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Mother Nature's Classroom
2016 and Beyond
Grade 4 - Animals and Ecosystems
Grade 5 - Plants, Trees, and Me

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- Who:** Grade 4 and 5 Students/Classes
What: Outdoor Education Program
When: Contact Staff for Available Dates
(Standard program times are 8:50 a.m. arrival and 2 p.m. departure)
Where: Port Crescent State Park Day Use Unit (Full Day) OR
a 2-hour classroom visit - in case of inclement weather
How: To sign up or ask questions call/email:
Betsy Kish at (989/738-8663) (kishe@michigan.gov)
Scott Whipple at (989/550-0003) (swhipple@huronisd.org)
Deadline: Sign-up ASAP for choice of dates - schools will be scheduled
on a first come, first serve basis



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The *Huron Intermediate School District* and the *Huron Mathematics and Science Center* in partnership with *Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)-Port Crescent State Park* will once again offer the outdoor education program "Mother Nature's Classroom" (MNC) for Huron County students in Grades 4 and 5.

Due to staffing considerations, the original schedule used for the past three years (a half-day classroom visit followed by a full-day park visit), has been modified to include just the full day on-site at Port Crescent State Park Day Use Unit. Students will experience a variety of outdoor activities at the park over the course of a full day including some of the activities that were once part of the classroom visit portion of the MNC program. In case of inclement weather the Mother Nature's Classroom staff will come to the school/classroom (on the scheduled date) and conduct a 2-2 ½ hour presentation filled with the same activities that were used for the classroom visit in the past. (Grade 4 - Owl Pellets, Birds of Prey, etc..., Grade 5 - Trees, Paper Making, Recycling, etc...). All activities will be tied to the state curriculum.

The first six (6) classrooms/schools to register will be able to participate this spring choosing from the dates listed above. Below are requirements of the program:

- Students will need to pack a lunch on the day they visit Port Crescent State Park Day Use Unit.
- Students will need to **dress appropriately** for any/all weather conditions.
- After registering, a follow-up phone conference and/or email will occur in order to confirm dates, times, and activities.
- A pre- and post-assessment will be provided in order to collect data on the impact and quality of the MNC program. Additionally a teacher survey will be sent via email to gather information from a professional perspective.
- Chaperones (school staff, parents) are highly recommended and necessary for larger classrooms. A "helpful tips" page to assist school staff and chaperones will be provided prior to school visits

In case you aren't able to make it this year, Mother Nature's Classroom will be available again next fall and spring for Grades 4 and 5. Inquire with Betsy or Scott to see if other arrangements or options might be available. If you've already attended a MNC program this year, a self-directed tour (with assistance) is always possible at the many wonderful venues (state and county parks, nature center, etc....) around Huron County.