Dani’s Dreams
Eco Lessons

Mrs. Brittany Bennett with NPHS APES students
A Dani’s Dreams Outdoor Education Program
Benefits of Environmental Education

"As children observe, reflect, record, and share nature’s patterns and rhythms, they are participating in a process that promotes scientific and ecological awareness, problem solving, and creativity."

– Deb Matthews Hensley, early childhood consultant

“Environmental educators have an unprecedented opportunity today to build on the recommendations from the past report and put renewed energy and support into creating a more environmentally literate citizenry — a citizenry equipped with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to tackle the environmental, social, and economic challenges of today and tomorrow.”

Empowering our students to support STEM education in the classroom...
Goals

- Bring environmental education into the schools to support the current science curriculum.
- Create a program run by high school students that gives them experiences outside the classroom and helps them become better citizens.
- Present lessons that will be used in conjunction with local schools, parks, Scout troops, daycares, etc.
- Ensure that both students and the community continue to benefit from this program for years to come.
Eco Lessons

- Created by students
- Designed around the theme of sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY – living on the Earth in a way that allows us to use its resources without depriving future generations of those resources.
Dani’s Dreams Outdoor Education Trail at Sugar Creek Township Park

• An educational/walking trail in the for the Southern Hancock Community:
  • 4 LEARNING STATIONS:
    • Sustainability
    • Butterflies/pollinator garden
    • Solar Energy
    • Farm to Table

• Area high school students, under the direction of NPHS teacher Brittany Bennett, have researched, wrote and designed signage for the trail and serve as activity leaders and guides.
Learning and Growing...

- Solar Power
- Farm to Table
- Animal Habitats
- Bugs/Butterflies Upclose
- Dig It! Fossil Hunt
Solar Power

- Compare non-renewable vs. renewable energy.
- Focus on solar panels and how they create electricity.
- Create “solar” key chains - change color when in the sunlight.

Follow-up Activities:
- Design a solar-powered toy
- Create a solar oven
- Create art using solar paper
From Farm to Table

• Learn where most of our food comes from and why it is important to care for the land

• Follow common foods from where they originated to your table

• Read a story about where their PB & J comes from

• Create mini greenhouses to grow your own plant

Follow-up Activities

• Make predictions
• Watch it grow
• Collect data
• Analyze results!
Eco Lessons make a difference…

Allison & Evan
Animal Habitats

- Discuss what a habitat is and why it is important to take care of them.
- Show examples of local wildlife with live animals
- Help maintain the schoolyard habitat by making bird feeders

Follow-Up Activities
- Predict what will happen to food on feeders
- Collect data
- Analyze results!
Dig It! Fossil Hunt

- Meet Terry the Triceratops and view dinosaur fossils.
- Go on an archaeological dig to find nature’s treasures!
- Identify and categorize what you find. Everyone gets to take a fossil home!

Follow-Up Activities:
Write a report on the fossils you find. Tell your own dinosaur story.
Bugs/Butterflies
Up Close

• Understand why bugs and insects are important to our environment.

• Define the parts of an insect by learning a song!

• Observe live bugs and insects in the classroom

• Go on a nature walk to try and find various bugs and insects!

Follow-up Activities
• Create an insect out of egg cartons!
• Research and write about a particular bug species!
Join Dani’s Dreams Team!

- “The girls did a great job! All of the ladies were kind and helpful. One of my students said, ‘This is the best day ever!’ Thanks for including us in your lesson!”
  
  - Teacher Kelli Whitaker

- “What a great opportunity! Thank you for offering this to our students.”
  
  - Teacher Jessica Walker
Watch Us Grow!

- Summer Internships – for area college and high school students
- Eco Lessons in area elementary schools
- Field trip opportunities for local schools.
- Community events at the park
- Opportunities for local Scout troops
How you can help...

• Sponsor an Eco Lesson and get your name on the coolest T-shirts on the planet!

• Be a name sponsor on a sign at a learning station on Dani’s Dreams Trails!

• Sponsor a community event and get your business advertised on our website!

• Be a STEM and literacy education booster and sponsor a Dani’s Dreams book!
Building “Our Common Ground” for the future...