**Lesson Name:** Meet a Veteran  ****

**Best Audience:** Any age

*Grand Prairie ISD Pre-Kindergarten learners are engaging with a Veteran and learning how to salute correctly.*



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| **OBJECTIVE:** | * To create a connection between the Veteran and the Learner thus inspiring honor and respect for the sacrifices and experiences of the Veterans during their service

 * To provide learners with a new career path to explore
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| **MATERIALS AND PEOPLE NEEDED:** | * A Veteran with the ability and willingness to share their experience with an audience
* A comfortable, quiet indoor setting with good climate control for the Veteran and their escort
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| **OUTCOME to show knowledge growth of Learner:** | * Leaners should grow their understanding of what a Veteran is, what their experiences are like, what sacrifices they made when they chose to serve, and how to honor one through their actions.

*Measurement tool: Ask students to compose a thank you letter stating 1) what they learned and 2) how the Veteran impacted them. Younger students can verbally respond to questions or draw pictures and state what they learned.*  |

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| ***(Optional)* STEM EXPLANATION to use with Learners:** | Have Veterans spend some time talking about how they used math and science and technology in their time in the military. Explain to students how knowing math and science and technology while in combat situations is critical to success and comes with lots of practice. STEM is part of everything.  |

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| ***(Optional)* CAREER CONNECTION to discuss with Learners:** | Learners can pursue STEM careers within the military, after military service with assistance for school, or as a civilian working for the Department of Defense. *Note: have students research their career field and what STEM is, then have them fill out the “Flight Plan for Life” (attachment on Rise Above website) mapping out the steps they will need to pursue their career objective.*  |

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| **OTHER RESOURCES:** | <https://www.mystudentpath.com/student/new><https://dodstem.us/about> |

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| **HOW TO PLAN** |
| *Depending on the nature of your education event, use the information below to make this activity a success. The PRE-EVENT information can be used to give to teachers before their students come to an education event. Similarly, the POST EVENT information can be handed to teachers with information on where to mail the thank you notes for the Vet as the class leaves the event.* **Ahead of Time:**1. Identify a Veteran to come speak.
2. Understand what accommodations need to be made for their comfort and what the escort expectations are. (seating, room temperature, quiet space if it’s hard for them to hear, snacks, water, wheel chair escort if the walk is long from parking to where the event is, etc.).
3. Get a good background on them to make a solid introduction (name, rank, branch, war served in, anything else to hook the audience when making an introduction).
4. Ask if there are any particular stories they feel passionate about sharing and if there are any topics they prefer to void.
5. Prepare some questions ahead of time to keep the flow of the conversation going.
6. Have a designated greeter for the Veteran and their escort.
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| **Learning Leader** | **Learners** | **Considerations** |
| * PRE-EVENT: Have a discussion ahead of time with the Learners regarding what appropriate behavior should look like (how and where to sit, how to raise hands to answer questions, how to address the Vet, etc.)
* If the Vet was involved in a war, discuss the War and its importance on their life today. If not, discuss what our service people do in times of peace.
* Discuss concepts of citizenship, gratitude, duty, and sacrifice.
* POST-EVENT: Have students write thank you notes to the Vet. Talk to students about why this was important, discuss STEM used for jobs in the military, ask students what they know now that they didn’t know before the talk (outcomes of knowledge growth)
 | * Have questions prepared ahead of time.
* Listen and make connections with the values the Vet talks about to their own lives and choices
* Show respect through behavior
* Show gratitude through thank you note after the event.
 | YOUNG LEARNERS:Have a the Vet give a very short (5-10 minute) talk about what he did and how he served, have the Vet teach students to salute and discuss how to be a good citizenOLDER LEARNERS: Have them prepare questions ahead of time that they want to ask. Have them write thank you notes and mail them to the Vet after the event.  |