



District: *Rockford Public Schools*

Building: *East Rockford Middle School*

Teacher(s): *Barb Altizer, Linda Spencer, Amy Banfield*

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Grade Level: *6th*

Subject(s): *Science/English*

First Trimester:

Second Trimester:

Third Trimester:

First Semester:

Second Semester:

All Year: *x*

Name of Project: *Earth Keepers*

Project Overview

Give a brief overview of the project you are planning.

To establish a building wide recycling program that includes #'s 1 & 2 plastics, paper, cardboard, telephone books, magazines, ewaste and compost items from our lunch. Staff, students and parents will be involved and may also bring items from home to be recycled. Reducing the amount of trash disposal will keep unwanted materials from our streets, waterways, school campus and surrounding areas.

When items that can be recycled, are thrown away instead, that increases our landfill needs, pollutes our waterways and in many instances contaminates our groundwater. Keeping these items out of our trash will impact our watershed immediately while creating a sense of responsibility in our school community. By sharing our program with the surrounding community we can build awareness and encourage all families to responsibly recycle, reuse, and reduce their volume of trash.

Effective Practice: MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Service learning actively engages participants in meaningful and personally relevant service activities.

What community need will you address and how did you determine the need?

Earth Keeper students brainstormed ideas for a project. They observed that much of what was in our trash was plastic and could be recycled. Through a class vote, the majority of the 87 students wanted to work on making recycling easy at East. Students spent time in small groups discussing our options and through their ideas we found that our trash collector, Waste Management, we could easily recycle more items if they were willing to be the collectors and sorters.

What service will you provide to address the need?

By providing opportunities to increase end of life recycling or reuse, we will reduce overall environmental impact. Establishing composting programs for food wastes will decrease the amount of waste hauled from our building and teach students to start these programs in their homes.

Effective Practice: LINK TO CURRICULUM

Service learning is intentionally used as an instructional strategy to meet learning goals and/or content standards.

How is this project related to your curriculum?

It relates to our study of ecosystems, how changes in one population affect other populations in the food web, and the patterns of relationships between and among populations in an ecosystem including watersheds.

What are the educational goals?

For students to understand and implement the process of scientific inquiry and reasoning through observation, questioning, recording, communicating, and developing solutions to problems.

Curriculum Crafter Connections www.curriculumcrafter.com

Strand: 06SCI: (Earth Science)

TLW: *Identify the interactions and interdependence of populations, communities, and ecosystems and explain the factors that affect ecosystems. (Gist: Environmental Impact of Organisms)*

Additional State Standards and Benchmarks

List standards and benchmarks met by this project.

Strand: 06SCI: (Earth Science)

TLW: *Classify organisms based on their source of energy and describe patterns of relationships between organism within and ecosystem. (Gist: Relationships of Organisms)*

Effective Practice: REFLECTION

Service learning incorporates multiple challenging reflection activities that are ongoing and that prompt deep thinking and analysis about oneself and one's relationship to society.

What form(s) of reflection will you use with the students to help them identify what they have learned and accomplished?

Classroom discussions, videotaped observations, public presentations

Effective Practice: DIVERSITY

Service learning promotes understanding of diversity and mutual respect among all participants.

What types of diverse perspectives and experiences will be explored as part of your project? (i.e.: cultural, generational, abilities/disabilities, learning styles, etc)

Students will learn first-hand the amount of waste generated not only in our building, but county wide when they visit the recycling center, landfill and waste to energy plant in Grand Rapids. They will explore different ways of reducing our trash and educating others.

The site based learning trip will be a springboard for developing a "Learning Center" in our building to encourage our population to recycle at home as well as at school.

Effective Practice: YOUTH VOICE

Service learning provides youth with a strong voice in planning, implementing, and evaluating service learning experiences with guidance from adults.

How will students gain ownership of the project?

Students have ownership of this project from the beginning. They will monitor and be given the opportunity to adjust the program as they see a need. Through their efforts our school population will be educated about

the importance of recycling. They will report to the building, the amount we are saving from landfills and publish the facts in the school newspaper.

Effective Practice: RECIPROCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Service learning partnerships are collaborative, mutually beneficial, and address community needs.

Who will you partner with for this project?

- *CompRenew-Will provide E-Waste Trailer for collection-CompRenew will refurbish the electronics and sell them or recycle the parts that cannot be reused.*
- *Waste Management-Will provide dumpsters and pick up of recycling-WM will sell at market price*
- *Shupan Recycling-Will provide collection containers and a trailer at large events such as Relay for Life-Shupan will process and sell at market price*
- *Venman Landscaping-will give a presentation about starting a compost program & help to build the collection site-Venman's will be given advertising space on our collection barrels.*
- *Cranbrook Institute-provide educational programming about watersheds-*
- *Cannon Township-provide educational programming about Bear Creek and Rogue River watersheds-students will write articles in their newsletters to educate the public and participate in the Bear Creek Watershed Festival as helpers.*

How will students benefit from this partnership?

Students will be what can be recycled and how to properly recycle them at school, in order to expand their recycling efforts in their homes.

How will the partner benefit from this collaboration?

The students will help the partners by increasing recycling efforts, implementing proper recycling techniques, reducing waste, and educating the community on how to do all of these as well.

Effective Practice: PROGRESS MONITORING

Service learning engages participants in an ongoing process to assess the quality of implementation and progress toward meeting specified goals, and uses results for improvement and sustainability.

How will you assess the student learning goals?

Students will be tested on scientific concepts in class and through their demonstration of knowledge at the Groundswell Service Learning Showcase.

How will you assess your service goals?

Comparing the amount of trash that we have generated with the amount generated after full implementation of the program will give us the data to show our success. Making graphs, charts, and conducting surveys in math classes will be our avenue for data collection.

Effective Practice: DURATION AND INTENSITY

Service learning has sufficient duration and intensity to address community needs and meet specified outcomes.

How will you prepare students for this experience?

Students will take a field trip to Shupan Recycling and a landfill to see how much waste goes into a landfill and what is done with waste that is recycled.

What are some sample possible activities students might do as part of this project?

- *Students will analyze the waste that is currently thrown away in the school cafeteria*
- *They will sort and categorize the trash to see how much could actually be composted or recycled.*
- *Students will plan and set up compost and recycling stations for use in school cafeteria*

- Students will learn about trash collection and processing, recycling, composting and the effect of all of these on the environment with particular attention to the Bear Creek watershed by local experts.
- Students will write articles for the township newsletter.
- Students will develop a plan and make a presentation to the school board to implement recycling and composting district-wide.

For more information about **Groundswell** go to www.groundswellmi.org

For more information about the **Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative** go to www.glstewardship.org