

THE CAREER EXPLORATION FIELD TRIP LUNENBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brief Overview

The Career Exploration Field Trip program in the Lunenburg School District took gave students an opportunity to investigate their career options during visits to eleven different locations. The district also purchased twelve video field trips for math/science career investigations in the 7th and 8th grades.

Each field trip was incorporated into the current curriculum endeavor. The purpose was to expand student awareness of

- the full range of workplace opportunities,
- the expectations for opportunities in that field in the future,
- the responsibilities of the jobs, and
- the paths that exist for getting to these positions.

These opportunities provide a foundation for students to learn what work exists so that they can make better choices in their personal and career preparation as the years go by.

Relationship to Vermont Framework

The Career Exploration Field Trips are a School to Work activity in the classification *Educational Visit/Tour*, which is defined as a class visit or tour of a specific learning environment that exposes students to new opportunities. The Student Learning Areas and Learning Objectives applicable to this activity, include:

Personal and Career Preparation,

- Understand the concept of expectations and standards for work and demonstrate such life skills as responsibility, cooperation, and accept/valuing diversity.
- Understand that all work is valuable

Self Knowledge

- Understand that change will be the norm in their lives and in the workplace
- Understand how and why change occurs and how to deal with change effectively
- Refine and use skills to communicate and interact with others successfully

Knowledge to Work

- Be aware of work's relationship to the needs and functions of society
- Understand the connections between learning and the world of work
- Increase knowledge of the broad range of careers available without gender/disability barriers

- Understand that learning and work are ongoing, and that all work, paid or unpaid, has value
- Understand the connection between education, training, economics, careers and society
- Understand secondary and post-secondary options

Each individual Career Exploration Field Trip addressed specific Fields of Knowledge standards that related directly to the curriculum that was being taught in the classroom.

The Vital Results that were addressed in all of the Career Exploration Field Trips include:

3.15 Career Choices

Students know about various careers. This is evident when students:

- a. Describe the types of work done by their parents or other members of the community.
 - aa. Collect information about careers, and experience careers directly or indirectly through classroom work and community experiences such as Job shadowing, working with a mentor, or performing community service.

Budget

This project was originally funded with a regional STW grant for \$3,443.85, *which was matched* with additional In-Kind support valued at \$3450.00. Additional funding was received from the Lunenburg-Gilman PTF which helped to offset some of the transportation expenses. The trip to the Fairbanks Museum was paid through school budget funds. The entrance fee into the Shelburne Museum was funded by a Title VI grant in the amount of \$328.00 as was the bus transportation fee in the amount of \$500.00. The current school budget co-curricular dollars have been increased for this budget year so classes will be able to complete more of these trips.

Challenges

The greatest challenge for this project was coordination of all of the trips. Teachers needed to learn to develop ways to address Vital Result standard 3.15, Career Choices. Career education in the elementary grades was seldom addressed. Teachers needed assistance in developing methods to integrate career education into their current curriculum and not perceive it as an add on.

Descriptions of Career Exploration Field Trips

Pre K - Farming, Colby Farm, Lunenburg Vermont

The preschool class traveled to a local farm to visit a barn, orchard, and garden. Students were given an opportunity to collect eggs in the barn and view the fruits in the orchards and vegetables in the garden. The students picked butternuts, green and sticky from the trees. Student discussed what it would be like to be a farmer in Vermont.

First Grade - Montshire Museum, Norwich, Vermont

The first grade students traveled to the Montshire Museum in Norwich, Vermont. The students were able to use the many varied activities at this hands-on museum. The students were able to touch a snake, operate computers, and view different aspects of nature. The students were told about the different positions within the museum. Students learned that many of the workers had a science background. They also learned that many of the workers had college degrees.

First and Second Grade - Cabot Creamery Cabot, Vermont and Eaton Farm, Lunenburg, Vermont

The first and second grade classes visited the Cabot Creamery and the Eaton farm while studying a unit on agriculture. The students were taken on tours of both of the facilities. Students discussed the different career opportunities presented in the facilities. At the Cabot Creamery, the students were told that all employees needed to have at least a high school diploma. The employees that did the testing for the creamery had college degrees.

