Collaboration for Impact: Modeling an Integrated Partnership

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Classroom laboratory experience is essential...

6th grade students build and test watershed models. photo by Doni Hays
But a MWEE needs field experiences, too!

6th grade students conduct wetland site analysis. Photo by Lil Ledford
How many of you have partnered with a school to create learning experiences for students and/or teachers?

- No, and we have no plans to do so
- Not yet, and we would like to do this
- Yes, but infrequently
- Yes, on a frequent basis
- Yes, this is what we do

4th graders feed their trout in the classroom.
Photo by Pam Seekford
Why are you here?

To explore components of a successful collaboration

An opportunity to outline potential partnerships

CCPS 4th grade teachers presenting at ASCD poster session

CCPS 5th grade teachers share their MWEE plan at the first division-wide professional development.
Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia
1960 students; 4 schools

MWEE Project Partner: UVA’s Blandy Experimental Farm
Our Shared History

Blandy Education Programs
- Blandy serves as a resource for outdoor science education

Clarke County Education Foundation extends 3rd grade Tree Fund project

Chesapeake Bay Trust grant project with 4th grade

Clarke County Education Foundation extends 3rd grade Tree Fund project

Tree Fund Grant Project between Blandy and CCPS 3rd grade

Clarke County Education Foundation grant with grades 3-5
- Effectively extended 3rd & 4th grade projects, added 5th.

NOAA B-WET
- Cross-curricular, integrated indoor/outdoor experiences
- "Our world Our Responsibility"
- Limitations- can't take 180 students to Blandy at once
Blandy's Strengths

- Knowledgeable / Flexible Educators
- Broad understanding of VA Science Standards
- Bank of editable / leveled activities

- Site with cross-curricular possibilities
- Outdoor Teaching Expertise
CCPS Strengths

- Relationship with the students
- Deep grade-level content knowledge
- Passion & Enthusiasm

- Collaborative attitude and growth mindset
- Formal educational experience
- Department level infrastructure, resources, and support
What elements of your organization would you like to share with students?

What strengths would you need a partner organization to bring to the collaboration?
To Engage in This MWEE, Students Will...

- Engage in a two-day "Event" scheduled near the end of the year so that foundations are built in multiple classes.

- Follow up activities through the remainder of the school year.

**Four learning stations at school**

- Multi-media text set
- Stewardship & Conservation
- Historical exploration of the Bay watershed
- Watershed Model

**Exit Ticket**

**Four learning stations at Blandy**

- Water Chemistry
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
- Historic Water Resource Analysis
- Site Analysis

**Exit Ticket**

**Follow up activities**

- Absolutely avoid the "one and done" field trip experience
- Must be connected to multiple standards in multiple classes
- Example: [My life as a Water Droplet project](#)
- Include an “action project”
Planning and Partnership Support Student Learning

Pre-experience PD & workdays

Joint learning experiences

Post-experience collaborative evaluation, review, and adjustment

Available for ideas, questions, resources
Putting it all together: Location + Content

How familiar are you with Virginia’s Standards of Learning?

What is unique about your setting that would promote learning in multiple content areas?
Thank you!

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