

**Starkweather Elementary School
Mini-Grant Project Summary 2019
By Chris Low on behalf of MDS Classes 1 and 2**

With the support of the West Chester Area Education Foundation, the MDS program at Starkweather elementary school was able to partially fund two Community-Based Instruction opportunities this year. On our first trip, students visited Spring Brook Farm, which was a fully accessible farm experience that was tailored to our MDS population. Students had the opportunity to interact with and learn about animals, as well as take a fully accessible hay ride around the property. The kids had an amazing time!



Our second trip partially funded by the grant was a trip to the Elmwood Park Zoo. Students had the opportunity to navigate an unfamiliar place, use their social skills, and build awareness of community functions by eating and using the bathroom in less familiar locations. The students also had opportunities to branch out of their comfort zone and feed giraffes! Both trips provided the students with unique opportunities to take the skills they practice every day in the classroom and generalize them to other

environments, and we are grateful yet again for the opportunity to get outside the walls of our school building and work to prepare our students for life in their communities!

