

Note to Teachers

Welcome to Lagoon Quest!

This *Quest* is not intended as something else 4th grade teachers have “to do,” but is intended to be used as an integrated, thematic unit to teach many of the standards that are currently being taught. The activities in Lagoon Quest have been developed to cover the assessed standards previously covered in the fourth grade textbook series.

Who?

- All 4th grade teachers in Brevard Public Schools
- All 4th grade students in Brevard Public Schools
- Families of 4th grade students

What?

- A district-wide unified learning experience made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Brevard Zoo and Brevard Public Schools.
- A relevant, integrated 4th grade curriculum covering Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in science, social studies, math, and language arts using the rich environmental resources of the Indian River Lagoon.
- Includes:
 - teacher training
 - Lagoon Quest Teacher Guide
 - Lagoonie Laboratory Logbook – a student & family guide
 - resource materials for every classroom
 - a four-and-a-half hour study trip to a local Indian River Lagoon site and park with Brevard Zoo staff facilitating
 - free admission certificate for qualified students and their families to the Brevard Zoo

Science

- supports the Body of Knowledge: Nature of Science
- supports the Body of Knowledge: Earth and Space Science
- supports the Body of Knowledge: Physical Science
- supports the Body of Knowledge: Life Science

Social Studies

- supports the focus on the State of Florida and Brevard County through the history, geography, ecosystems, resources, and economics

Math

- supports the Body of Knowledge: Algebra

Language Arts

- supports most Language Arts Strands and Standards

Why?

- Inspiring students to be life-long learners and responsible stewards of their environment will be enhanced by investigating the lagoon and actively involving them with the issues that affect the ecosystem.
- By gaining an appreciation and awareness of the fragile estuarine environment that passes through our communities, students will be better prepared to make informed decisions that influence the quality of life in our area.
- A real-life experience with quality connections to fourth grade curriculum.

When?

- Schools are notified via **principal memo** in late summer of their Lagoon Quest field trip date(s), times, location, and bus supplier. **Refer to this memo for vital procedures.**
- Brevard Public School (BPS) buses are used whenever possible to keep program costs down. Assigned bus suppliers will include specific charter bus companies to be used when Brevard Public School buses are not available.
- **Schools must call the appropriate bus supplier to confirm date, times, and number of buses.**
- Curriculum guide was developed to allow flexibility depending on the lagoon study trip date and individual needs.

How?

- Schools will send interested **fourth grade teachers to the fall District Inservice Day** for training and materials.
- The Brevard Zoo identifies appropriate lagoon sites to be used. The goal is to **use a site within 30 minutes of the school** whenever possible.
- If the school has **special needs students** that warrant use of a different site that is more accessible, they should contact the **Brevard Zoo Education Department (254-9543, ext. 19)** to make new arrangements and then **contact the buss supplier** with the change.
- **Inclement weather, postponements and rescheduling:** Since the Lagoon Quest study trip day is dependent on the weather, teachers must **work closely with their administration** to determine if inclement weather will force a postponement. If so, **contact the Brevard Zoo for agreement and then cancel buses ASAP. Get a new date from the Brevard Zoo and then secure bus(es). Use BPS transportation as the first option.**
- **BPS bus capacity is 60 adults and students (without coolers/lunches).** Arrangements should be made for chaperones to transport coolers & lunches if space is not available on the bus.
- The Brevard Zoo has identified **40-48 as the optimum number of students** at the Lagoon Quest study trip. The **maximum number is 60 students**, but is to be avoided in order to maintain a high quality program.
- The number of dates scheduled for each school is based on the above information and a school's previous year enrollment. **If actual enrollment figures impact the number of buses needed, work with the assigned bus supplier to adjust as necessary.** If they impact the number of dates needed for a school's study trip, work with the Brevard Zoo to adjust as necessary.