

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Memorandum

TO: Board of Education
FROM: L. Chris Richardson, Ph.D., Superintendent
RE: Table File Items for October 28, 2013, Regular School Board Meeting

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports.

2. Seventh Grade Environmental Education.

Enclosed in the table file is the power point presentation.

VII. Superintendent's Report

B. Items for Consent Grouping

2. Personnel Items.


a. Appointments *

17. Paul Bernhard, Head Gymnastics Coach beginning 11/11/2013 – 02/22/2014; Level A.
18. Darren Lofquist, Asst. Boys Swim/Dive Coach at the Middle School beginning 11/25/2013 – 03/01/2014; Level E, 70% Stipend.
19. Constance Menssen, Long Term Substitute Building Nurse at St. Dominic's/Prairie Creek Health Services beginning 11/11/2013 – 01/31/2014; Step 1 - \$22.40/hour.
20. Sarah VandenAkker, Middle School Student Council Co-Advisor beginning 10/28/2013; Level I, 50% Stipend.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

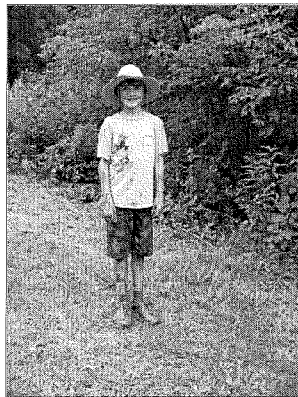
26. Dean Huschle, Class I EA-Greeter at Longfellow, add one week additional hours (6 hours/day) beginning 10/28/2013 – 11/01/2013.
27. Easton Martin – CS Floor Hockey Instructor, Add CS Floor Hockey Supervisor at the Middle School - \$10.00/hour.
28. Kathy Mellstrom, Class IV EA at the Middle School for 6.5 hours/day, change to Class IV EA at the MS for 6.75 hours/day beginning 8/26/2013.

*Conditional offers of employment are subject to successful completion of a criminal background check.




2013

**Northfield Middle School / Community Services
7th Grade Environmental Education Field Experiences**



Presented by:
Erin Mayberry,
Director of Community
Services
and
Jeff Pesta,
Middle School Principal



**Community Services Trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
August 21-23**

Pros:

The weather was very comfortable and pesky insects had virtually no impact.

78 students attended and four boys went on a waiting list.

Amy Allin applied her wonderful background knowledge as the staff coordinator to insure a successful trip.


Experienced staff chaperones and wonderful parent chaperones had an enjoyable experience.

The net financial impact for Community Services was better than neutral.

86% of the participants rated the trip as good or excellent and 100% said they would recommend the summer trip.

There were a few, distinct advantages to being the only school on site.

Other times in the summer are available and more advanced planning time will be available in the future.



**Community Services Trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
August 21-23**

Cons:

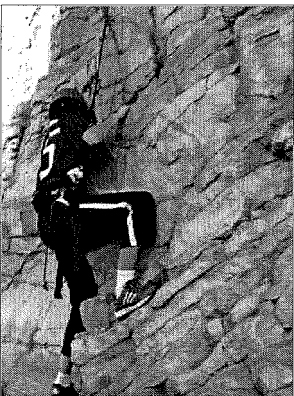
A new staff coordinator will need to be hired for next year.

The cost per participant increased from \$180 to \$220 to cover the extra logistical expense for Community Services. Scholarships were available.

We discovered that waivers, medical information and other paperwork were easier to do when school was in session and there was regular access to the students and their parents.

There were a few, minor disadvantages to being the only school group on site.

Participating students needed to attend school picture day and iPad distribution prior to leaving for the trip. Family vacations and camps prevented some other students from participating.



**Day Trip to Base Camp at Ft. Snelling
October 3 & 8**

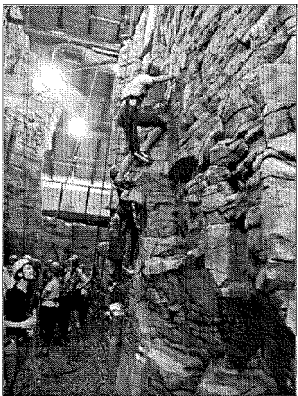
Pros:

Base Camp can accommodate 150-180 students per session. 321 NMS students attended this trip on one of the two days.

The trip was cost neutral.

Base Camp is typically conducted partially indoors and outdoors. The site has the capability to operate all activities indoors in any season.

Students were actively engaged throughout the day with no unproductive down time.

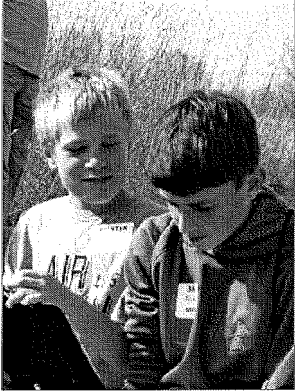


**Day Trip to Base Camp at Ft. Snelling
October 3 & 8**

Cons:

A handful of students chose to skip the climbing activity.

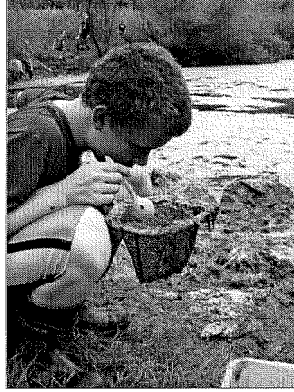
The location near the airport is a fair distance from school. It is not convenient to return students during the event for any issue and traffic could impact arrival or return time for after school buses.



**Day Trip to River Bend Nature Center in Faribault
October 3 & 8**

Pros:

- Convenient, spacious location. 323 NMS students attended this trip on one of the two days.
- Quality environmental science instruction combined with NMS staff led activities.
- RBNC is willing to customize additional programming; including adventure or team building activities.
- The trip was cost neutral.



**Day Trip to River Bend Nature Center in Faribault
October 3 & 8**

Cons:

- The first day featured rainy, cool weather. Many students ignored directions and failed to bring rain gear.
- RBNC staff discouraged NMS staff from bringing students into the main building when lightning was sighted in the general area.
- The Carleton Upper Arboretum portion of the trip was cancelled the first day due to muddy conditions.
- This year, NMS staff was responsible for planning and leading a significant portion of the activities.

Day Trips - General Observations

Students received both environmental education and team building activities to match the primary goals of the day trips.

Despite persistent communication efforts, 30 students did not bring in permission slips and therefore could not attend either day trip. They received alternate instruction/activities at school with similar learning objectives. A fair amount of preparation was required to schedule, prepare and lead these activities.

All students and 7th grade staff participated in either the day trips or the alternate activities. Shared-time St. Dominic students were able to fully participate.

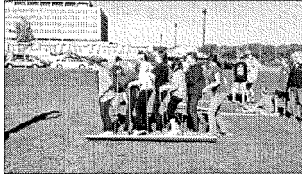
The Carleton buckthorn component is most likely not a feasible part of future trips due to the current status of the general project.

44 partial scholarships and five full scholarships were requested from the pool of 323 participants. These were all covered thanks to the generous support of the Myrtle Houston Environmental Education Trust Fund.

The consensus among participating staff members was that the Base Camp day trip should be reserved immediately for next year and that the environmental education trip would actually work better by setting up all of the activities on the Northfield Public Schools campus. This would reduce the cost for students down to approximately \$15 and include 100% of the students in the educational programming component.

Amy Allin and Lisa Hovden did an outstanding job as trip planners and are willing to continue on.

The current 6th grade class has 296 students. Applying historical trends, the projection for next year's 7th grade class size would be 320 students.



Photos courtesy of Amy Allin and Jeff Pesta