

PROGRAM:

Summer Academy

OBJECTIVES:

Provide middle school students an opportunity to explore careers that demonstrate why studying math and science is essential.

LOCATION:

Meadow Brook and John Sager Schools in Walla Walla, WA

DESCRIPTION:

The GEAR UP Summer Academy was available for College Place middle school students for three weeks, between June 15th and July 3rd between 8:00 a.m. and Noon. Two district math/science teachers taught the classes.

Academy Theme: Water, CAD & Space

The program included a number of field trips along with classroom time and photo journaling. Many experiential activities were incorporated into classroom time.

The classroom followed this general itinerary:

8:00 – Introduction, including day’s overview and review of key words/vocabulary.

8:30 – 10:00 – Time dedicated to photo journaling prior day’s experiences, instruction in the day’s subject area, and/or getting better acquainted with software and equipment.

10:00 – 10:20 –Snack

10:20 – Noon – Instruction, activity, photo journaling, prepare for next day’s adventures.

11:30 – Noon – Photo journaling follow-up.

Noon – Students load onto bus and taken home.

Field Trips included: Walla Walla University Engineering Department; Nelson Irrigation (manufacturer in Walla Walla); Mill Creek Watershed; Walla Walla Water Treatment Plant ; Walla Walla Wastewater Facility; LIGO Hanford Observatory

Guest Classroom Presenters included: Stream Ecology Group and Boise Cascade Paper Plant

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

GEAR UP Site Director began working with the two teachers in the early spring. Summer Academy preparation then included:

- Created the summer’s theme and scheduled tours that fit the theme (spring).
- Researched experiments and exercises that complemented the information provided at the field trips (late winter/early spring).
- Ordered supplies, including snacks (May).
- Began to talk to students about Summer Academy after school’s Spring Break (mid-April). Summer Academy student sign-up began in early May.
- Last day of school – June 12.
- First day of Summer Academy – June 15.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

1. Students shared photo journals with the group and then families.
2. Students completed a program survey.
3. The two teachers and GEAR UP Site Director reviewed the student surveys and critiqued the summer.
4. Began planning for next year's Summer Academy.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

1. GEAR UP was able to partner with GLAD teacher training running concurrently with the summer program. Therefore, GLAD provided students transportation in the morning (from home to school). GEAR UP then covered the cost to bus students home.
2. Provide snacks every day.
3. Experiments and projects require preparation time and supplies.
4. Field trip days often run longer. Therefore, lunch has to be considered. This year, students were asked to bring sack lunches for two of the field trips.
5. GEAR UP paid teachers an hourly rate for their work dedicated to Summer Academy, approximately 100 hours per teacher.
6. One GEAR UP Tutor provided classroom and field trip support.
7. The GEAR UP Site Director was available at all times to provide classroom and/or field trip support.
8. Total cost of Summer program: \$4,700 (excluding Site Director's time).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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