

Whitehall Middle School 2020-2021



GreenScreens—Connecting Students With The Environment

About the Project:

150 8th grade students created a 3-5 minute documentary film on local, regional and global environmental issues.

Classes began by looking at local issues and completing an assessment and water testing of local tributaries in the White River Watershed.

Students did a research analysis of potential topics. They were then partnered according to topic affinity and choice and began researching the history of their environmental issue.

Students captured their research into a program called NoodleTools, which allowed them to accurately cite their sources.



In English class, they wrote a script so they could record their voices for the film.

In Math class they used graphs and statistics to strengthen their case for environmental improvement.

Students loaded their pictures, video clips, voice overs, music and sound effects, into a program called WeVideo, where they learned to work with transitions, fades, and other production effects to produce their documentary film.

In Partnership with The Playhouse in Whitehall, the 8 finalists were shown on the big screen at a yearend film festival.

The film festival was run by student volunteers who met weekly on how to present the films. Each film was then rated by a panel of judges who determined the prizes.

Skills Learned:

- How to collect, analyze and distribute water quality data for 6 tributaries of White Lake
- How to properly search for and document credible research
- How to create, produce, edit and direct an environmental film

Fall Semester 2020:

Sept/Oct – Water quality testing

Oct – Topic selection, research, documentation

Nov. – Script writing, voice-overs

Dec – Graphs/statistics/picture uploads

Dec/Jan – Film editing, producing, directing.



Spring Semester 2021:

Jan/Feb. – Topic selection, research, documentation

Feb. – Script writing, voice-overs

March – Graphs/statistics/picture uploads

May – Water quality testing

April/May – Film editing, producing, directing.

Environmental Film Festival Spring 2021:

April – Student Planning Committee formed

May – Community panel of judges selected

May – Film festival showings

May/June – Winners selected

Community Partners:

- The Play House at Whitelake
- Panel of Local officials as judges
- MAISD Regional Math/Science Center

