

Relating to HB 2561

Outdoor School is an extremely positive experience for Reynolds 6th grade students. As a 6th grade teacher, I witnessed first hand what a impact Outdoor School had on my students. Prior to Outdoor School we had studied the ecosystems of the world. We discussed the habitat of organisms and how the relationship between them plays an important role in survival. Going to Outdoor School was an opportunity for students to see a temperate rain forest and be able to see how everything relates. My students loved Outdoor School. For many of them, this was the first time they had been out in a forest even though it is 45 minutes from school. They learned about how the soil and plants are connected. They got to see and touch a skeleton of a deer in the forest. They learned more in the three days we were there than I could have taught them in the classroom. They loved the hands on learning. Many students said they preferred seeing things for real instead of in a textbook. I had a number of students who did very little work in school. Two students, in particular, had multiple parent conferences to try and help them reach their potential in the classroom. They were reluctant to do any work and behavior was an issue. These two students shined at Outdoor School, far beyond my expectations. While there, they were a model student. They loved learning outdoors. They participated in everything and knew the answers. They paid attention to the student leaders and respected them. These two students were chosen for the final ceremonies at Outdoor School because they excelled while they were there. Honestly, I was concerned that they would revert back to their old school behaviors when we returned. Upon returning to school, they still continued to get their work done. They both did great presentations to the class about what they had learned at Outdoor School. They are both looking forward in the future to being student leaders. Outdoor School effects students on many different levels but when I asked my students who wanted to be a Student Leader in high school, all of them raised their hands. They wanted to stay a whole week but the three days we had at Outdoor School was fantastic. Kids came back to school singing songs, being friendly to everyone in the classroom, and having learned valuable knowledge that will help them continue on in Science.

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