Our journey in creating a STEM focused vision for learning

Presented by:

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2018 Indiana Outdoor Classroom of the Year
E.A.R.T.H. is a model for 21st century learning.

We believe our world needs: 1) inhabitants with a deep connection, respect, and appreciation for nature, 2) people who are problem solvers, experienced in using technology and creativity to generate solutions and to communicate with stakeholders, and 3) individuals who integrate health and wellness into their lives. Unionville believes E.A.R.T.H. is a framework for shaping students, tomorrow’s leaders, to live in and contribute to a better world.
**Core Beliefs**

**Curriculum and Instruction**
- Individual Units tied to the EARTH topics
- Foss Science Kits
- 1 to 1 ratio of iPads to Students
- Online format for Curriculum
- Computer science lessons at each grade level

**Schoolwide Routines**
- Use of science notebooks in each classroom
- School wide recycling and composting
- Before school exercise and positive affirmation
- Tricycles on the playground
- Club Friday
- EARTH related field trips
- Student Advisory Board
- Study Buddies

**Partnerships**
- Indiana Department of Health
- Sycamore Land Trust
- IU School of Public Health
- IU School of Biology
- Purdue Extension
- Monroe County Parks and Rec
- IU Health
- Benton Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Sobremesa Farm
- IU School of Education
- YMCA

**School Grounds**
- Raised garden beds
- Hiking trails
- Pond
- Fitness track
- Shelter house/ Outdoor learning lab
- Butterfly/Native Plant Garden
- Compost bins
- Large play area
- Amphitheater

**Engage. Empower. Educate.**

**MCCSC**
Unionville
1920-2015:
chugging along &
doing great work

Caterpillar

Pupa

Pupa

Eggs

Butterfly

Yong Butterfly
Unionville 1920-2015: 
chugging along & doing great work

Unionville Spring 2016: 
launched E.A.R.T.H. framework

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[Diagram of butterfly life cycle with eggs, caterpillar, pupa, and butterfly stages]
4. The principal set a meeting date for reviewing our research and for making a decision regarding our next course of action.
5. The faculty unanimously agreed to explore a nature-centered theme.
6. While the principal droned on about how it will be important to communicate our mission/purpose/vision clearly to the community, a teacher dreamed up E.A.R.T.H.
7. We created a timeline for implementation.
8. We started small and built on success, building knowledge along the way. #learningbydoing
9. Our clear vision for learning has … many new partnerships, over $40,000 in grant money, and lots of media coverage.
Unionville Spring 2020:
early stages of implementation

Unionville 1920-2015:
chugging along & doing great work

Unionville Spring 2016:
launched E.A.R.T.H. framework

Unionville Spring 2019:
IDOE STEM Certification

Unionville Spring 2020:
early stages of implementation
Unionville Spring 2020: early stages of implementation

Unionville Spring 2016: launched E.A.R.T.H. framework

Unionville 1920-2015: chugging along & doing great work

Unionville Spring 2019: IDOE STEM Certification

Unionville Spring 2020: #goals full implementation
start here
OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND HIGH LEVELS OF LEARNING ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE
Eyes on the stars feet on the ground

Re-set, Re-adjust, Re-start, Re-focus... As many times as you need to.

A goal should scare you a little, & excite you A LOT.

keep going.

If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy and inspires your hopes.

"You can, you should, and if you’re brave enough to start, you will." 

Stephen King
Unionville Elementary School

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