

Middle Schools create a supportive environment to reach all adolescent learners. Students at Titusville Middle School celebrate learning achievements AND nurture their "inner authors" through...

# MIDDLE MATTERS



## Wilderness Quest

Sixth graders spent three days at Seneca Hills for Wilderness Quest. When they returned, Mrs. Axton had her classes write a memoir sharing their individual experiences. Students were asked to share their favorite and least favorite activities and a lesson they felt would be the most useful in the future. Their answers, like their personalities, varied greatly!

## My Camp Memoir

By: Grayson Steinbuhler

Camp was an unforgettable experience. Did you hear about the exciting watermelon game we had one chilly evening? Everyone had a marvelous time. Our counselors hid two halves of watermelon. It was our job to find those two halves and then eat them, but there was a catch. Everyone had two pieces of tape on their backs. Our high school counselors had to rip the tape off of our backs. With the remaining tape we had we had to tape our two halves of watermelon back together. The game began. My team worked well together, so I was grateful for that. I was running at lightspeed not really knowing what I was doing. Just then one of my fellow teammates slipped. I helped her up, despite losing one of my pieces of tape. Meanwhile my team found both watermelon slices. At that point in time, we now had to eat the watermelon. That's when we

ran into a problem. We all ate dinner right before, as a result none of us were hungry. That's when we came to a solution. My friend Eathan was still hungry and ended up eating the whole watermelon. We were all very thankful and relieved.

Although we didn't win we still all had a very enjoyable time being together. A lesson I learned during this experience was to just go with the flow. This will help me in life to not be so worried about what's next and just have fun. I will let other people tell me what to do, rather than trying to control what happens myself. Whenever I'm stressed I'll think about these words to calm myself.

In conclusion, camp was a delightful experience. If I could, I definitely would visit camp sometime. It was definitely an unforgettable experience that left me with memories I'll never forget.



Pictures shown are from the events at Splash Lagoon in Erie. Pictured above, Derik Garza enjoys a surf ride. Below are Cullen Ruot, Sam Orton, Evan Mehlenbacher, Evan Clinton, and Quincy Sampson



## My Pleasant Camp Experience

By: Ella Donaldson

Screech!!! Screech... Squeal... Screech!!! Screech... Squeal...

My wet shoes squealed as I twisted my feet in every step. For weeks, I had been looking forward to my experience at 'Wilderness Camp.'

Now...At last, I am boarding the bus!!!

The bus driver started off with a stern lecture about the safety that we had to maintain while in her vehicle. Five minutes later, we were off!!! Noisy clamor of excited voices flowed out of the mouths of the 6th grade students. We had an enjoyable three days ahead of us!

After a long bus ride, we finally turned down a shaded, gravel road. This road led down to a bright clearing. Off to the left, cabins were lined up on a slight incline. After departing from the bus, we traveled unsurely into what was apparently called 'The Commons.'

Once separated into advisories, we were again welcomed by a lecture about behaviors and safety rules. Then we were told to go to our first rotation!!!

"Potato launching?!" I thought. There I was, sitting and watching a teacher perform an example, which seemed to be unsuccessful. It's going to be a long week. I thought glumly.

"Is there anyone who has not launched a potato?" Exclaimed the teacher tiredly at the end of the forty-five minutes. Two groups of students raised their hands. I was not extremely thrilled with what had been called 'A fun experience' by all of the teachers back at the school.

The rest of the day went on like I dreamed it would. Lunch was unforgettably amazing; Chicken tenders with honey mustard, cucumbers with ranch dressing... Heaven I thought dreamly to myself. Then...SWIMMING!!!!!!

Other than a couple of rashes from the chlorine, swimming was a blast!!! We learned about different techniques of how to keep your body heat in while in cold water. After that, there was free swimming! I had convinced myself that camp was going to be a pleasant experience after all.

My week at camp went on positively satisfying. I was able to complete swimming activities, creek activities, and many others. Including, the atlatl (an indian weapon), bow shooting, 22 rifle shooting, and a significant amount of gaga ball games.

Additionally, we got to listen to Mr. Stumpf tell stories around an indoor fireplace. At first, this was an annoying event because we were crowded together inside. However, things became exciting very quickly. We listened intently to the stories he told without regret. And we even listened to a scary story at the end.

I loved camp and want to go back next year. Sadly, I will be in seventh grade. But, I want to be a counselor when I have the chance to go there again. I learned how to use the atlatl, bow, and how to hold my body heat in if I ever fall into cold water. Camp was a fun, unforgettable experience...

## CAMP

By: Keaton Rhodes

Do you know what I did at camp? I did many things at camp, some fun things and other things were not as fun. Come along with me and learn what I did at camp.

To begin, the most enjoyable thing to me at camp was gaga ball. Gaga ball was amusing to many people; gaga ball is a wonderful thing to do in your free time. A gaga ball pit is an octagon and it has sand on the ground. When it would rain, it would fill up with water so we played inside. There were multiple times that too many people would be playing at the same time so we moved some people inside. Gaga ball was very entertaining, not just for me but many others.

Although camp was fun, not everything went as planned. On the last day at camp it rained a lot. It was so bad we could

not have a fire outside and we had to have it inside. As a result, because it was raining I forgot my swim trunks because I thought we weren't going to swim. Though many things went wrong, most went well.

Additionally, I did also learn many things at camp. I learned how to contain my body heat if I fell in cold water. I also learned how to make a keychain, how to climb a tree stand, how to shoot potatoes, and how to safely shoot a firearm. I learned many things at camp.

With this in mind I think that everyone should consider going to camp. You can learn many things that are valuable and not many people get to do Wilderness Quest. To sum it up there can be mixed emotions at camp but it is a once in a lifetime chance.



Girls enjoy a leisurely lunch at Splash Lagoon. Pictured above left are Nora Lesko & Ella Lavery; above right are Kennedy Baker & Nevaeh Fink.

Several students take the stariwell, below, that leads to different levels of water slides. Some slides include the Black Hole, a favorite of many students, and the Typhoon Twister. Sydney Morgan said, "This was one of the best days I have had in school... EVER!"



## Students Earn First TMS Mission Day Trip to Splash Lagoon

The first TMS mission of the year was to Splash Lagoon on Monday, October 24th. Our mission days are new this year. They are part of our school-wide positive behavior program and incentivize student academic achievement and proper behavior. Students who were passing every class and had one hour or less of detention during the first quarter earned their boarding passes and an opportunity to go on the mission.

We are extremely excited to offer **four mission days** during the 2022-2023 school year. These missions are an opportunity for students to explore the world outside of our school campus and experience some amazing places. Our next mission will be to **Carnegie Science Center** at the end of the second quarter. The expectations to earn a boarding pass and be a part of the mission will continue to increase and we are confident that students' achievement, behavior, and attendance will rise as well.