



September 17, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

The DeKalb Schools Education Foundation has donated \$18,590 for two environmental field trips for fourth and sixth graders at KMS. These funds come through the support of Commissioner Michelle Long Spears and the DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. as part of a \$50,000 Environmental Education Grant for District 2 schools. These grants allow us to take learning beyond the classroom and into the natural world.

Fourth Grade will travel to the Tennessee Aquarium on October 9, 2025, where students will explore both freshwater and saltwater environments and attend an IMAX film. The trip's goals include observing aquatic organisms, understanding environmental adaptations, and recognizing the human role in conservation. Students will connect classroom learning to real-world science while practicing observation, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Sixth Grade will participate in the Lake Assessment and Watershed Studies field trip at Rock Eagle on October 21, 2025. Students will use the scientific method to investigate whether certain fish species can thrive in the lake, collect macro-invertebrates, conduct water quality tests, and study the impact of human activity on watersheds. This experience directly aligns with Georgia Standards and supports the DCSD Portrait of a Graduate competencies such as problem-solving, global citizenship, and resilience.

These opportunities enrich student learning by combining inquiry-based science with authentic, hands-on exploration. They also nurture curiosity, environmental awareness, and stewardship — lessons that will last far beyond the field trip.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura S. Neely".

Dr. Laura Neely
Principal