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Grand Haven Students to Participate in Nature-Based Learning Experience

GRAND HAVEN, MI – [Grand Haven Area Public Schools \(GHAPS\)](#) is partnering with the ODC Network, also known as the Outdoor Discovery Center, to bring a three-week, nature-based learning experience to students. The collaboration was made possible by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation and supports the district's project-based learning efforts.

"We're thrilled to provide this opportunity to students," said Evan Carter, GHAPS/ODC camp director. "At GHAPS we value and nurture community partnerships that benefit our students. Programs like this challenge traditional learning and foster innovative opportunities."

Nearly 380 students, Young Five – 4th grade, are enrolled to participate for the three-week, outdoor, project-based learning program. It will take place Monday – Thursday, now through August 12 at Mary A. White Elementary and in Duncan Woods, where students will engage with the local habitat and learn what makes their own backyard unique. During their time with the ODC Network, they will interact with the environment through observations and hands-on activities. Students will experience a range of activities, including interactive read alouds, animal encounters, building fairy gardens and more.

"Our main objective is to create positive and engaging experiences for every child outside of the classroom and in nature," said Carter. "Every student learns differently. For some students, getting them out of a classroom setting gives them the opportunity to thrive as class leaders."

Based in Holland, the ODC Network is a non-profit organization advancing outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan. They provide inquiry-style programming which offers students hands-on learning and experience with nature. For more information, visit outdoordiscovery.org.

Grand Haven Area Public Schools is a district of distinction for students in preschool through 12th grade. With a goal of providing exceptional educational experiences, GHAPS is committed to success for all students and strives to provide exemplary programs and opportunities to meet the diverse needs of students.

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For more information about this story, contact King Media at 616.263.2390.