Third Grade - Post Office, Lunenburg, Vermont and Simpson Paper Mill, -Gilman, Vermont

The third grade class at the Lunenburg school was studying the town of Lunenburg. As part of the unit of study, the class learned about different types of jobs that their parents and other people had. Students interviewed people to gather information, then wrote a short paper on their findings.

The class visited the Lunenburg Post Office. Prior to the field trip, the class developed a list of questions pertaining to employment that the students could ask the postmaster. This trip was very informative, and the class showed much interest in the many different types of jobs needed to be done in order for the post office to run efficiently.

The class also visited the Simpson Paper Mill in Oilman, Vermont. Prior to this visit the class again prepared a list of questions to ask. The tour of this mill was extremely educational. Students learned of the many different types of jobs that were at the mill and the level of education that was needed. They learned about safety issues within a mill environment. They also learned that the more education they had, the better their chances were to a well paying job.

Fourth and Sixth Grade Classes - Rock of Ages Granite Quarry Barre, Vermont

The fourth and sixth grade classes visited the Rock of Ages Granite Quarry in Barre, Vermont. The sixth graders had been studying geology at the time. In particular, they were looking at what every day materials were made of and where we get those materials. The students had also been studying different types of rock, how they were formed, and where they exist in the state of Vermont. The fourth grade students were studying types of rocks, minerals, mining, and technology. They were also looking at Vermont geographical features and natural resources.

During the tour of the quarry the students saw how huge blocks of granite were blasted out of walls of the quarry and then loaded onto trucks to be taken to a cutting building. The students went into the manufacturing plant where the granite was made into memorials, engraved signs, pillars, etc. The tour ended with a visit to the gift shop where the students were given an opportunity to speak with the manager of the quarry. The manager went over the different jobs at Rock of Ages and the education needed to work in those fields.

Fifth Grade - Caledonian Record, St. Johnsbury Vermont and Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont

The fifth grade class participated in the "Newspaper In Education" program. Weekly activities were done in the classroom with donated copies of a local newspaper. As a culmination of this year long exposure, two off-campus field trips and an in-school activity were offered.

The class traveled to the Shelburne Museum to learn- how a paper was prepared and published in the late 1800s. The focus was largely on the role of an apprentice at that time, but knowledge of the actual printing process was gained. The following week the class toured the *Caledonian-Record* where they were able to watch the process and contrast the process, see the advancements, and learn of the various employment opportunities. The final activity was to have a representative of the paper come to the school and guide the students through the process of composing a front -page using authentic materials. All of these trips focused on the different career opportunities in the printing and newspaper industry. Students were able to see the changes that took place in those positions over the last hundred years.

Sixth Grade - Ben and Jerry's, Waterbury Vermont

The sixth grade class traveled to Ben and Jerry's ice cream plant located in Waterbury, Vermont. The students took part in a Cow to Cone study unit which was developed by Ben and Jerry's. The students were given a guided tour of the ice cream plant. The tour focused on the jobs of the individuals who worked at the plant. The students were given an opportunity to ask additional questions about Ben and Jerry's. The tour ended with a sample of the famous ice cream.

Seventh Grade - Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury Vermont

The seventh grade class traveled to the Fairbanks Museum to hear three different presenters discuss their careers. The students heard a presentation by a biologist, a meteorologist, and an astronomer. The students were given an opportunity to ask questions about the different positions. Students returned to the classroom and processed the information that they had heard and selected a position that they felt they would like. The students wrote a piece describing what career they would like and why they would like it.

Seventh and Eighth Grade - Interactions “Real Math - Real Careers” Videos

This video series takes students beyond the walls of the classroom - all over the country and around the world - to discover how athletes, artists, scientists, and engineers use math, science, and technology to make their jobs a reality. The videos align with the math, science, technology, physical education, and music curriculums.

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