



Lutheran High School Northwest Interim Program Description Spring 2024

**LUTHERAN
NORTHWEST**

Connecting with God's Creation – Nature Study & Appreciation

Description: In a technology driven world, this class will help us to reconnect with the amazement and wonder of God's Creation. We will learn about the importance of nature in our physical and mental health throughout the life span, ways that we can be kind to the earth, and explore various nature preserves.

Cost: >\$30; Transportation to be determined depending on number of students

Leader: Mrs. Popilek

Daily Schedule of Experiences

Learning and discussion

Each day we will begin at school with a learning period where we will immerse ourselves in the current research related to nature and our well-being. We will take about the first hour to review excerpts from books, published studies, or listen to podcasts, as well as participate in a nature-based devotion highlighting God's creation.

Location: Lutheran High School Northwest

Local nature preserve exploration

After wrapping up our learning session, we will head out to a local nature preserve to explore our surroundings, do some hiking, and learn about local plants, birds, and other animals. If you are a budding photographer, this would be a great opportunity to get some nature shots as we hike as well. When available, we may be attending nature programming (days/times to be determined). Transportation will be determined based on number of students attending the interim course. Required materials: Comfortable clothing in layers, and comfortable shoes or boots (waterproof) – we will be outside rain or shine!

Locations: Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Stage Nature Center, Clinton River Trail

Lunch and global mini-lesson

Whether on the trail or back at school, students will have an opportunity to eat their packed lunch and participate in a mini-lesson and discussion on conservation topics, and watch related nature documentaries. We will then discuss how we can connect this to being good stewards of the earth and caring for God's creation.

Location: Lutheran High School Northwest OR at the above nature centers

Final day: Belle Isle Nature Center

On our final day, we will meet at the school and travel to the Belle Isle Nature Center in Detroit. We will have the opportunity again to do more hiking, visit the aquarium, participate in available nature programs, visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, and other attractions – all located in Belle Isle State Park. Please bring a picnic lunch, snacks, money for concessions, and dress comfortably for the weather.

Location: Belle Isle State Park

Transportation: to be determined (dependent on number of students)