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Area students visit Terra for REACH program

Submitted story

Free pizza, bright blue backpacks and multi-colored plastic cups would be enough to make any youngster giddy, but about 40 area fifth-graders came away from Terra Community College on May 14 with much more than loot.

Students in Barb Moran's Otis Elementary fifth-grade class joined students from Randy Brown's Washington Elementary fifth-grade class in a tour of Terra. It was all part of the REACH program.

After a stop at the Sandusky County Job Store on Countryside Drive, the group arrived at Terra and visited the plastics lab and the Terra Truck Driving Academy. They also learned about jobs in human resources and financial services and they heard about this year's KidsCollege offerings.

The REACH career education program, now in its sixth year, is designed to introduce area upper-elementary school students to the "world of work" by linking the classroom with a mentor from chamber members. The mentors visit the schools on a monthly basis and present lessons designed to encourage the students to develop life skills that will assist in preparing them for the workforce in the future.

Mentors throughout the county are using a curriculum book developed by The Ohio State University-Marion. Lessons are reinforced with hands-on activities and a site visit.

"We want to get students to begin thinking about the jobs that will be available to them and the type of education they will need," said Jim Miranda, Coordinator of the REACH program for Sandusky County.

"We want them to think about life skills, like good attitudes and good habits, which they can apply right now at home and at school."

Don Stull, who conducts contract training and is the ElderCollege Liaison at Terra, has been serving as the REACH mentor for the two classes.



Students, in their REACH T-shirts, listen to instruction from Don Stull. (Submitted photo)