

Online Updates Online Spring 2024

Our online school continues to find ways to incorporate EE learning into our program in all grade levels. As spring approaches we are finding ways to inspire students to venture outdoors. We have some fun activities completed and in the process.

High school students are finishing up their MESS-E projects.

Ms. Thompson continues to help our middle school students find ways to connect with nature and their community. They recently had the opportunity to meet for an overnight astronomy field trip that was a wonderful success.

K-12 students are looking forward to their overnight trip to Osprey Wilds from April 10-12. We will participate in environmental classes and activities as we get to know each other a little better.

We will also be holding a K-12 Earth Day presentation highlighting the EE activities and events that have been held and inspiring students to join in on the fun! We are hoping to give students some great ideas to get involved in Earth day.

Seat- Based EE Update Spring 2024

Solarium- The solarium is growing like crazy. Many classes have started to use it- it's been great. Mr. Cutkay and Mrs. O'Brien's classes have used the shelving to grow plants. Mrs. Powers' class used it to showcase their Native American Homes project. Kids ate salad from the aquaponics system, which is very exciting. The soil beds are doing much better too thanks to the addition of grow lights. It's very exciting for the EE committee to see students in the solarium and using it for projects. This was a huge goal for us this year.

EE Goals- Teachers are making progress toward their EE goals. We have some guest speakers coming out to support teachers with their EE goals. We have the DNR coming out to talk about the benefits of using non-lead fishing tackle and loons. We also have Climate Generation coming out to talk about renewable energy.

School Forest- The EE committee recently walked the school forest and marked all of the dangerous trees and The Lakes Foundation came in and cleaned them all up and expanded our path. They plan on coming back sometime this spring and add wood chips so that the path stays clear for a longer period of time. With the weather we have had many classes outside enjoying the school forest.

Solar Eclipse- Teachers took their students out to experience the solar eclipse. During our 1st Wednesday of the month celebration the whole school learned a little about solar eclipses. This was a great learning experience for our students.

Solar Energy- We got the green light on exploring solar from The Lakes Foundation. We had a meeting with CERT (Clean Energy Resource Team) and learned that it appears that we have a great potential site for solar energy. Peter Lindstrom, our contact from CERT, recommended that we get in touch with the Lutheran Church to see who they used for an installer. He also suggested that we get a few bids, have them visit our site to check on how much energy they think that we can produce and get an idea on costs. There are a few potential grants available, but right now we can get a 30% reimbursement from the Federal Government. I will see what I can get set up for this. Once I get an idea on the costs, I will also look into grants.

Earth Week- We have some fun activities planned for Earth Week. We also will be participating in our annual trash clean up.