

Helen R. Ealy Elementary School

Sustainability Through Stewardship



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Project Overview

Students learned about service learning through their classroom teachers and community partner, Connie Crancer, a former native plant specialist at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum at the University of Michigan. Using the school courtyard garden as a launching point for initiating the project, Connie, the teachers, and students learned scientific best practices in making observations and collecting data for their environmental stewardship project by monitoring the insects and plants that live in the courtyard garden. The students also learned how to harvest seeds from their courtyard garden and germinate the seeds in the classroom using a germination chamber. By springtime the students had young native plants that they took home to plant in the community as well as plant in their school's courtyard garden. The students also helped maintain the courtyard garden by removing invasive plant species.



Whitehall District Schools
Helen R. Ealy Elementary
2021 - 2022 School Year

- 4th Grade Students
- 38 Students
- 2 Teachers
- 2 Classrooms

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

Albert Einstein



Teacher leaders receive training from researchers at Landis Lab about monarch butterfly conservation research project and conduct summer field work in community.

Under the guidance of Connie Crancer, students learn how to harvest seeds from their school's courtyard garden and cold stratify the seeds.

Students remove the seeds that have been cold stratified and set up the seeds in the classroom germination chamber.

Both Project Wingspan and WMGLSI grants are successfully funded and all students successfully participated in the project.

July - September 2021

October - December 2021

January - March 2022

April - June 2022

Students learn about plant-pollinator relationships by making observations in the school's courtyard pollinator garden.

Teacher leaders write a habitat enhancement grant proposal to Project Wingspan for plant plugs to be planted in school courtyard garden.

Students learn about the structures and functions of flowering plants and pollinators and how they are dependent on each other for survival.

**2021 - 2022
Project Timeline**



Skills Learned by Students

- Integrate information from text about a topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably
- Use evidence from field investigations and observations to make claims
- Make informed decisions from data that was collected by students
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements
- Determine how human activities can have positive and negative effects on the physical environment
- Develop and implement an action plan to address and inform others about a public issue