

Cavalier Greens

Produce and Pride



"A garden is grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all, it teaches entire trust."

—Gertrude Jekyll



Learning Innovation Grant

This is my second year having the opportunity to work with KVEC and the learning innovation grant. Our project this year piggybacks on the project we began last year.

Last year, I worked with 5th graders to complete a deep dive into local history in hopes of building interest in history and pride in their community. Throughout our project last year we learned how the people of our community, and appalachia as a whole, provided for themselves by planting gardens. This is one aspect of our culture that is slowly being lost.

Flash forward to 2020, when presented with the opportunity for a second Learning Innovation Grant I knew I wanted to take a step back into history by teaching the age old tradition of gardening. This project will provide vital hands on experiences for students while teaching a useful skill directly connected to our heritage. The project will also allow our students to take pride in themselves and what they can do by learning a new skill.





Problem of Practice

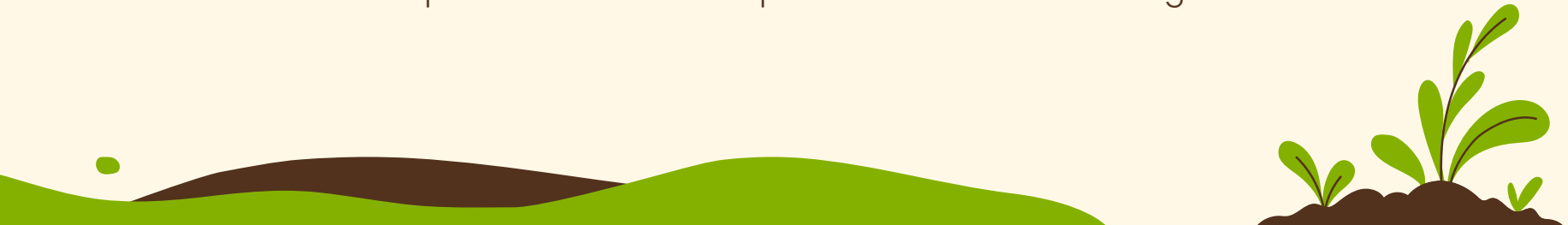
Providing a hands on experience for both traditional and virtual learning students

What is science without hands on experiences?

In my short career of teaching science and social studies I've learned that the hands on experience is crucial in making the scientific connections.

Pre-Covid, hands on experiences in the classroom were a weekly occurrence. Now with copd guidelines we have to evaluate how these hands on experiences can be beneficial while also promoting safety for all.

Our project, Cavalier Greens, will allow us to provide meaningful hands on experiences for both in person and virtual learning students.



Strategy

With the learning innovation grant we will be able to provide a school based greenhouse for our students who choose to come back to school in person.

We will also be able to provide take home mini greenhouse kits for students who choose to continue virtual learning.

Both traditional and virtual learning students will plant their own seeds and care for them as they grow.



Resources




6x8 School Based Greenhouse

This will allow our in person students to have hands on experience.



Take home mini greenhouse kits

These will be sent home to our students who have chosen our virtual learning option. Having this option allows students to have the same hands on experience as our in person students.



Planting supplies

Planting supplies include seeds, soil, pots and other things needed to ensure our seeds thrive.



Projected Outcomes

Traditional and virtual students should have similar planting results which will be proven and presented using data including measurements and photos for comparison.

Students will have increase in self pride when seeing the fruits of their labor.

Students will have an enhanced connection to their heritage through learning the skill of planting and providing.

Students will have better understanding of economics IF we are able to participate in our local farmers market (covid guidelines)



Long term goals

This project has the potential to impact learning within our school well beyond the life of this grant. The grant provides us with the starter resources to establish a hands on learning environment from the early ages. My hopes, when looking to the future, include involving younger grades in the planting process which will promote leadership skills with our older students taking on the role of teacher. We also have endless possibilities of learning in all content areas.

Reading - reading and following grow directions and charts

Science - learning life cycles & needs for plant growth

Math - tracking and evaluating grow data

Social Studies - Economics training (supply and demand, production, etc)

Overall, I hope to take this project and grow (pun intended) into a program that takes a part of our cultural past and pushes it into the future with our children at the lead.

