

Planning a Field Experience

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My chaperone's are:

- a) Complete rock stars
- b) Mediocre at best
- c) A necessary evil
- d) Keeping baristas and cell phone companies employed
- e) Some combination of all of these things





Why do we have field experiences?




Three considerations for a field experience.

1. Logistics
2. Safety
3. Learning Objectives

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District has largely defined these for you.

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What does a chaperone do?

Please share your
thoughts in the chat
area.

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1. Meet school or site requirements
2. Assist with classroom management and behavior
3. Help meet learning objectives of the field experience

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2. **Assist with classroom management and behavior**
3. **Help meet learning objectives of the field experience**

Preparation

- The better you are prepared, the better the chaperones will be prepared
- Strongly define the purpose of the field experience
 - Lesson plan or outline of the day with goals and objectives
 - Identify the tools you, the chaperone's and students will need in order to be successful
 - Share the purpose with all involved

Example of lesson plan/timeline

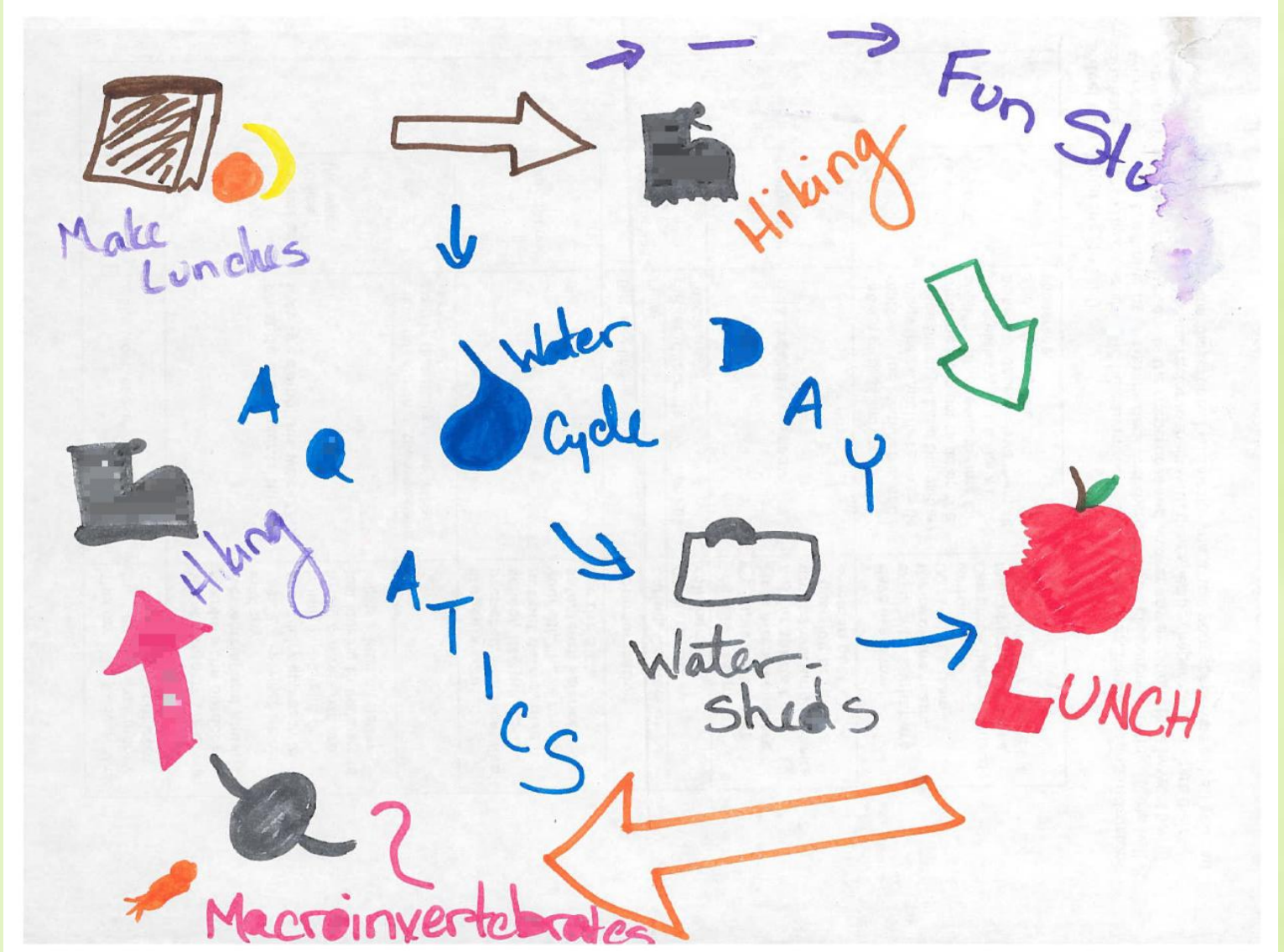
Learning objective/goal/standard (etc.)			
Time	Concept	Activity	Notes
8:00- 9:00		Travel to site	
9:00- 9:50	Variables	Soil testing	Use air and soil thermometers, soil pH kit Students document results in field notebook
-----	-----	-----	-----
11:30- 12:10		Lunch	Use pavilion Recess time

