

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Price, two parent chaperones, and I will accompany the biology students on a field trip to the Natural History Museum located in Gray, Tennessee. A permission form is attached. Each student will need to pay \$10 to either Mr. Price or me by October 31<sup>st</sup> for museum admission. Students should wear old clothing and sturdy shoes such as work boots or hiking boots because they may be participating in outdoor activities at the museum. Students should also bring jackets in case of inclement weather. Students will need to bring a pack lunch (no refrigeration available) the day of the trip as well.

The purpose of the field trip is to help educate the students about the history of life in Northeast Tennessee. In addition, the visit will also assist the students in learning Tennessee State Curriculum Standard 3210.5.3 : *Associate fossil data with biological and geological changes in the environment*, and Standard 3210.5.5: *Apply evidence from the fossil record, comparative anatomy, amino acid sequences, and DNA structure that support modern classification systems*.

The museum is located at one of the greatest fossil sites in the entire country. Several years ago the state transportation department uncovered some fossils in Gray while constructing a new highway extension. Those fossils were the first of many to be uncovered at the site. The fossil site proved to be so rich in important artifacts that the highway construction was canceled and the site was protected. After several years of work at the site, scientists decided to build a museum to educate the public about the important contributions the fossils discovered in Gray have made to our understanding of prehistoric life.

The museum is also unique because it houses a functioning fossil research center. The students will get to see scientists actively digging for fossils (researchers estimate work at the site will continue for decades). Students will also learn how fossils are preserved for later work in laboratories.

If you consent to your child participating in this field trip, please complete, sign, and return (via your student) the attached permission form. Finally, please ensure that Mr. Price and I are fully aware of any special medical issues regarding your child prior to the day of the field trip.

Sincerely

Mr. Daniel Tadlock