

Welcome to Museum School!

My name is Sam Mensinger, and on behalf of the education department at the Grout Museum District I would like to welcome you to an exciting and memorable week for your students. We are so excited to have you!

The Grout Museum District's "Museum School" is an innovative program that invites local third grade students to attend lessons at the Grout Museum District for one week. Our goal is to introduce children to cultural institutions and raise awareness of the rich history of their community through interactive and hands-on learning.

During this experience students experience living history presentations by Mary Hanna, one of the first pioneer women to the area and Jesse Bess, who helped make positive changes in the early 1900's for the African American population in the Cedar Valley. The students also practice the footwork involved in Native American dances, build simple machines, taste Johnny Cakes (a favorite snack for pioneers travelling the open plains), discuss the rich history of immigration and migration in the area, and honor the service and sacrifice of Iowa's service members in the Sullivan Brother's Iowa Veterans Museum by listening to oral history interviews.

We are continuously working with teachers to improve and modify the program to better fit their needs and evolving Iowa Core standards. Our goal is to ensure that future third grade students will be able to benefit from the valuable experience and knowledge gained from attending Museum School and the Grout Museum District. The 2019-2020 will be the program's 19th school year, and we are excited to include your third grade students as part of the Museum School legacy.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Mensinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Mensinger
District Educator, Grout Museum District