



## **Educational Benefits of Field Trips**

Adam Kreischer, Principal, League Elementary

There are many ways to educate a child. The teachers of the Norwalk City School District are excellent at planning and delivering in-class lessons. Another avenue we use in an effort to give students multiple opportunities to learn is place-based learning. The things children see and experience on field trips can increase their motivation for learning. Being out and about in the community and seeing how adults are using their educations can inspire students.

Field trips result in greater appreciation and respect for the topics explored. It also results in increased understanding and builds interest and care. School field trips give students more opportunities for hands-on learning. For example, instead of just reading about the war of 1812, our students get to visit Perry's Monument. While there, they will experience 1812 cooking styles, 1812 singers and performers, musket demonstrations, and observe a cannonade! Instead of only studying about landforms in the classroom, our students get to explore Seneca Caverns. Also, all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Huron County get to experience many hands on agricultural activities related to their science curriculum at the Soil and Water Conservation Day. In addition to these trips, COSI On Wheels will visit our school, and students will participate in numerous hands on experiments learning about the "Incredible Human Machine". These field trips are shared social experiences that give students a chance to explore novel things in an authentic setting.

Some of the trips we go on are thanks to transportation grants. Also, 4<sup>th</sup> grade is the year that students get into all national parks for free. They can get a pass that will provide free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and more. This is for all students nationwide from September 1<sup>st</sup> of their 4<sup>th</sup> grade year through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Parents and guardians can learn more about this program by visiting [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov).

Field trips are particularly important for our economically disadvantaged students, as they provide students with unique opportunities that level the playing field. Field trips give these students equal opportunity to experience things outside of the classroom that their families may not be able to afford. A field trip can also be the first trip a student takes without their parents, so it builds independence. Lastly, many of our students don't make a connection unless they experience things first hand. Field trips connect the dots for students by providing real experiences related to all content areas. The field trips we take enrich and expand on the amazing classroom instruction our teachers provide.