

Inspire: Reaching Every Child

There was a sweet celebration among Museum educators and a class of second-grade students in May. They shared cake to mark an exciting achievement. The Education Division had reached its goal of instructing every second-grade class in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) during the academic year.

The “Inspire: Reach Every Child” program had achieved 100 percent participation. This is the fourth year of the innovative program that the Museum developed in collaboration with the district. It is designed to bring all CMSD second-graders to the Museum for a full day of experiential learning. Due to scheduling conflicts or unforeseen cancellations, the program has just narrowly missed reaching 100 percent participation among the grade level each year.

“Inspire” is integrated into CMSD’s science curriculum and meets Ohio’s Academic Content Standards in science. Using Museum specimens and exhibits, the program focuses on interactions between living and extinct organisms and their habitats. Throughout the day, students and teachers spend time in our classrooms and galleries. Teachers are empowered to extend the experience beyond their day at the Museum with lesson plans, activity ideas and additional resources.

The program is intended to have a broad and far-reaching impact beyond the students’ on-site visits. In the three-and-a-half-hour visit, students are exposed to hands-on activities, live native Ohio animals and a curriculum designed to get the students excited about science while connecting them



to the past, present and future of the region. Students are invited back to the Museum with their families to enjoy a free day of exploration. This gives students a chance to reinforce their experience by sharing what they have learned with their parents and siblings. Providing this opportunity for intergenerational learning strengthens the program’s impact by engaging families and the community, effectively doubling its effectiveness over the long term.



2015-16

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REACH EVERY CHILD

Second grade students
instructed: **2,243**

Teachers served: **128**

Estimated number
of second grade
classrooms: **117**