

Taking a step back into history to travel the same routes taken by Daniel Boone, the Evarts Elementary School Gifted and Talented Program had the educational opportunity to experience the Cumberland Gap Tunnel in Middlesboro. The Gifted and Talented Program brings together the top students in grades 4-8 to provide them with educational opportunities and supplementary activities to the classroom. Throughout the trip, students were able to not only tour the tunnels constructed from 1985-1996, but were also able to learn about the history of the Cumberland Gap and its importance to the culture of Southeastern Kentucky. Students were able to discuss multiple aspects of the construction of the Cumberland Gap Tunnels. They learned about the laws passed which made the creation of the tunnels possible. The tour guide explained the history of the area, and how technological advances turned the dream of the tunnels into a reality. The students also learned about the engineering aspects of the tunnels, including the electronic sensors, state-of-the-art ventilation systems, and cross passages for emergency access.

