

## July 2018 Education Outreach Coordinator Progress Report

*Amanda Kucharek (July 16, 2018)*

### **Current Goings On:**

On July 2, I began working as EOC on a part-time basis until the final two-weeks at my previous job were complete. As of July 16, I am at the museum full-time. Stepping into this role includes a lot of immersive study, and I began this process by reading through most relevant paper and digital files such as:

- current exhibit information/background to construction
- past field trip informational packets and activity handouts
- history of the Museum and Alpena industry/trailblazing citizens

As I read through informational guides, I have been taking notes, condensing, and rewriting certain handouts of interest for both future guide benefit and my own retention of information. I have pinned the names of the exhibit/activity spaces used onto my corkboard and am starting to collect summaries of past activities under each to “see” some of my options for planning. Every day I am finding more information that make it easier to paint the current scope and goals of the Museum into one Big Picture.

Due to my teacher education background being focused mostly on Visual Art, I am most familiar with the National Core Arts Standards system. The organization/layout of MI standards for both Science (based on NGSS) and Social Studies are similar, being that they were all updated and rewritten around the same time ('13-now). I researched and saved digital copies of all art/science/social studies standard expectations, and created condensed reference sheets for easy planning in the future.

In my art education courses, I picked up the “8 Artist (or Studio) Habits of Mind” (developed not long after the “16 Habits of Mind”) which were developed as a framework of skills and attributes observed in patterns of intellectual behavior. Integrating the habits into lessons, I found that they related easily into other worlds of study besides visual art. Upon my hiring, I researched some of the big ideas behind New Museology and found both systems would be extremely beneficial as support for lesson planning, particularly in a museum setting such as this. As I read through existing lesson material, and take notes on potential new material, I have been looking for connections and new ways to articulate these learning goals. While I have not been a student of Museology, I feel reassured and confident that this new experience will not be so much of a leap as it is a step forward.

### **Future Interests:**

I am looking forward to future collaborations with the new Planetarium Coordinator, as he also begins his full employment today. I appreciate the opportunity to have a well-rounded curriculum with the variety of visual aids that our planetarium equipment accommodates.

As the school season approaches, I am anticipating seeing how all the preparatory and supplementary field trip files are put into practice. I have been getting a sense by reading and observing small summer tours, and am eager to participate in larger events.