



KDT! Brings History to Life at the 8 Square Schoolhouse

Fourth grade students learn about local history throughout the curriculum and *Kids Discover the Trail! (KDT!)* ensures they all spend a day at the History Center in Tompkins County's Eight Square Schoolhouse on Hanshaw Road near Rt. 13. This original brick octagon one room school has been serving students for over 180 years, and is currently the site of the 1890's [Living History Program](#).

Young 'scholars' become transformed back in time for this memorable school day, complete with pump and well, outhouses, and old fashioned games, as well as period curriculum using the 3 R's and pen and ink lessons. History Center Program Coordinator Carole West says "It is truly an unforgettable and one-of-a-kind field trip that immerses young students in the life of a child from over 100 years ago!"

The students partake in a flag raising ceremony and sing patriotic songs. They have a roll call and are 'prepped' for the day by learning the "Common Sense Rules" of the school before reading and grammar lessons, spelling bee, poetry, nature studies inside and outdoors, and math lessons. They also learn about the life of a child in the 1890s and the political and economic climate of this period in history.

KDT! is a collaboration between IPEI, ICSD, and the Discovery Trail that brings 2900 Pre-K-5th grade students to each of the seven trail museums and the public library once during their elementary school years. Community support makes the curriculum-based field trips and other aspects of *KDT!* possible. Learn more at www.kidsdiscoverthetrail.org and www.ipei.org.

