

IN THE MIDDLE: A “Fen-Tastic” Time at Krueger By Bridget Mark

Published: September 26, 2015



Every day at Krueger Middle school is a fantastic day, but now sixth grade students from all eight elementary schools in Michigan City are going to have a fen-tastic day at KMS. Krueger's fen, which is a type of wetland, is located behind the school building. On Oct. 1, 2, 8 and 9, sixth-grade students

will visit the wetlands and participate in several hands-on learning activities.

Visiting students will test the water and the soil, identify invasive species, catch some macros (macro invertebrates), compare wetlands, learn about watersheds and sing the Krueger chant. Students will also see wetland animals and plant life and learn about their importance to our environment. This new part of Krueger's Environmental Outdoor Science Center (KOESC) was made possible by a \$98,000 Lake Michigan Indiana Coastal Grant.

Krueger Middle school environmental students have been working hard on the wetlands. KMS students built the boardwalk pieces, put them in place and cleared the path to the fen. On the days of the field trip, KMS students will be leading the visiting students and teaching lessons at the various stations. Miss Vera Jones, principal of Krueger Middle School, hopes that these field days will get sixth grade students interested in the environment by teaching them how wetlands keep our water clean. These stations are different from the other areas of the KOESC.

Mr. Brian Schroll, the Environmental Technology teacher, says "It is wetter and has lots of spiders!" He continues, "We took the plan that Miss Jones had and made it real." Schroll's students will be creating signs (using a router) this winter to post on the new trail.

Come visit the new trail! A ribbon cutting will be held on Sept. 30 at 9:30 a.m., and it is open to the public.

Bridget Mark is a student at Krueger Middle School. In the Middle is a regular column which is produced by middle school students in the Michigan City Area Schools.