



Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Narrative

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem

Context

The Bethlehem Area Education Foundation (BAEF) makes resources available to enhance learning opportunities for all students of the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD). The BAEF's goal is to remain an approved Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) by the Department of Community and Economic Development for eligibility to receive contributions from businesses participating in the Educational Investment Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Overview

Field trips make the curriculum come alive for students. With the BAEF's support, the BASD is in the multi-year process of establishing curriculum-based field trips for each elementary grade (approximately 1,000 students per grade). The interaction among the students, teachers, and organizations so closely associated with the past and present of the city will promote a "common bond" among diverse populations of Bethlehem.

- The two-hour field trip titled, *Forging History and Community in Bethlehem – Bethlehem Steel Tour* will take BASD 5th graders to the Steel Stacks Campus to reinforce class concepts related to our nation's/city's industrial heritage as well as instill a new generation's pride in their city.
- The four-hour field trip titled, *Forging History and Community in Bethlehem – Tales of the Towpath* will take BASD 4th graders to the Freemansburg Canal Education Center at Lock 44 on the Lehigh Canal is directly tied to the *Tales of the Towpath* social studies and language arts curriculum.

Outcomes

Students will:

- Develop an understanding and appreciation for Bethlehem's historical significance—especially as it relates to America's Industrial Era

- Develop pride in their community
- Apply reading and writing strategies to high-interest grade topics
- Be able to apply knowledge of their community to future learning

Curriculum Enhancement

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem serves the grade-level focus on American History as well as the economic and social development of the nation and region. By providing a powerful, local illustration of academic concepts, student will be able to apply an understanding of class content in a meaningful way. Student will complete curriculum-based reading and writing assignments based upon their field experience.

Standards Addressed

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem will address specific *PA Academic Standards* in Social Studies and Language Arts for Grade 5 and Grade 4:

Standard Area - Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Contrast the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democracy with a citizen in an authoritarian system.

Compare and contrast common characteristics of the social, political, cultural, and economic groups from Pennsylvania.

Illustrate concepts and knowledge of historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to Pennsylvania history.

Differentiate how continuity and change in Pennsylvania history are formed and operate.

Belief systems and religions
 Commerce and industry
 Technology
 Politics and government
 Physical and human geography
 Social organizations

Examine patterns of conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations that impacted the history and development of Pennsylvania for responding to individual and community needs.

Ethnicity and race
 Working conditions
 Immigration
 Military conflict
 Economic stability

Standard Area: Language and Literacy

Demonstrate understanding of connections within, between, and/or among informational text.

Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to demonstrate subject knowledge.

Interpret text features (e.g., headings, graphics, charts) and/or make connections between text and the content of text features.

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Innovative Program Focus/Delivery

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem creates a complex, innovative partnership among the BAEF, BASD, ArtsQuest, the Historic Bethlehem Partnership, the Bethlehem Steelworkers' Archives, National Museum of Industrial History and the Freemansburg Canal Education Center.

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem – Bethlehem Steel Tour offers a curriculum-based field trip for each Grade 5 student to Steel Stacks Campus to view the “Bethlehem Movie”, take a tour of the Bethlehem Steel Plant, and visit the National Museum of Industrial History. Students will learn history by experiencing it first hand—from the place and people who made the history.

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem – Tales of the Towpath introduces students to the daily life of a 19th century locktender's family on the curriculum-based field trip for each Grade 4 student. History comes alive as costumed docents teach the students about the history of Lock 44 on the Lehigh Canal.

Forging History and Community in Bethlehem also serves a long range civic goal of building a future generation's connection, pride, and service to their community.

Evaluation

As evidenced by a curriculum-based Pre-Test and Post Test, students will show growth on their knowledge of local history and the Bethlehem community as a result of their participation in the *Forging History and Community in Bethlehem* experience.

Number of Students Served

Approximately 1,000 students across 16 different BASD elementary schools will participate in *Forging History and Community in Bethlehem*.