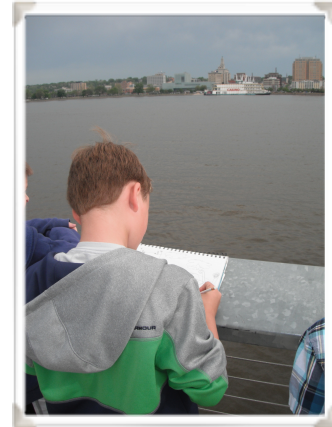


# Heidi Hernandez



May 1, 2012  
Heidi Hernandez  
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Dear Geneseo School Board,

I would like to formally thank you for giving the third grade students the opportunity to learn about and experience the FIGGE Art Museum and River Music Experience.

The Students arrived in Davenport and were able to view and sketch the Mississippi from the park in downtown Rock Island. This was nice and tied into what they learned at the River Music Experience. At the RME, we were greeted by Ellis Kell. Ellis Kell did a wonderful program. He played a banjo, a resonator guitar, and a harmonica as he spoke (and sung) about the roots of American music. The students learned the importance of what African American Slaves contributed to our country's musical fabric. He spoke of the Mississippi and how music traveled up stream from New Orleans and had spread its influence across our country. He also explained how it influences the music we listen to today. It was a wonderful interactive presentation. The students learned about rhythm, poly-rhythm, and improvisation.

The students then enjoyed lunch on the sky bridge and were able to see the river and the beautiful FIGGE art museum, designed by architect David Chipperfield.



After lunch, the students went on docent guided tours through the museum. They looked at and discussed work by artists including: Grant Wood, John Bloom, Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Henri Matisse, Deborah Butterfield and Pablo Picasso. They talked about the era of different works WWII, the depression, etc. The docents asked lots of questions and created a very interactive experience for our students.

I feel very blessed to have the great support you give to our departments and most of all this experience for our students. The arts are so important they teach history, culture, math (yes, even math), tolerance and the human condition; art can say what words cannot. Museums are a valuable asset to the community as they preserve the history, emotion, and legacy of an era, an event, a culture, a theory, or a movement. The students had a meaningful and rich experience. Thank you again for all of your support!

Sincerely yours,

Heidi Hernandez