



Glenbow Museum School

Stories come alive when artifacts disclose their secrets. Museum School opens the door to Glenbow's world-class exhibits where students will see the brushstrokes in a painting and feel the stitching in a moccasin. Glenbow experiences are designed to inspire curiosity and engage all learners, through in-depth artifact study, engagement with concepts and ideas, and experiences working with professionals in the museum field.

"The opportunity to work in Glenbow gave me the ability to get to know my students and see their strengths and needs, inside and outside the classroom. I was able to better program and plan for all of my students." 2017 Teacher

The Chevron Open Minds Glenbow Museum School is an immersive education program for students in grades one through twelve. Teachers across Calgary apply for the opportunity to attend by outlining their educational philosophy, their in-class goals, and their willingness to learn new techniques for experiential education. In collaboration with Calgary's local school boards (Calgary Board of Education & Calgary Catholic School District) coordinators plan and execute week long experiences that are tailored to each teacher's specific learning plan for their class. Teachers are guided through a professional development program that involves workshops in the museum as well as in the classroom directly with students. During their week in the museum Teachers and Museum School Coordinators work together to draw students towards deep looking, hands on learning, and creative thought. After the week at the museum has ended teachers and students return to their classrooms with new tools for working together, and for engaging the curriculum.

"Students saw themselves differently as learners after their week. Some saw themselves as artists and writers. One student commented, 'this has been my best week at school.'" 2017 Teacher

Build on the research and practice of Gillian Kydd, the Open Minds model is guided by a board of community representatives, including teachers, academics, funders, and parents. After the initial success of Open Minds sites like Glenbow, programs and sites like it have developed across the city, and in other school districts around the globe.

"My son dislikes writing and I saw him ask for extra paper to sketch and label the exhibits that interested him.... I saw him being able to choose where and what he explored impacted his retention." 2017 Parent Volunteer

Students, parent volunteers, and teachers alike recognize the power of the program and the impact it has on learning. Each year participants are asked to review the program, and staff undergo professional development and evaluation procedures to ensure that they are following best practices in Museum based education.

"This was the best day of my life." - 2017 Student