COMMUNITY-BASED

As a cooperative, we are a community-based organization in every aspect of our operation, as well as our philosophy. Our school is run by a combination of committed member families, professional teachers and administrators, who work together to create a warm, responsive and caring environment for our children. Cooperative involvement enables the children to see their families as important and involved partners in their school, and models for them a civic notion of people working together to create and better the institutions that serve a community. All BFS families are full voting members of the Co-op and are expected to honor five basic member requirements:

1. **PAY A ONE TIME MEMBERSHIP FEE**
   
   This is a one-time fee to "join" the coop. It is per family and would be due upon registration (when you accept your offer letter). This fee would be refundable only upon request once your child has left the school and we have determined you have no outstanding payments.

2. **FULFILLING YOUR COOP WORK REQUIREMENT**
   
   Each family's contribution is an important part to the success of our cooperative community. Not only to its governance, but also in its social value of fostering friendships - especially for new members. As part of our cooperative, each family must be an active member by fulfilling their coop work requirement. All jobs typically require an average of 2-3 hours per month, but may be higher or lower at times, depending on your duties and responsibilities. Please refer to these detailed descriptions before selecting how you would like to fulfill your coop work responsibilities.

3. **ATTENDING GENERAL MEETINGS**
   
   There are 4 General Meetings of the membership held each year. Families are encouraged to attend all meetings but must attend 3 of the 4 (there is a financial penalty for non-pre-k families who miss more than 1). These meetings typically include classroom reports from the Directors, a curriculum presentation and a Steering Report. At these meetings, members may be called upon to vote on various important issues as a group.

4. **SUBSCRIBE/READ BFS COMMUNITY EMAILS**
   
   Our email lists help facilitate the communication between members of our community. It is required that both parents must individually be on their child’s classroom list, the BFS parent email list and any special group you may belong to (Pre-K families or a committee).

5. **VOLUNTEER WHENEVER POSSIBLE!**
   
   A big part of building community is volunteering! This may mean volunteering to help out or staff an event, request donations of merchandise or services for the Silent Auction/Raffle, or by donating items to be sold at our annual Stoop Sale. Parents are encouraged to chaperone class trips or assist with classroom parties or activities. Parents may also be called upon to develop a classroom project, or to facilitate the exploration of a classroom investigation.