What tools do we need?

- Simple things:
 - Name tags
 - Clipboards
 - Extra pencils
 - Field notebooks
- Activity specific (provide written instructions or notes):
 - Field data tools (thermometers, pH strips, etc.)
 - Waders, rubber boots, etc.



Share the plan with all involved




I'm prepared, onto preparing the chaperone. **COMMUNICATION**

What is the most common tool you have used to prepare chaperones?

- a) Chaperone guide from the site
- b) Chaperone guide from the school
- c) Volunteer training





Most common tools prepare chaperones to:

- Keep students safe
 - Classroom management
 - School/site policies
- Enforce the rules

- Assist with classroom management but are often lacking some practical tools

Classroom Management

- Tell chaperones and your students your expectations
 - Do you allow side conversation? Etc.
 - Review of classroom rules
- Share your management technique
 - Counting down from five. Etc.
 - Non-disruptive techniques
- Chaperones are role models for behavior
 - Break them loose if there's nothing for them to do or encourage their participation


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Put a hand on the back of disruptive students while I am giving directions

I allow students to share and compare results

Great time around lunch to call the sitter and check-in, just make sure some other chaperones are paying attention



Hot tips for making chaperones role models

- Assign chaperones a task during an activity
- Refer to them by name while giving directions to students
- Give them a field notebook to collect data as well
- As the teacher, model your own participation in the activities you are assigning to the students and encourage the chaperones to do the same

Volunteer Motivation

- a) To learn something
- b) Playing hooky from work
- c) Time spent with child
- d) Free trip to the aquarium!!!!





Most chaperones are there because they want to spend time with students

- Make them feel like experts
 - Define their role in activities
 - Include definitions in lesson plan or field journal
 - Show them how to use the equipment
- Outline these things in the lesson plan or timeline
- Sense of value to experience and insures they are going to volunteer again

Provide chaperones with your expectations of them

- Chaperones are there to assist students learning
- Give them some tools to be successful
 - Provide them some guiding questions
 - “Bob will need a little extra help... I have found that...”

How/when do I actually prepare them?

- Ideal world
 - Volunteer training in advance
 - Document attached that provides an example
 - Packet in advance
- Reality
 - Some modification of the above

Other opportunities

- At the school before you take off
- On the bus ride
- During bathroom break while you get there
- Lunch
- Build it into the structure of the day

How to get the most from chaperones?

- Preparation
- Clear expectations
 - Keep expectations high
- Provide the tools chaperones need to be successful
- Keep chaperones' motivation in mind and make them superheroes

Additional Chaperone Challenges

- a) Recruitment
- b) Chaperone's behaving badly
- c) Specific situational concerns



Recruitment

- Ask over and over again
- Retired teachers
- The site you are visiting
- Create a volunteer pool for your school
- Solicit individuals

- Other ideas?

Chaperone's behaving badly

- Do not accept bad behavior
- Use transition times to redirect chaperones
- Don't let them come on your next field experience
- Remind them they are here for the experience of the students and you need their support

Situational concerns and questions

