

Connecting Classrooms Grants 2014-15

What's our Role? Building Community and Understanding our Local Environment: South Hill and Beverly J. Martin School's Ecosystem Investigation

Lead ICSD Applicants: Jen Wilkie and Chris Barley

With ICSD teachers Lisa Sahasrabudhe, Kathy Lee, and Amy Eckley; Bill Foster, Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom/Trout in the Classroom; Camille Doucet, Scientific Illustrator; Matt Sacco, Cayuga Nature Center; and Liddy Coyle and Lily Talcott, ICSD Professional Development.

Collaboration between BJM and South Hill in an interdisciplinary study of our role in local ecosystem through a learning expedition designed to explore local geology and natural history, with assistance from Cayuga Nature Center, and local flora and fauna, with assistance from a scientific illustrator and Trout in the Classroom.

Citizen Scientists Action Project (C-SAP)

Lead ICSD Applicant: Brian Goodman

With ICSD teachers Christina Steiner, Chris Barley, Lisa Sahasrabudhe, Danielle Rottenstein, Carolyn Belle, Kim Lazzaro, Kim Blackmur; and Bill Foster and Sophia D'Addario, Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom/Trout in the Classroom

The Citizen Scientists Action Project (C-SAP) will build upon students' experiences working with trout in 4th grade, creating continuity in their upper-elementary engagement with scientific principles and procedures. The project will feature a learning expedition centered on a local ecosystem and will entail data collection and reportage about invasive species as an environmental issue. By gathering data and sharing their knowledge with audiences in their community, students will be encouraged to think and act as scientists. This project addresses Common Core standards in Math and Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and Social Studies (C3).

The Neandertal in the Mirror

Lead ICSD Applicant: Paula Berman

With ICSD teachers Victoria Benson, Dennis Carbone, Harry Nichols: Tim Drake and Sean Cornell, Primitive Pursuits; and John Gurche, Paleo Artist.

The Neandertal in the Mirror is a co-curricular unit where both ELA and science classes will collaborate to gain a deeper understanding of Neandertal culture and biology, and how they related to modern humans.

By employing sources in a variety of formats, including tactile experiences, videos, guest speakers, photographs, and diverse texts, we will appeal to students with different interests and learning strengths. We hope to provide an avenue for all learners into this cutting edge scientific topic. One of the ICSD goals is to promote innovative thinking and to engage all learners, which this unit should inspire in our students.

Connecting All Students through Sustainable Agriculture

Lead ICSD Applicant: Carlan Gray

With Ithaca High teachers Scott Breigle, Karen Kiechle, and Robert Tuori

The development of a high-tunnel at Ithaca High School will create the infrastructure necessary to support work-based learning necessary for the new CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) graduation credential, the development of a long term science elective, and provide a project-based curriculum for our technology classes. The hands-on learning experience provided by opportunities to build, plant, grow harvest and sell plants will support curriculum development, create real-world applications, and enhance problem-based and Work-Based Learning programs.

Caroline Wilderness Campus Curriculum Initiative

Lead ICSD Applicant: Mary Grover

With Caroline teachers Peggy Weber, Daphne Shululu, Renee Keating, Kim McCleary, Aileen Grainger, Deby Ward, Julie Wells, Jennifer Goodmark, Andrea Rennie, Nancy Lovel, IMike Cecere, Sheila Hernandez, Danielle DeSilva, Joe Ford, Anna Chapman, and Amy Beigel; and Janie Moon Clark, Curriculum Development.

The Caroline Wilderness Project will enable all Caroline teachers in grades K-4 in creation of interdisciplinary, units of study aligned with the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This will serve as a district-wide model and will incorporate The Wilderness Campus.