

Fairfax Fourth Grade Columbus Field Trip

The Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Statehouse, Columbus Zoo, and much more

By: Mr. Cohen's Fourth Grade Class

Introduction

By: Mr. Cohen

Fairfax fourth graders participated in a field trip to Columbus, Ohio in May. Students visited the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Statehouse, and the Columbus Zoo, before returning to Cleveland Heights. Leading up to the trip, students met with their State Representative, Janine Boyd, and following the program, students met with U.S. Foreign Service Specialist, Brian Tyers, and Municipal Court Judge, James Castello. Students literally had a hands on opportunity to study and participate in the three branches of government. Funding for the field trip was provided by Jewish Federation of Cleveland, the Fairfax PTA, the Heights Schools Foundation, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and through generous donations and funds raised by students. As a culminating project, students collaborated on a newspaper article highlighting the various aspects of the trip.

The Supreme Court

By: Coleman James and Owen Hagesfeld

During the trip we visited the Supreme Court of Ohio. We arrived by charter bus and immediately went inside the building, where we were greeted by our knowledgeable tour guides. We were very fortunate to see the Supreme Court in session. The Chief Justice sat in the center and was flanked by 3 associate justices on either side. The argument before the court was concerning whether someone needed a license to mine natural gas. It was very cool to see the lawyers presenting their evidence before the court. Then, we went to the Supreme Court Law Library, where we had very good views of the Scioto River and COSI. Everyone thought the Law Library was amazing because of the collection of nearly 2,000 volumes of law books that were originally a part of the State Library Collection. Afterward, we journeyed to the reading room, where we discussed more about the three branches of government. We left the reading room and returned to the courtroom. One of the groups had an opportunity to participate in a mock trial of Harry Potter. Visiting the Supreme Court of Ohio was a very fun and interesting experience in which we also learned a lot of important facts and history surrounding our state judicial system.



The Supreme Court of Ohio.



Views of COSI and the Scioto River from the Law Library of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Lunch

By: Kaya Starr and Sophie Lang

On Tuesday, May 8, 2018, Fairfax Elementary's fourth grade students went on a field trip to Columbus, Ohio. After visiting the Supreme Court of Ohio, we had a very short walk to lunch through the busy downtown area. We finally arrived at Pizza Rustica for lunch, and waited a few minutes, before walking across the street to the Ohio Statehouse, where we had a picnic on the lovely lawn. The grass was a beautiful green, and there were plenty of pretty trees all around us. Most of the students sat on the grass underneath the trees to catch some shade, while



others sat in the hot sun. The pizza was really delicious. There were three different options available for us to choose from, including cheese, meat, and a veggie specialty tray. Along with that, we had water to drink. Over lunch, we talked with

each other, and just had fun with our friends. Afterward, we walked across the magnificent courtyard to the Holocaust Memorial, which is located directly in front of the Ohio Statehouse. At the memorial, we read the names of some

of the soldiers who died in World War II. It felt good knowing we are able to celebrate our democracy today because of the dedication and commitment of the millions of innocent people who lost their lives fighting this devastating war for our freedom.



The Ohio Statehouse

By: Avery Craft, Nora Lubbers, and Jayden Chase



The Ohio Statehouse was a wonderful place to visit. We had an opportunity to learn about how our democratic government works and we also met some prominent political figures. When we arrived, we met the Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, Mary Taylor, and later in the tour we met the Ohio Secretary of State, Jon Husted. Mr. Husted told us the secret to freedom is a good education. The tour guides did an excellent job explaining the rich history and architecture of the Statehouse. Arches and geometric shapes form the support system of the building instead of steel beams! The Statehouse has many places where one can admire the magnificent artwork, and we even saw where Abraham Lincoln made a famous speech. Then, we stood where his casket laid. We received souvenir bags from the museum shop. The souvenir bags contained a spearhead, Ohio flag lapel pin, Presidential pencil, postcard, and a bookmark. Also, we got a peanut buttery Buckeye candy. Altogether, we had a great time and wish we could go back again soon.

The Ohio Statehouse Rotunda.

The Columbus Zoo

By: Sidney Evans, Ruth McFarland, and Gabe Mallamad

Visiting Columbus, Ohio was a very exciting experience. We had many great exciting adventures there throughout the day. However, our wonderful teacher and trip coordinator, Mr. Cohen, saved the best for last! The last place we visited in Columbus was the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. The Columbus Zoo was a very exciting place. We split up into many different groups in order to visit the various parks within the zoo and aquarium. Most of our groups had a chance to see the Africa exhibit and to stop by the aquarium. Afterward, many of us went to the gift shop, where we purchased exciting souvenirs. We could have spent the entire day at the zoo because it was so much fun. We learned many interesting facts about how animals interact with other organisms within their habitats. For example, some of us saw monkeys interacting with one another. At first, we thought they were fighting, but in reality, they just loved to jump onto things and climb. After being in the bus for so many hours, walking around the Columbus Zoo was an excellent way for us to stretch our legs. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium was an incredible experience.



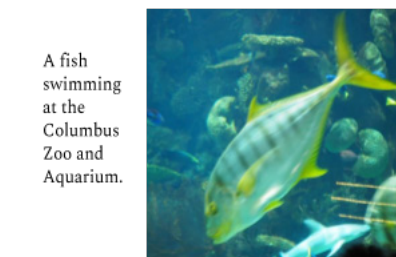
These penguins think that it is high time for a taste snack.



Some of us took a picture in front of the koalas.



Did you ever expect that a sting ray looked like this?



A fish swimming at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

The Bus Ride To Columbus

By: Daron Hill, Geren Holmes, and Mason Shelton

The bus ride to and from Columbus was really fun. We did a lot of fun stuff on the bus. We played games, had conversations, watched movies, and ate snacks. The bus sat two to a row. The back row sat three people. There were footrests and blinds on the bus as well. The bus had a bathroom, free WiFi, charging outlets, and a DVD player with several TVs. There were overhead compartments as well. We even had an air conditioner on the bus.

The bus arrived at Fairfax Elementary School at 7:00 am. We left for Columbus at 7:30 am. After a two and half hour drive, we finally arrived to Columbus at 10:00 am. Our first stop was the Supreme Court of Ohio. The bus dropped us off directly in front of the building. After our tours of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio Statehouse, we drove about thirty minutes to the Columbus Zoo. We arrived at the Columbus Zoo shortly before 4:00 pm and then departed for Cleveland around 5:30. After some rush hour traffic, we finally arrived back at Fairfax Elementary School at 8:30 pm.