

From educational and informative to exciting and adventurous, field trips are a crucial part of the educational experience of school. They are a break from the mundane, repetitive processes of everyday life and allow students to apply knowledge learned in the classroom to the real world outside of school. Field trips also allow students to gain work and life experience that becomes vitally important after graduation. Because of the myriad of benefits resulting from field trips, it is in the best interest of the school board to allow field trips that enhance a student's learning experience.

The many different types of field trips cater to many different kinds of learning experiences; a trip to visit college and university campuses for college-bound juniors would be one example, while a trip to a nearby college or university for an advanced chemistry class to perform a lab is another. Although both trips would require students to miss school, the knowledge and experience gained from them would far outweigh the missing class time. With this in mind, and the motto of the Woodville School District, 'Every child a student prepared for a bright and successful future,' it would be in compliance with that motto to send students on field trips because of their role in education, and in preparing students for a 'bright and successful' future.

Continuing with the previous example, taking the advanced chemistry class to a university, say, the University of Oregon, to perform a lab would boast many educational advantages. For example, students who normally experience chemistry at the high school level would be able to get a 'taste' of what it might be like to continue with chemistry into college and beyond. They would be able to talk to students and professors currently involved in chemistry at the University, and learn what they like and dislike about the program. Students seriously considering pursuing a career or majoring in chemistry would be also be able to form valuable relationships with important members of their proposed field of study. If capitalized on, those relationships could help students applying to college and job positions in related areas.

Another important factor in performing a lab at a University is the availability of equipment that a high school simply cannot afford. Because the lab would be at a university, students would be able to participate in a lab they could otherwise only read about. This would allow students to apply some of the more advanced principles that they learn about in the classroom to real life. It would also help illustrate and emphasize the important bond between learning chemistry in the classroom and its real life applications— a bond many students find difficult to grasp.

A field trip to the University of Oregon to perform a lab for the advanced chemistry students would be a wonderful learning experience. It would allow students to make important connections with professors and students, to use advanced equipment otherwise unavailable to them, and to apply the concepts and principles learned in the classroom to real world experiences. This field trip would have a positive impact on students' lives, both in school and in the future, and it would be in the best interest of the school board to invest in and take advantage of the incredible opportunity this field trip presents.