

Calumet students tend school forest

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From left, Blaine Ruonavaara, Evan Anderson, Ethan Larson and Tyler Loukus participated with the seventh-grade class at Washington Middle School in Community Day at the Calumet Waterworks Park Thursday. The students took their family and community members on tours through the school forest to show them what they have been learning all year.



CALUMET - The seventh-grade class at Washington Middle School in Calumet has been collaborating through team projects as part of a stewardship initiative, and Thursday, the students took what they learned all year and shared it with the community.

The students are part of the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, which means throughout the year they helped take care of the local beach at Calumet Waterworks and accompanying school forest across the road.

"Our Community Day is a wrap up of what they learned during the year," teacher Darrell Hendrickson said.

By using the beach and forest, the students learn several different school subjects, from science to mathematics to language arts.

"We try to do it in everything we do," he said.

Throughout the year, the students gathered data and took it back to the classroom to be analyzed in laboratory situations, he said.

In language arts, the students are required to produce a management plan and PowerPoint presentation. This is the fourth year the students have been working in the forest and the second year with the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative. Emily Toepper was one of the students participating in the day's events. Clad in an orange vest and hard hat, the seventh-grade student said she was happy to get out of school for the morning and into the sunshine.

"We were marking the four corners, north, east, south and west, and so I helped do that and they are going to see how many trees are on that spot," she said.

Toepper said by learning where the center point is and finding the radius of 26.33 feet, they are able to find out how many trees are in that area.

"We then measure the diameter of them," she said.

The students gave tours to their families and community members and the pavilion housed table after table of school projects including cleaning up the beach to projects about the school forest.