

Bellevue Elementary

We believe that passion learning is a driving force in engaging and empowering student learning. We have implemented this in many ways in our classrooms. We would like to share just a few. You will see that many of these passion learning projects were based on the NGSS science standards.

1. Mr. A - is a community member and retired DNR officer. Mr. A. comes in regularly to share information on animals and how they survive. His presentations specifically center around organisms in our nearby Mississippi. As a take off on Mr. A., our students designed a new animal and it's habitat. Our driving question for this project centered around using animal survival skills, and designing their own based on information they were taught and researched.
2. Fly Me to the Moon - based on the standards of studying moon phases and patterns in seasons. This project centered around discussion of what astronauts need, what the first graders learned about space, and designing a spacecraft. This project was an excellent tie-in to the development of soft skills, in accepting others' ideas and collaborating together.
3. Veteran's Day - Family and community members were a huge part of this project. Student's families were asked for names of veterans that would be able to come in and speak to the first graders about serving in the armed forces. The first graders wrote appropriate questions and practiced asking them to each other, learned how to be an attentive audience, and wrote thank you's to veterans for their service. As a culminating activity, the first graders formed a tunnel of appreciation and clapped for the veterans as they entered Bellevue's Veteran's Day program that was sponsored by the High School.
4. School project - As a vote for a new school was in the making, the first graders decided to collect data on the current school building and write down a list of needs they saw, and improvements they felt needed to be made. Students made blueprints using squares/rectangular templates that were cut

to mimic rooms needed in their building. The last step was to create the school they designed on the blueprint, and then they voted on the one they wanted to build if the vote passed. They gave a presentation with support for the design of each of their buildings. The buildings were displayed in public areas of our school.

5. Holiday project - We felt the need to connect to the community as well as to build on relationships we have with the other school in town. Together we are creating holiday baskets that we will deliver during the Holiday season. We have requested help from the area churches to provide names of elderly people they feel would welcome the company. The first graders are coming up with songs to sing, projects to make, and will assemble baskets to leave at each stop. Families have also been asked for additional names of anyone they feel would enjoy some holiday cheer.