

Project Based Learning *Field Trip Class Project* Spring 2020

Dear Field Trip Class families, ...

All Partnership Classes function by way of a Project Based Learning seat time waiver to receive State Funds. That being said, all Partnership classes need to provide some sort of 'Evidence of Learning' to prove accountability to those that provide the funding; a reasonable request really. I am sure that you have heard this talked about in ALL of your classes.

Field Trip Class actually 'fits' into the Project Based Learning approach very naturally. Project Based Learning ... values using EXPERIENCE to prompt INQUIRY from the student, ... which prompts further ENGAGEMENT with some aspect of the experience for the student, which then prompts DISCOVERY, which prompts further LEARNING; and the 'snowball' effect of discovery and learning unfolds quite naturally. It really fits right in with Home Schooling, Doesn't it?

I love being able to provide Field Trip opportunities ... so that you, as families ... can WONDER together *before, during, and after* each trip; such valuable learning is being assimilated and pieced together during these trips. I just KNOW it! But, somehow we have to be able to 'harness' some aspect of that learning ... and prove that it is happening. Your Field Trip Class student will have to provide a 'Project' that comes about as a result of one or many of these Field Trip Class experiences. You have a LOT of flexibility in this to follow the interests of your child/family in regard to a trip. You may come up with your OWN project ... or follow one of my suggestions below.

Here are some of my ideas for acceptable Projects your child could submit to me at semester's end:: (expectations for all projects are AGE appropriate - don't stress. Keep it simple, but make sure it is done with excellence in mind)

1. A simple journal notebook of the trips each child attended/ including drawings, or photographs of some aspect of each trip (at least 4 trips) Have them write a few sentences or a paragraph (depending on age) describing their experience at each trip location and some things the trip made them 'wonder' about. Please include the location and date of each trip. If you have more than one child in the class ... they could work on this together. Just have each one Identify their input (picture or text) for at least 4 trips. Use your imagination here and make it enjoyable. (you can scan your hard copy, or submit a pdf of your online version at semester's end)

2. Your child could also submit a list of all the trips they attended (at least 4) ... and then submit a set (3 or 4) of questions that each trip 'prompted' for them to want to discover more about. Use your family discussion of each Trip ... to help on this one.. They should then research and find information (in an age appropriate way) to answer one of their questions in depth (again in an age appropriate way). They can then submit a picture copy of such to me at semester's end.

3. If one of the trips prompts your child to want to learn MORE about some ONE thing, they can do a project about THAT thing.

It can be a diorama, a pictorial or written report, a play, or drama, write and perform a song, a piece of artwork, sew a piece of clothing, build something related to the trip, or an Oral presentation to your family and friends. Please make sure and name the trip and location that prompted the project. (scan or video to submit)

Example:

After visiting Sauder Village I wanted to learn more about making brooms from scratch So I am going to read up on it and try to make one. I wanted to learn how to make yarn ... so I am going to try and find a way to make some. I wanted to learn how to sew clothes that they might wear ... and so I am going to try and make a historical outfit. (each of these questions can prompt a project for you to them submit)

Example:

After the ZOO trip I WONDERED: How are the Zoo animals cared for in the winter? ...Are they taken to a warmer climate for the winter?? What kind of education do you have to have to work at a Zoo?... You could research any question that you have ... and make a project from it that showcases further learning. Perhaps a certain 'animal' caught your child's attention and they want to learn more about it Do some kind of project/written or media report on that. You just have to be able to document it and submit it online.

Example:

After seeing a particular piece of Art at 'Art Prize' ... I want to read about HOW that artist makes that ... and try it myself ... and from THAT ... a 'Project' is born!

These are just a FEW of my ideas for you to be able to prove 'Evidence of Learning' in Field Trip Class.

Please feel free to use any of them. I also welcome your imagination as you go through these trips and experiences with your child/student to create your own 'PROJECT" together based on something they loved or wondered about on a Trip. You may 'run your Project Ideas' by me ... if you are feeling unsure about them. I look forward to hearing your ideas. Keep them 'age appropriate' ... and FUN for each child.

Each actual 'Project' will be kept by you with scanned, video, or audio evidence of such being submitted to me near semester's end.

Thanks for journeying with me,!

Becky Halcombe
Field Trip Coordinator
Berrien Springs Partnership

