

# Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture National Award Program

## Documentation & Photos Notes:

Each applicant may submit photographs and other documentation exhibiting agricultural literacy methods used by the applicant. (see application for specifics)

## Instructions:

This PowerPoint template is meant to be a tool for applicants to provide images, documentation and associated captions.

Maximum of 8 slides allowed (Instruction slide + Applicant Intro Slide + 6 photos/documentation slides.

Maximum of 4 images per slide

Maximum file size to upload for submission = 10 MB

# Nancy Smith

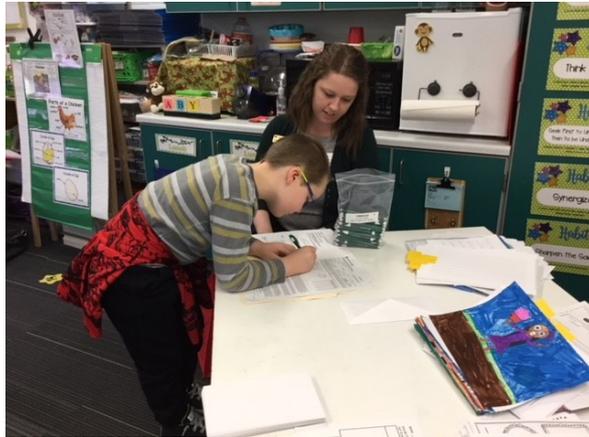


Bentwood  
Elementary

Overland Park,  
Kansas



# Chickens-R-Us



After we brought collateral from home and pitched our idea to the bank, we signed the paperwork and got a loan to purchase supplies to build chicken playground equipment.



It all started with an *Ag in the Classroom Grant*. We were then able to expand our agricultural learning! Here a student is sharing her knowledge of chickens with other Bentwood students.



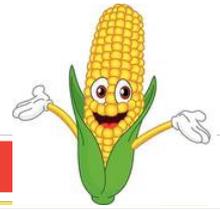
After researching all about chickens and their habits, we designed, built, and sold 5 pieces of chicken playground equipment to our school secretary.



The day our chicks hatched was the most exciting day of the year!



# Extended Opportunities



I received a *Target Foundation Field Trip Grant* that allowed all 1<sup>st</sup> graders to take a field trip to the Agricultural Hall of Fame. Then we spent ½ a day participating in hands-on activities with the Olathe North FFA students.



We love having guest speakers! Bill Johnston from Kansas Corn came and shared his experiences as a corn farmer.



We often invite administrators from our district office to come and share their expertise. Today we learned about growing pumpkins and then engineered containers for our pumpkin stand.



Since field trips are at a premium, we invite farmers into our classroom through virtual field trips. What great experiences and close-up learning.

# School & Community Involvement



I worked a hands-on booth for kids at the Kansas State Fair featuring Kansas crops.



I was invited to share with the Kansas State Board of Education all of the exciting STEM and agricultural activities that are happening in my primary classroom. I also received a congratulatory letter from Kansas Senator Moran.



I sponsor our *Green Team* (after-school club), and we raised enough money to purchase a Tower Garden (aeroponic growing system) that we'll be using this year. We had a big all-school assembly to highlight the role of technology in agriculture and to kick-off our Hour of Code 2018.



The culmination of our project-based learning unit on chickens and the farm was an Open House for the Bentwood community. We shared all of our projects, research, knowledge about agricultural topics, baby chicks, plants, and more!

# Time To Plant



Sponsoring the Garden Club after school gives me more opportunities to share the love of growing fresh produce!

First graders painted these donated tires with the FCCLA Club from Olathe South. Then we planted a variety of native flowers, plants, and vegetables.



As part of our Farm-to-Table unit, we grew many different kinds of food in many different ways. We were able to harvest 6 different types of lettuce with this aeroponic system...yummy!



We take turns maintaining our Tire Garden as part of our daily classroom responsibilities.



# STEM Activities



To incorporate technology, we used a fictional farm book and made our own “unplugged” computer coding game.

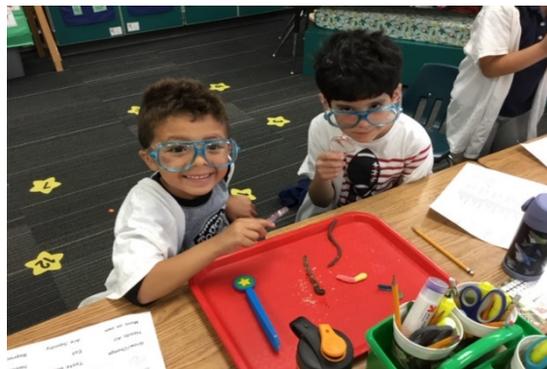
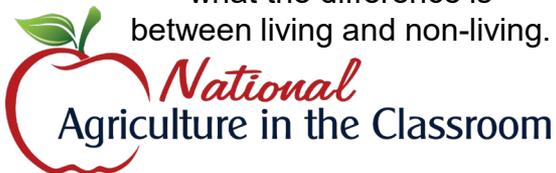


One engineering project we did with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Buddies was to design a container that would hold a whole bag of microwave popcorn.

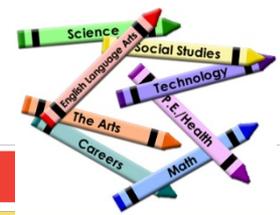
This year we are learning about honeybees and their impact on our world. We are incorporating Science (info. about bees), Technology (using Bee-Bots for coding), Engineering (building bee hives from wood), and Math (measurement).



Kansas soil plays a big part in the growing of crops. We investigated worms and their role in healthy soil and also what the difference is between living and non-living.



# Cross-Curricular Fun



I love posting on social media about all of the exciting STEM and agricultural activities that we do in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. Integration, collaboration, and engagement are key components!



Nancy Lee Smith is with Christen Hess.

7 mins · Overland Park · 📍

Well today was the day...we have 11 chicks and counting! Our chick birthday party was the BEST! BentwoodElementary first graders did the Chicken Dance, sang Happy Birthday, frosted egg cookies, and welcomed our friends into the world. What a great life experience and we'll be sharing this wonderful unit at the Bentwood Art Fair Thursday night. Thanks again Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Olathe Public Schools



We covered our science standards by comparing and contrasting the parts of real flowers and corn stalks. Then we took the plants apart and labeled the parts and what they're used for.



We love Kansas corn so much that we wrote an original story about a monkey who is sick of eating bananas and wants to try corn. We taped a promotional blurb for the morning announcements and then posted our published story on yard stakes around our walking trail. The Bentwood community can now exercise and read our story to learn more about Kansas corn.



A unit on Our 5 Senses is not complete without a Popcorn Day where we kicked off our Corn Unit by measuring how far popcorn can pop.