

4th Grade Cities

Recently, Big Hollow fourth grade students had an opportunity to participate in an exciting cities project that has been done annual for about 9 years. Last year, as third graders the students visited the cities as tourists, and have been looking forward to establishing their own cities since.

This year there were 8 cities, Christensen Falls, Las Axelson, S.S. Silverblatt, Brockford, Nacksville, Keenada, Lucago, and Royal Woods. Each of these cities had a working government complete with an elected Mayor, appointed vice mayor and city council. They also had a bank, police and fire officials, a sanitation engineer, doctor, and a pharmacist. Some of the cities had specials jobs as well such as a meteorologist and city reporter. The members of the city all had to make a product or design a service for the five days of operation, while no food items were allowed the teachers encouraged creativity. Each student's desk was transformed into their place of business by creating an eye catching sign in art class with the guidance of Mrs. Vivian Sekel. City council meetings were held to approve of businesses, pay for a business license, pay fines and report and solve problems that rose during simulation.

This project gives students a realistic snapshot of our society. The primary goal of the cities project is to teach students city government and how any economy works. Not only did each student have an occupation but they all maintained a bank account with money earned from their base salary and a profit from their business. Students also had to pay taxes and rent, had medical insurance cards and prescriptions as well as business insurance policies. As in life, unexpected situations arose when students received chance cards where they could either win or lose money. "Our students learn important social studies and life concepts and have fun in the process! It is an experience they never forget!" said fourth grade teacher Mrs. Andrea Woods.