



## Placed –Based Education in Grant

Students at Grant Middle School have worked very hard this year on improving their surroundings for themselves and for the environment. In the fall, all of the students worked together to complete many projects around the school yard. They built two new flowerbeds and transplanted bulbs. They also worked in a neighboring rain garden, raked, mulched, pulled weeds, and picked up litter from the school grounds. The students enjoyed their time outside making their space more pleasant.

In late winter, 7th graders learned about water pollution through an activity called “Poison Pump.” The sixth graders started to research different forces of erosion. They walked around the school yard and to a nearby park called Blanch Lake. They looked for erosion issues and tried to determine their cause. At Blanch Lake, they noticed an area of erosion that needed our help. We contacted the City of Grant and they were interested in amending the hill and then having our students create a walkway and plant native Michigan plants to help secure the soil.

The students met with John Frey, of Frey’s Landcare, to discuss different options for the site. He explained the advantages and disadvantages of using gravel verses dolomite for a pathway. The students worked on their plans for the site and ordered the materials necessary to complete the project.

On May 14, the students worked with the dolomite and created a pathway from the high school down to Blanch Lake. The following day the students planted over \$800.00 worth of native Michigan plants. The students worked well together and are proud of the work they accomplished.

## Community Partners

- Frey’s Landcare
- Grant Public Schools
- West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
- Weesies Nursery
- City of Grant



2012-2013

- 3 Teachers
- Grades 6-8
- 35 students involved



"I just really liked working outside with nature. Everyone tried their hardest and worked with enthusiasm. We helped nature and it changed our lives by getting closer to nature." -- Luke Cook, 7th Grade



"I thought that it was going to be hard to get all of that work done, but we had so much team work going on we got it done. It was so much fun doing this project, and I hope I can do it next year." - Mackenzie, 6th grade

"It would be worth doing again . . . working together as a group to get things done. It gives you valuable lessons on how to help the community and your own area, like your house." - Hannah , 7th Grade

### What does community-based education look like?

- Planning and designing
- Student presentations
- Analyzing and Graphing
- Trash clean-up
- Teacher professional development
- Learning about community, working with community partners
- Mentoring students



School-wide stewardship day. All 5-8 students involved. Activities include building flowerboxes, weeding, raking, mulching, and much more!

### Timeline of Activities

7th graders learn about water pollution through "Poison Pump."

6th, 7th, and 8th graders meet with John Frey to discuss different options for the site

Students work on creating the pathway on May 14. They finish the planting on May 15.



6th graders learn about erosion and weathering through various activities

Students plan the site and orders materials necessary to complete the project.

Maintain the area with weeding, watering, and raking the pathway