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# "GREEN" WITH INNOVATION PART II

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## WHAT DID YOU DO?

Due to unforeseen circumstances with this COVID 19 Virus coupled with construction beginning in our school during January, we were only able to purchase the materials for our grant. Construction in our building was working in and around our storage area and outdoor classroom, then school was closed due to the COVID 19 Virus. Pictured above was our class working on getting our spot ready for our hoop tents and an area to start tilling. Fortunately, this will give us an immediate project to start upon returning to school in August and we can work on Fall vegetables rather than Spring and Summer vegetables.



## WHY DID YOU DO IT?

We are a very small k-12 school in one building. We are very limited with funds, and with that we as teachers must constantly think outside of the box for ways to fund our classroom. We may be a small school, however our class sizes are fairly large. When there is a larger amount of students in your classroom it makes it difficult to find resources and usually results in more out of pocket expense than normal. This year I will be teaching our second Agricultural Science Class at Jackson City School and I have never been more excited! Our plans are to start a greenhouse business and have a year round supply of fruits, vegetables, and flowering plants for my students to run their own business.



## HOW WILL IT WORK?

We are trying to build this program from very limited funds and the gracious grants we were able to get last year through ARI. Without this equipment we would not be able to properly take care and manage what has been given to us for great use in our community. With the high tunnel, we can tend to more plants with the limited space we have by using the tiller we will purchase and keeping it all warm via the high tunnel.

All food we grow will be used as an extra part of our already growing Farmers Market.

## WILL IT HAVE AN IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING?

- Students learn focus and patience, cooperation, teamwork and social skills.
- they gain self-confidence and a sense of “capableness” along with new skills and knowledge in food growing — soon-to-be-vital for the 21st century.
- garden-based teaching addresses different learning styles and intelligences; our non-readers can blossom in the garden!
- achievement scores improve because learning is more relevant and hands-on.
- students become more fit and healthy as they spend more time active in the outdoors and start choosing healthy foods over junk food.
  - the schoolyard is diversified and beautified.
- graffiti and vandalism decrease because students respect what they feel some ownership in.



## **CAN THIS BE USED WITH FUTURE CLASSES?**

Absolutely! Every grant I have applied for has always been one that can be used year after year. This grant will be beneficial for years to come with all my Agricultural Science classes. This will give us a sustainable program for years to come if it is taken care of and properly maintained. For this I am grateful that I do not have to worry about where our future funds will come from since this is not a cheaply maintained class. (If you want your students to have real-life hands-on experiences)

# STUDENT EXPERIENCES

- I was really looking forward to being able to learn how run a tiller and keep vegetables going in our hoop tents, but thanks to KVEC we had our previous grants from last year that kept us going. Our chickens are enough to take care of every single day, not to mention our experiences we learned with canning again. Construction at our school kept our class at a halt. I cannot wait until next year after all construction is over at school and the virus is gone so we can get back to our outdoor classroom.

-Michael Mauk 10th Grade (second year AG student)



# Thank You

Thank you, KVEC, for blessing us teachers across our region with chances to think outside of the box with our children. Without your help, I would never be able to afford the things I have purchased to give my students the experiences they have had over the last 5 years. Bless you and thank you for all you do for us!

Britni Tincher-Back

