

# COMMUNITY OF SAINTS



Community of Saints Regional Catholic School (COS) 8th grade class attended a week-long trip to Wolf Ridge ELC on November 14th - November 18th. For many of the students, this was their first trip to northern Minnesota, the first time seeing Lake Superior, and the first time being away from their families for this extended amount of time. Students were even asked to leave their phones behind at home so they could fully immerse in their 8th grade class trip!



Wolf Ridge has now become a tradition for the current 8th grade class at COS. Students and their families are not asked to pay anything out of pocket. In fact, it is their class goal to fully fundraise the trip! One of our fundraisers was last week, where families with younger children dropped their students off at the school for a night of Christmas themed activities and treats. The 8th grade students and their families took care of the younger students and led the evening's events. Without these fundraisers, as well as generous donors like you, our 8th grade students would not be able to participate in a trip to Wolf Ridge. Wolf Ridge provides students the opportunity to build community and make connections in their learning.

A major goal of our week-long trip in the fall is for students to bond and build relationships that will transcend the rest of the school year. The class trip to Wolf Ridge truly fosters a positive classroom environment for the 8th graders. The 8th graders participate in challenges and team building activities that require them to have a positive mental attitude and encourage one another. In addition to Wolf Ridge programming, their trip also includes student-led evening reflections that promote virtues and values. Teachers and administrators have truly seen the positive impact that this experience has had on the class after they return.

In addition to team building, Wolf Ridge gives students the opportunity to make connections between what they've learned in the classroom and what is happening in the world around them. This year, the students spent time learning about topics such as geology, tree identification, and Ojibwe culture, all while trudging through 20 inches of fresh snow! Additionally, the students had to work together and have a positive mental attitude when trying out winter survival techniques or cheering one another on at the ropes course or rock climbing wall. The 8th graders even used their creative sides to transform objects found in nature into pieces of Earthworks.



Community building and making real-world connections are two valuable lessons that the 8th grade students are able to come away with after a week-long trip to Wolf Ridge. The class is very grateful for your generosity. Thank you!

- Community of Saints 8th Grade Class

