

Details

Messages from the Earth will be available on Tuesdays, March through May.

These programs are designed to be 5 hours long, beginning around 9am and ending around 2pm. Depending on your school schedule, these start and ending times may vary.

The cost is \$12 per student. Teachers are free.

The minimum number of students required to reserve a date is 20. The maximum capacity is 60 students. If you have more than 60 5th graders, please schedule 2 dates.

Messages from the Earth operates rain or shine! Please have your students dress for the weather and expect to experience the processes of the Earth first hand. Decisions regarding cancellations due to severe weather will be made between the reserving teacher and Stratford's Education Director on the morning of the scheduled date.

Cancellations or schedule changes must be made 2 weeks in advance. Last minute cancellations (excluding severe weather) will incur a 20% charge (based on the number of students reserved).

Payment can be made via cash, check or credit card. Please pre-order school invoices so that payment can be made on or before the scheduled program date.

For more information or to schedule, please contact Stratford's Education Director, Christa Hein at (740) 363-2548 or treebeing@aol.com



The Stratford Ecological Center is a 236-acre non-profit organic farm and State Nature Preserve, dedicated to teaching children and adults about the Earth's processes while connecting them to their food sources.



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Stratford Ecological Center's

Messages from the Earth

A stylized tree with a globe as its trunk and branches. The globe is blue and white, and the tree is green. The text "Messages from the Earth" is overlaid on the tree.

A standards-based
one-day curriculum for
5th grade classrooms



Education for a New Generation

These one-day curriculum-focused courses engage students in discovering how their world works while building upon the Ohio Academic Content Standards for 5th grade science.

Formatted around the model of Earth Education, each program hooks the students from the start, before they even leave the school. Organizers hold the programs together, giving structure to each day and helping the students retain the information. The immersing nature of the activities pull the students in, engaging their imaginations and involving their bodies in learning. At the end of each program, students will be excited, informed and engaged in the processes of the Earth.

Based on the international Sunship Earth curriculum, the Messages from the Earth programs utilize the best experiential activities designed for 5th graders. Choose which one best suits your curricular needs.

Messages from the Earth: Energy Flow

A mysterious package delivered to your classroom will hook your students into this engaging program where they will experience the flow of energy. Throughout their day, students will visit many strange and wonderful places: a cemetery where they will discover the flow of life and death, the "Food Factory" where they will take part in photosynthesis, Mr. Sun's Restaurant where they will become a part of the food chain, a city of the future where they will ride the air cycle, a forest full of squirrels hungry for nuts, and an energy competition between types of sandwiches. Using the information gathered in the morning activities, students will demonstrate the flow of energy while earning keys that will unlock the mysterious box.

This course addresses the following 5th grade Benchmarks and Indicators: Earth and Space Science (C, 5, 6); Life Science (A, B, 1, 2, 3); Physical Sciences (A, B); Science and Technology (3); Scientific Way of Knowing (B, 2)



Messages from the Earth: Cycles and Change

Valuable jars containing such rarities as "George Washington's breath" will capture the students' interest as they begin their discovery of cycles and change. Out amongst the cycles of water, air and nutrients, the students will engage with the elements as they become the water cycle, ride the air cycle and visit a cemetery full of life and death. They will become agents of change as they concoct their own soil recipes in Mama Nature's Kitchen and attempt to secure themselves on a "rocky cliff" as if they were moss. Using their new understandings, they will participate in a cooperative game show where they are a valuable part of the cycle.

This course addresses the following 5th grade Benchmarks and Indicators: Earth and Space Science (B, C, D, 6); Life Sciences (A, C, 4, 6); Physical Sciences (A, B); Science and Technology (A, 1); Scientific Inquiry (A, 1); Scientific Ways of Knowing (B, 2)



Messages from the Earth: Community

Students will receive new identities at school, acquiring name tags such as "long-legged fish nabber," "slippery undercover soil eater," or "small furry seed reducer." These puzzling characters will set off with a map, logging their discoveries in their "community chronicles." On their adventure, they'll become first-responders at a plane crash, earn their membership in the Club of Life, search for a missing passenger, turn into 3-armed Zorks, visit an abandoned community, and try to eat one of the group for dinner. Armed with completed "community chronicles," the students will demonstrate their understanding of adaptations, diversity, homesites, niches, competition and cooperation by finding natural representations of each concept, thus turning their small communities into a whole-class ecosystem.

This course addresses the following 5th grade Benchmarks and Indicators: Earth and Space Science (C, D, 5, 6); Life Sciences (A, B, C, 3, 4, 5, 6); Physical Sciences (B); Science and Technology (A, 1); Scientific Inquiry (B, 3); Scientific Way of Knowing (B, 2)