Focus Field Trip
A New Model for Engaging School Groups

What are STEM Days?
STEM Days are remaking the field trip experience at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, NC! Grade-level students and chaperones follow along in their full-color booklet as they travel throughout the Museum’s 84-acres of immersive, hands-on exhibits. Using our map to locate four areas of expanded programming, they learn STEM skills that are designed specifically to complement the North Carolina Essential Standards.

Project Goals
- Get students and chaperones out of our classroom spaces and out into our 84-acre campus.
- Create an integrated experience customized to grade-level standards that provides teachers with a platform for STEM connections throughout the school year.
- Put students in the drivers’ seat of their field trip experience and motivate their own curiosity and sense of wonder.

Audience
- Durham Public School students in 4th grade
- Teachers and Chaperones
- Durham Public School District and School Administrators

Evaluation
- Participating teachers received a survey
- Conducted informal interviews during the STEM Day

Challenges
- Finding ways to publicize and communicate the value of this new field trip to stakeholders, district and school administrators
- Seeking funding from district administrators to supplement the cost for teachers
- Communication with teachers about logistics and how chaperones will be involved
- Logistics of planning the event (lunch, transportation, volunteers, station activities)
- Designing and producing content for the booklets that is appealing to both teachers and students

“ We are fortunate to have this resource in our community and hope that the visits not only inspire learning, but increase awareness of all the Museum has to offer families.”
—Tim Gibson, DPS Director for Elementary Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

Next Steps:
STEM Days 2.0

Phase II Goals
- Gameify the field trip experience to further engage students and chaperones
- Increase availability to additional school districts
- Expand grade levels from 4th grade to 2nd-5th grade

Melissa Russell
Program Manager of Integrated Education
melissa.russell@lifeandscience.org

Trish Lemm
Director of Informal Learning Experiences
patricia.lemm@lifeandscience.org

www.lifeandscience.org/stem-days

Caption or paragraph here about what “gameify” means- maybe how the characters work, or pic of inside of booklet....