

The Outdoor Classroom

Project Summary

Project Title: *The Outdoor Classroom*

Subject Areas: Math, Language Arts, Physical Science

Grade Level and Location: 9th Grade

Duration: Approximately 9 Weeks

Design Challenge: Design and build an outdoor space that is functional, green and within budget.

Project Summary: Students designed an outdoor space that can be utilized by high school students. The outdoor classroom had to conform to space and budgetary constraints as well as incorporate elements of green design. All structures were required to be ascetically and artistically pleasing.

Major Student Products:

Sketch Prototype, Cardboard Prototype, Digital Prototype, Design Proposal, Outdoor Classroom

How the Project Was Conceived and Planned: It was brought to the attention of our 9th grade team that grant money was available for the building of an interdisciplinary “Outdoor Classroom.” As the team began to discuss the possibility of such an endeavor, it was quickly discovered that a large portion of our content would naturally fit this project.

Entry Activity: We initiated this project the first week of school by means of a class discussion. Students were invited to submit their design suggestions given the parameters of the project. Students were also surveyed as to their interest in the construction phase that was to come.