2015 TAG Fieldtrip

In keeping with our Survivor theme for this school year, our fieldtrip will include many skills for survival and discovery of nature and our world. The students will also gain the opportunity to learn and practice team building. The fieldtrip will include: problem solving in real life situations, evaluating experiences, real life survival skills, team building experiences, leadership skills, evaluation and application of tools and resources, creativity, and resourcefulness. All of these skills fall into the areas of focus for the Gifted Enrichment program.

We will be leaving from Leblanc Elementary in the evening on Friday, October 16 and stay the evening in Shreveport (to break up the trip). We will continue on to the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas the following day arriving at approximately 1PM.

At the Heifer Ranch, our students will experience villages set up to be similar to villages in countries around the world. The students must work together to accomplish many tasks that we take for granted such as cooking without a stove or collecting fresh water from neighboring villages, etc. The Heifer Ranch program also teaches very important goals.   
The goals include

* empowering participants to become socially responsible global citizens
* exploring the cause and effect relationship of our daily choices including habits, consumption patterns and more
* Building relationships through unique and shared experiences
* Teaching about the challenges our world neighbors face every day and their sustainable solutions

The following day, our group will journey on to the Arkansas Outdoor School. At the Arkansas Outdoor School, our students will go through various stations. At these stations, the students will complete the following activities.

* Principles of Survival: Learn basic survival skills – participants will make decisions on items to bring and work as a team to build shelters.
* Team Challenge: This class offers the group an opportunity to develop team building skills and work together to solve problems, communicate effectively, and achieve goals. The active challenges will give participants a chance to use leadership skills while working together as a team.
* Canoeing: Students will learn the fundamentals of canoeing on a 6 acre lake. Communication, management, working together, and effort are essential for the teams as they work together to navigate their canoes.
* Create a Creature: By constructing their own creature out of recycled materials students begin to grasp the concepts of adaptations. This class will give students an opportunity to be creative and build from their imagination.
* Map Reading: Students learn the basics of reading topography maps and navigation. Advanced class options include learning UTM (Universal Tranverse Mercator) or using a GPS to find coordinates.
* GPS Technology: Students will leave with a better understanding of GPS technology as they work together to find caches or complete challenges.

We will return to LeBlanc Elementary on Monday, October 19 around 6 pm. This is the date of fall break. The students will therefore not miss any school days! They will also have the staff development day (October 20) to recover from the trip. Each person attending will be responsible for the cost of the fieldtrip which will be approximately $270-300 per person. This includes transportation, lodging, and food during the trip.

**Heifer Ranch:** <http://www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/school/organize-a-field-trip.html>

**Arkansas Outdoor School:**  <http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/arkansas-outdoor-school.aspx>