

Cycle 2 Social World Structure

Opportunity Outside the Classroom



FIELD TRIP TO A COURTROOM AND MEETING A JUDGE.

Paradise Valley Municipal Court House

Date and Time: TBA

Parent Consent Form Completed

No Transportation Needed

School Dress Code

What to bring:

Water Bottle

Hat/Visor

Small Back Pack

SW Notebook / Questions

Pen or Pencil

Lesson Goals

- The student will understand and appreciate the role of a judge in the judicial system.
- The student will be able to make a mental and visual connection between what they have been learning about and the actual courtroom and justice personnel.
- The student will be able to identify and describe what takes place in a courtroom and a jail, provided a tour to both areas can be taken.

- The student will be able to describe how groups of citizens and their government work together to protect the rights of everyone in the community.

Description of the Activity

Before the field trip have the students discuss what they expect to see. Have them write down questions they may want to ask the judge.

Before leaving students have reviewed the proper etiquette "grace and courtesy" when the judicial system is in progress.

Review with the students whom they will see in the courtroom, such as the court recorder, bailiff, witnesses, prosecuting attorney, lawyers, judge, and individuals involved in the case. Discuss their duties and what the students can expect to see them doing and why.

The students can take small notebooks with them to write down whom they see in action and what that person was accomplishing.

Before the field trip inform the judge what has taken place in the classroom so he/she will understand what is going on and what can be discussed with the students.

The notebooks the students bring with them should have the questions that the students want to ask. They can also use these notebooks to write down things they do not understand and want to ask the teacher about later.

Have students draw a picture of the courtroom listing all of the people and their functions. If they are watching a case have them describe the case and their reaction to what is happening.

Discussion and Activity

How has their vision of the judicial system changed?

If they could change how the system works what would they do? Why?

If they saw a judge make a court decision did they agree?

Did they think all of the people in the courtroom agreed with the judge's decision?

Do all people in the court have to agree? Why?

Was the judge fair? Does the word fair mean the same to everyone?

Have the students label each part of the room as it would be known in a courtroom.

Assessment

Evaluation of the students can be done from the discussion at the end of the field trip. Use a name check list while talking and listening to the students to make sure each student is either asked a direct question or has responded in a manner to show competence with the stated objectives.

An assessment can also be accomplished by reviewing the note books that the students took with them on the field trip. Look for questions, answers, or descriptions that show a depth of understanding.

Out of School Learning Opportunity

Encourage the students to discuss the field trip with their family and to describe what they saw. Have the children discuss with their parents how a person becomes a judge and why a judge cannot make everyone happy.