

To Whom It May Concern:

Our 6th grade team at Granite Valley Middle School have been involved with Adventure In Adventure Out for over 10 years now. When we first heard of this organization, they were working with students at Quarry Hill Elementary School in Monson, MA, teaching "Orientation" to children in an after-school program. We heard wonderful things about the program and staff and decided to look further into a program they might do with the middle school.

We have not been disappointed. We have returned every year since, except the one year when a tornado devastated our town. Every time we participate in this program, we walk away reflecting on another outstanding experience.

James McNaughton, Ben Delozier and the entire staff of Adventure In Adventure Out are wonderful to work with. They worked with our 6th grade staff to provide an experience that our students would not soon forget. In fact, at our 8th grade graduation ceremony, students reflecting on their lasting memories of school each year mention 6th grade and their experience at Adventure In Adventure Out. Our students always mention the raft building experience as "awesome." I love how the staff worked with us in coming up with questions for the "Ultimate Game", that reflects the standards from the Massachusetts Frameworks.

As educators, we want the very best for our students and we believe that this program is one of the most valuable ones around. Not only do the students benefit, but so do the parents and teachers. The day we spend working together becomes a bonding experience. Students who would not normally be friends in school are now working hand in hand and really getting to know one another. What makes this program stand apart from anything else we have ever done is how the staff interacts with the students. They provide guidance for the students to step out of their comfort zone and do something they have never done before. For each student, it is different. For some students the program offers a workshop that is invaluable in fostering team building and leadership skills. For others, it is the interpersonal relationships that are built with other students who they never spent time with before. As teachers, we observe the effect of this program on the school culture when we return from our experience. We've observed that the students are more willing to try new things and they have stronger bonds with one another. We also notice a willingness on the students parts to extend themselves out into their community and the world to make positive changes. I know that time and maturity plays a part in how the students grow, but one cannot discount the enthusiasm and wisdom of the staff at Adventure In Adventure Out in inspiring these positive changes.

I can honestly say that the staff at Adventure In Adventure Out provide lasting memories and their effect on our school cannot be matched. I very highly recommend this program. It is of outstanding worth and effectiveness. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can elaborate more on the value of this program.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Paulsen
6th Grade Teacher
Instructional Team Leader