Dear Florida Sixth Grade Teachers,

Thank you for considering bringing your students to the Dolphin Research Center. We have a variety of educational opportunities available to you and they are all listed on our website. However, just coming on site allows you to meet a variety of educational standards that are a part of your educational curriculum.

We have narrated sessions and theater presentations all day long. Attending these sessions will meet many of the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) for speaking and listening including:

- **LAFS.6.SL.1.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion. d. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.

- **LAFS.6.SL.2.6** Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

- **LAFS.6.L.3.6** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Second we have educational signs stationed throughout the grounds. These signs alone can meet many of the LAFS related to the reading of informational text. Again, you may choose to expand on the topics with your students back in the classroom to incorporate other LAFS related to writing.

- **LAFS.6.RI.1.1** Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- **LAFS.6.RI.1.2** Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

- **LAFS.6.RI.1.3** Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

- **LAFS.6.RI.2.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
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- **LAFS.6.RI.2.6** Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
- **LAFS.6.RI.3.7** Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

In addition to meeting the LAFS our narrations and signs also provide information that is related to the following Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science (NGSSS):

- **SC.6.L.14.5** Identify and investigate the general functions of the major systems of the human body (digestive, respiratory, circulatory, reproductive, excretory, immune, nervous, and musculoskeletal) and describe ways these systems interact with each other to maintain homeostasis.
- **SC.6.L.15.1** Analyze and describe how and why organisms are classified according to shared characteristics, with emphasis on the Linnaean system combined with the concept of Domains.
- **SC.6.N.1.3** Explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation, and explain the relative benefits and limitations of each.
- **SC.6.N.1.5** Recognize that science involves creativity, not just in designing experiments, but also in creating explanations that fit evidence.
- **SC.6.E.6.1** Describe and give examples of ways in which Earth’s surface is built up and torn down by physical and chemical weathering, erosion, and deposition.
- **SC.6.E.6.2** Recognize that there are a variety of different landforms on Earth’s surface, such as coastlines, dunes, rivers, mountains, glaciers, deltas, and lakes, and relate these landforms as they apply to Florida.
- **SC.6.E.7.8** Describe ways human beings protect themselves from hazardous weather and sun exposure.

You may opt to have students take what they have learned here and apply it to a research project (informational or persuasive) back at your school, allowing for the integration of additional writing standards. You may find a detailed list of these standards by visiting the grade appropriate standards letter for the state of Florida.

We thank you for your consideration and sincerely hope that you will take the time to bring your students to visit our dolphins in our wonderful natural classroom!

Dolphin Research Center Education Team