

Wash Oak School Introduction

This is intended as a brief introduction to the Wash Oak School at Mill Race Village in Northville. A much more detailed notebook "Curriculum Guide" is on file with the Northville Historical Society and the Northville Public Library. It will give you curriculum ideas, activities, lunch and recess suggestions and a brief history of the Wash Oak School. A bibliography has been included in the notebook for your convenience. You are welcome to use this notebook but it may not be checked out.

Before your class visits the Wash Oak School it is suggested the students have a working knowledge of the way life was in the late 1800's. (Short description enclosed.) The Wash Oak School was built in 1873 and that is the year used for historical reference.

A Docent will greet you and lead a discussion about what life and school was like in the 1870's. Most classes dress up to get into the spirit of the day. There are pinafores and vests for a few of the children to wear. The Docent will also give a tour of some of the buildings in the Mill Race Village and answer any questions you may have. When the class is brought back to the school, the Docent will leave and the teacher will take over.

Accompanied by the McGuffey readers and the spelling books on hand, the teacher can delve into the "3 R's". Some suggested learning ideas are: spelling bee, story problems with a historical theme -- writing a poem popular at that time, recitation and discussion of proverbs (i.e. "A stitch in time saves nine").

Lunch and recess can be taken outdoors, weather permitting. Some suggested games are; tag, hide and seek, jump rope, jacks, marbles, and Simon Says. There are stilts in the classroom along with a few other victorian games. Foods which were appropriate to the time are jelly or meat sandwiches, cornbread, ginger snap cookies, fresh or dried fruit, lemonade and root beer. Lunches can be brought in a tin pail, knapsack or basket.

At the end of the day, the Docent will return to lock up and answer any questions you may have. She will give the teacher a certificate of participation and a pencil for each student. Hopefully your day will have been educational and fun! Any questions may be directed to the Northville Historical Society business office (248) 348-1845.

Helping Parent's Lists

1. Put McGuffey Readers on desks.
2. Pass out slates and chalk.
3. Print proverbs on chalkboard.
4. Print elocution sentences on chalkboard.
5. Join in the Village Tour.
6. During class time choose one student at a time to sit in the dunce corner. Quietly hand them the dunce cap. All students will have the opportunity to use the chair. They may elect to refuse this honor.
7. Accompany any child over to the Church to use the restroom.
8. Help with clean up. Sweep floor, clean slates, put books and slates away, and wash chalkboard