

*Educator's
Guide
to the
Parthenon
2010-2011*



About the Parthenon

Nashville's Parthenon is the only full-scale replica of the Greek Parthenon in existence. Created with exacting attention to detail, its massive columns and pleasing dimensions attract thousands of visitors each year. Originally built for Tennessee's 1897 Centennial Exposition, this elegant structure serves as a monument to what is considered the pinnacle of



classical architecture, highlighted by the 42-foot gilded statue of Athena and plaster casts of the Elgin Marbles which adorned the pediments of the Athenian Parthenon dating back to 438 B.C. The originals of these powerful fragments are housed in the British Museum in London. The Nashville Parthenon also houses three art galleries including The James Cowan Collection of 19th-20th century American art.



How to Make a Field Trip Reservation

The Parthenon offers teachers an opportunity to use this unique structure as a teaching tool for meeting curriculum standards in a variety of school subjects including social studies, language arts, mathematics, science, theater, and visual arts. In accordance with our desire to provide a meaningful experience and with a Metro Parks directive, the Parthenon limits the size (**a maximum of 60 students divided into two groups of 30**) and number of field trips (five groups) per day with larger groups divided among time slots. **Standard field trips will be offered on Tuesdays through Saturdays. Special workshops with a maximum of 30 participants may also be set up. All groups pre-K –12 must be guided by Parthenon staff and tours must be set up at least seven days in advance of the visit.** To schedule a field trip or workshop call 862-8431 or email Linda.Vanlandingham@nashville.gov. When the date and time are approved, you will receive a faxed or emailed confirmation.

Photos by Gary Layda



For ADA accommodations please call 862-8400.

“Not Your Typical Tour” High School Programs

With record numbers of high school students (more than 1/3 of all student tours) visiting this unique structure, the Parthenon seeks an expanded role in the educational experience of area teens. In addition to the Parthenon's active participation in Alignment Nashville's 9-12 Developing Community Leaders, the museum plans to utilize the museum's web site and focus group training for proactive involvement in area high schools. From on-line activities targeting advanced critical thinking, analysis, discussion topics, and writing skills, to on-site mathematics, Socratic Dialogue group sessions, lectures, and sketching time, the Parthenon offers a host of programming opportunities to appeal to the advanced needs of high school students. Details will be available and updated on the Parthenon web site: www.Parthenon.org (under Educational Resources) throughout the year. Pictured below: the High School First Amendment Forum following the 2008 Presidential Debates at Belmont. (l-r: Gene Policinski, First Amendment Center, Parthenon Education Director DeeGee Lester, MBA student moderator Sam Page, and Civil Rights leader Rev. James Lawson).



The Parthenon Tour

The Parthenon offers unique opportunities for teachers to meet curriculum standards (listed on the web site at www.Parthenon.org) as students explore the building's interior and exterior to learn about Greek history, culture, temple design elements, structural methods and mythological ties. The building becomes a visual tool for diverse subject areas including Social Studies, Math and Science, Language Arts, and Visual Arts and demonstrates the connections and influences of each of these subject areas to the others.

The typical Parthenon tour (approximately 45 minutes and offered Tuesdays through Saturdays) consists of a visit on the upper (temple) level Naos (containing the 42ft. gilded statue of Athena as well as copies of the Elgin Marbles) and the Treasury. Students also tour the art galleries on the lower level housing the Cowan Collection of American Art and two galleries that change exhibits about every 8-12 weeks. Groups focusing only on the Greek portion of the building may substitute an outside architectural tour (weather permitting) for the gallery tour.

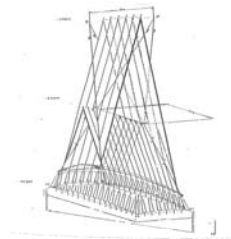


Call 615-862-8431 to reserve teacher resources/schedule workshops

FOCUS ON MATHEMATICS:

From shapes and geometric patterns to compound angles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and the Golden Proportion, the Parthenon provides teachers and students the visual tools to explore a complex subject and promote abstract thinking.

In addition, teachers may request tours focusing on math and traditional tours now incorporate mathematical concepts from Pre-K through high school. On-line lesson plans include math/science, elementary patterns, high school exploration of the novel/animated DVD *Flatland*, and on-line activities exploring the importance of mathematics to music, art, literature, and other subjects. An outdoor mathematics activity sheet is available for middle school, allowing students to combine observation with math skills. Other math initiatives will be posted on the Parthenon web site.



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Meeting Standards:

The most obvious standard met by your visit to the Parthenon is **Social Studies World History Era 3: Classical Traditions (6.508, 6.5.09, and 6.5.10)** and especially **6.5.tpi.11 (attend a field trip pertaining to an early world history topic)**. In addition, the Parthenon is an excellent setting for exploring the roots of Democracy and leadership. However, standards are met for a number of subjects at various grade levels. Listed below are examples:

Language Arts: From listening skills to mythology (spi.0301.8.4); from plot and conflict analysis (spi-0601.8.3/8.6) to the Romantic Poets and *Antigone*; from inductive and deductive logic (0701.5.6) to development of Socratic Dialogues, the Parthenon helps students experience the magic and discover the roots of Western literature

Mathematics/Science: Beginning with K-2 directional, shape and pattern recognition, the Parthenon lesson plans and tours move students from concrete to abstract thinking (0306.1.4-0806.1.4) and an awareness of the historical roots of mathematics (0406.1.7-0706.1.7). What better venue for the study of mathematical concepts including symmetry, the Golden Ration, π , optical illusion, proportion, and the Pythagorean Theorem? An outdoor math program is also available to challenge your class.

Theatre: In addition to Greek comedy/tragedy, the Parthenon demonstrates the roots of theatre/opera in ancient Greece, from plot to vocabulary to staging.

Visual Arts: Explore *classical* sculpture and architecture, a new interpretation of the Cowan Collection of American Art, as well as contemporary exhibits.



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Teacher Resources:

Parthenon Web Site

The Parthenon web site (www.Parthenon.org) offers curriculum-based lesson plans/downloadable teacher packets in a variety of subjects including mythology, music and theatre, social studies, math and science, visual arts, and language arts, in addition to resource listings, workshop offerings and special lesson plans for Parthenon exhibits.

Lectures and Workshops

Free academic lectures on a variety of topics (many sponsored by Vanderbilt University) are held one evening each month throughout the school year (check the Parthenon web site for upcoming dates/lectures). In addition, the Parthenon education director works with Metro Curriculum Coordinators and the Professional Development Office to sponsor educational workshops for teachers. Announcements will be posted on the website and distributed through Metro Schools for upcoming opportunities.

Slide Sets and Video Loans

The Parthenon has a limited number of slide sets and videos for seven-day loan (with a returnable deposit) to any Metro/Davidson County public or private school. A list of available titles and arrangements for reserving these materials can be made by calling DeeGee Lester at 862-8431.

Student Opportunities:

Pictured right: **Intern Karissa Wheeler** (a Metro Middle School student) leading mythology storytelling during the summer of 2010.



Pictured below: A portion of the Greek museum exhibit created by students from **Athens Middle School, Athens, Alabama**, named as the Parthenon's 2009-2010 **School of the Year**.

TOURS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED:

THE PATHENON MAINTAINS ITS UNIQUE POSITION AS AN INNOVATOR AND AREA BENCHMARK IN THE CREATION OF SPECIAL TOURS AND PROGRAMS THAT BRING THE BUILDING AND THE ART TO THE BLIND AND



Parthenon Theatre Performances

Pictured below is a pre-rehearsal discussion by members of John Holleman and Company for a past production.

