



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ALERT – Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Fargo Public School District #1

EXPLORER ACADEMY STUDENTS TO VISIT NDSU EQUINE CENTER AS PART OF BISON STRIDES PARTNERSHIP

Students at Explorer Academy have been writing letters to horses at the NDSU Equine Center all school year, and now they are finally going to get to meet their pen pals.

WHAT: Explorer Academy Letter Exchange with Horses at NDSU
WHEN: **Friday, May 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
WHERE: NDSU Equine Center, 5140 19th Avenue North, Fargo
CONTACT: **Dr. Justin Lien**, Explorer Academy Principal, 701.446.4104 or lienj@fargo.k12.nd.us for more information.

Fargo Public Schools Explorer Academy partnered with North Dakota State University's equine-assisted services program, Bison Strides, for a handwriting and field trip experience. The pilot program, which began last fall, emphasizes social-emotional competency and social interaction through a letter exchange with the horses at Bison Strides. The students wrote letters to the horses and the horses responded with letters of their own.

Students will participate in a final field trip to visit their pen pals at the NDSU Equine Center on Friday, May 19. The field trips are the culminating event of the experience with Bison Strides. Elementary students from Explorer Academy will spend time at the NDSU Equine Center interacting and learning about the horses as well as reading them their final letters.

Stations will be led by the school's speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, and sensory gym facilitator and include basic equine facts, grooming, leading horses over and through obstacles, and a riding simulation.

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