



## Get Ready... Get Set... Helpful Hints for a Successful Museum Visit

A field trip to the Crocker Art Museum is a great idea! Many school groups who come to the Museum participate in docent-led tours, but some teachers decide to plan their own. If you will be the guide for your students and are wondering what you should look at during your tour, here are some ideas for helping them (and you!) have a successful and meaningful visit to the Crocker.

**Use the pass!** Educators who schedule a tour will receive a free Educator Preview Pass, which admits two people to the Museum. You'll make better use of your scheduled time and experience fewer hiccups during your field trip if you have a plan. Printable worksheets to help you design your own tour are included in this guide.

**Less might be more.** Don't try to show your class the whole museum during your visit! If you went to a restaurant and tried to taste everything on the menu, you'd have a negative experience and never want to return. Instead, choose a few artworks to really enjoy with your students and encourage them to return to experience more another time. The Crocker All-Stars Curriculum Enrichment Guide provides a good list, or you might choose your own favorites to share.

**Engage your students.** Looking at art is a skill you can help your students acquire. Include a few engagement activities into your tour, using some of the suggestions in the Curriculum Enrichment Guides or designing some of your own. The "Let's Talk" resource also provides suggested questions for leading a conversation about an artwork. Be sure to bring pencils (no pens!), paper, and clipboards if you need them for your activities.

**Use the Digital Crocker.** If it's just not feasible to visit the Museum before bringing your class, make a virtual visit. You can also use the online images to let your students preview the artworks. Don't worry about spoiling the surprise; how many people line up to see the actual Mona Lisa even though they've seen images of it countless times? Students enjoy feeling familiar with a piece of art, and the question "What surprises you most about seeing this in person?" can begin a good discussion.

**Don't forget the before and after.** The "Talk the Talk!" and "Walk the Walk!" guides include some valuable resources for preparing your students for their visit. Providing a way for students to reflect on their experience afterward is valuable too, perhaps with the creative writing project described here, or with a discussion in Crocker Park or back in the classroom. You might even send home a note that says something like, "I went to an art museum today! Ask me about..."

*You probably came up with even more ideas as you read through these hints. By keeping your students' needs in mind and doing a little thoughtful planning, you can make your trip to the Museum one of the highlights of your school year. We're looking forward to seeing you at the Crocker!*