First Grade Hands On Learning Field Trip Programs

Grand Rapids First Grade Fields Trips Available Now!

We are moving to an online system. Please visit our website and fill out a survey to initialize your program request.

Blandford Nature Center is pleased to partner with GRPS to ensure every first and third grade student has a hands-on learning experience in nature. This program is made possible with generous funding from the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation.

Our nature-based field trip programs are designed to meet state and Next Generation Science Standards. Using the 143 acre outdoor learning lab at BNC we look to educate, engage and empower your students by providing hands on education experiences that can positively effect your student outcomes and heightening their natural sense of inquiry.

BLANDFORD | nature center
First Grade Science Discipline: Life Sciences

Animal Adaptations: October, November, February—May  1.5 hrs.
How do organisms survive in their environment? Students will learn that animal adaptations, whether it’s an unique trait or survival strategy, play a critical role in an animal’s outcome in life.
  
  **Standard:** Heredity
  **Statement:** Observable Characteristics—Animals share many, but not all characteristics of their parents. **Expectation:** Identify characteristics.

Seeds and Plants: October—November, April—May  1.5 hrs.
A focus on seed movement has students exploring fields and woods, uncovering secrets of plant and animal interdependence.
  
  **Standard:** Organization of Living Things
  **Statements:** Life Requirements-Organisms have basic needs. Life Cycles-Plants have life cycles. **Expectations:** Identify the needs of plants. Describe the life cycle of plants.

Birds of a Feather: April—May  1.5 hrs.
Discover the amazing world of birds during the most active time in their lives. As birds call for mates, build nests and raise their young, students learn how to identify distinguishing characteristics using observation and role-play. Meet one of our resident birds of prey.
  
  **Standard:** Organization of Living Things
  **Statements:** Life Requirements-Organisms have basic needs. Life Cycles—Animals have life cycles. **Expectations:** Identify the needs of animals. Describe the life cycle of animals.

First Grade Science Discipline: Earth Science

Growing Up Healthy: October & May  1.5 hrs.
Investigate the Blandford Farm using the five senses. See plants growing, hear pollinators buzzing, and experience what it is like to be a bee, taste vegetables, and smell nectar-rich flowers.
  
  **Standards:** Earth Systems and Solid Earth
  **Statements:** Solar Energy-The sun warms the land, air, water and helps plants grow. Earth Materials-Some Earth materials have properties which sustain plant and animal life. **Expectations:** Identify the sun as the most important source of heat. Demonstrate the importance of sunlight and warmth in plant growth. Describe how Earth materials contribute to the growth of plant and animal life.

Sugarbush: March  1.5 hrs.
A lively puppet show begins our exciting exploration of maple syrup production. Investigate the entire sugaring process through stories, activities, and a short hike to the Sugarhouse to understand how human interaction and use of natural resources affect the environment.
  
  **Standard:** Solid Earth
  **Statement:** Earth Materials-Some Earth materials have properties which sustain plant and animal life. **Expectation:** Describe how Earth materials contribute to the growth of plant and animal life.