



DEAN'S REPORT ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

October 15, 2021

Thank you, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Mota, for your contributions to this report!

For many years, the seventh-grade students from Topeka Collegiate spent a few days, in humanitarian work, at the Heifer International Ranch in Arkansas. Sadly, HI discontinued the education piece of their mission, and a replacement trip for the class was sought. Rock Springs Ranch was selected for the annual trip, with students and faculty sponsors engaging in team-building, cooperative activities over a three-day period. The opportunity for an off-site, immersive experience was too good to pass up, and on Wednesday, October 6, the twelve-member class, along with Mr. Elian Mota and Mrs. Hayley Smith all made their way to the Geary County campsite.



Shortly after their arrival, the group found themselves in full swing; hiking, skipping rocks, campfire time, and s'mores filled the first afternoon and evening. The night sky proved to amaze them, with the Milky Way visible to them, which is not possible to view in the city. Beautiful sunrises awakened the students each morning.



Thursday was the class's only full day spent at the site, and it proved to be a full day. After an awesome breakfast (reports have come in that the kitchen crew sure knew what they were doing!), a game of Ga-Ga ball ensued. The students enjoyed it so much that they are anxious to bring it back to Topeka Collegiate. 3D archery, more hiking, and a low-elements ropes course filled the rest of the day. The team-building and cooperation required for meeting the challenges of the course made for some exciting, and sometimes frustrating, work. By the time they were concluded, however, the team was working like a well-oiled machine.

We are excited for this new Beyond the Book activity for the seventh-grade class, and the faculty sponsors are already looking forward to next year.

Would you like to suggest a topic for the Dean's Report?

Email Academic Dean, Mr. Flax, at mflax@topekacollegiate.org.