Enhancing Science in the Classroom

We develop highly skilled educators through collections and engage students in meaningful scientific investigations in real-world settings.

The Field Museum's school partnerships and programs engage K-12 educators and students learning through collections and scientific investigation. We develop active learners who recognize and use science in their everyday lives, apply creativity and critical thinking skills to understand our world, and consider the Museum a place for lifelong learning and ongoing discovery. We achieve this through a dynamic slate of programs including educator professional development, student programs, and instructional tools offered to educators as stand-alone resources or leveraged as a suite of cohesive supports through school partnerships. All of our programs are designed to address Illinois and national learning standards and complement Museum exhibits and resources.

The foundation for the methods and tools we use in our programs is the N.W. Harris Learning Collection, a unique set of 1,200 specimens and artifacts teachers can borrow for use in their classroom. The Harris Learning Collection serves 150,000 teachers and students annually. For more information about the Field's school partnerships and programs, visit fieldmuseum.org/schools. In 2013, our programs will include:

FIELD TRIPS
Each year, more than 180,000 students visit the Museum on field trips. Often this is students' first experience with a museum or cultural institution. To ensure time spent at the Field is productive and meaningful, we offer a wide range of pre- and post-visit activities, as well as student classes tailored to specific grades. Students and teachers can participate in a wide range of activities, such as tours of permanent exhibitions, hands-on programs, cultural performances, and presentations by Museum scientists.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Today's teachers benefit from additional training in science education and contemporary issues, the Museum offers a variety of professional development programs for K-12 teachers. These programs focus on current teaching issues and how Museum resources can be used to meet key learning goals. The Field Ambassadors program links 350 Chicago teachers from 300 schools to the Field and provides a way for schools to work with our staff to integrate Museum resources into their curriculum and school improvement plans. Our professional development programs offer teachers graduate and/or continuing professional development credits.

OTHER STUDENT PROGRAMS
Each semester, we offer a series of student programs and demonstrations for elementary to high school age children that explore everything from DNA extraction to alternative energy sources to archaeological digs. These classes introduce children to our research, collections and scientists in fun ways. Off-site student classes are also available to help teachers enhance their classroom lessons.

EARLY ELEMENTARY SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP (E2SP)
Led by the Field and Chicago Public Schools, E2SP directly links curriculum modules of the Chicago Math and Science Initiative to education resources at the city's museums and zoos. Participating teachers are taught how to use these resources to build children's understanding and ability to do science in relevant and meaningful ways. Find out more by turning the page.

The Field Museum's education programs strive to inspire wonder, develop scientific thinking, and foster greater understanding of our natural world.
Quality resources, training and experiences to transform science teaching and learning in Chicago schools!

The Field Museum, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago Children's Museum, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago Public Schools Department of Math and Science and Northwestern University partnered to develop the Early Elementary Science Partnership (E2SP), a school-based professional development program focused on improving K-3rd grade teachers' ability to effectively engage their students in learning science.

E2SP directly links curriculum modules of the Chicago Math and Science Initiative to education resources at the city's museums and zoos. Participating teachers are taught how to use these resources to build children's understanding of how science works and ability to think scientifically. In 2012, E2SP worked with 84 teachers and 2,000 students in seven public schools. In 2013, we will continue to refine the program model in partnership with Chicago Public Schools. We will also help align all future E2SP program elements with the Next Generation Science Standards due to be released in 2013. Through E2SP, we aim to:

- Improve teachers' science content knowledge, understanding of science, understanding of and ability to teach science;
- Improve students' science content knowledge, understanding of science, and ability to do science through inquiry;
- Strengthen teachers' ability to use museums and other informal learning resources to teach science; and
- Build capacity of schools to create and sustain a learning community dedicated to improving science education.

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