on-one care beyond what can reasonably be provided within our program, the Director will work with the family to determine appropriate next steps.

Custody & Legal Documentation

Bayou & Bloom Nature School will follow all court-ordered custody agreements when a current copy of the legal documentation has been provided to the Director.

Without legal documentation on file, both parents will be considered to have equal access to their child, school records, and school information.

Parents are responsible for notifying the Director immediately of any changes to custody arrangements or legal restrictions.

Emergency Contact Information

Each child must have at least two emergency contacts on file.

Parents are responsible for keeping all contact information, emergency contacts, medical information, and authorized pick-up information current in Brightwheel throughout the school year.

Parent Conduct

Bayou & Bloom Nature School is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for children, families, and staff. We ask all parents and visitors to communicate respectfully with staff and other families at all times. Harassment, threats, intimidation, discrimination, profanity, or disruptive behavior toward staff, volunteers, children, or other families will not be tolerated and may result in removal from school property and/or termination of enrollment.

Community Resources

The following community resources are provided for your convenience.

Bayou & Bloom Nature School

Address: 109 Smart Place, Slidell, LA 70458

Phone: (504) 777-9118

Emergency Services Phone Number

Emergency (Police, Fire, EMS)

911

Poison Control

1-800-222-1222

Community Resource

Phone Number

Slidell Police Department (Non-Emergency)

(985) 643-3131

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

(985) 646-4371

Ochsner Medical Center – North Shore

(985) 649-7070

Ochsner Urgent Care – Slidell

(985) 639-3777

Please ensure your emergency contacts, medical information, and authorized pick-up information remain current in Brightwheel throughout the school year.

Bayou & Bloom Nature School reserves the right to revise or update policies and procedures as needed. Families will be notified of significant changes through Brightwheel.

2026 - 2027

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

*Rooted in Play.
Growing with Nature.*

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

IMPORTANT DATES

August 17
Nov. 23- 27
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1
Jan 4
Feb. 8 - 12
March 26- 30
May 14

First Day of School
Thanksgiving Break
Winter Break
Back to School
Mardi Gras Break
Easter Break
Last Day of School

● First Day ■ No School / Closed ★ Last Day

All closure dates are subject to change