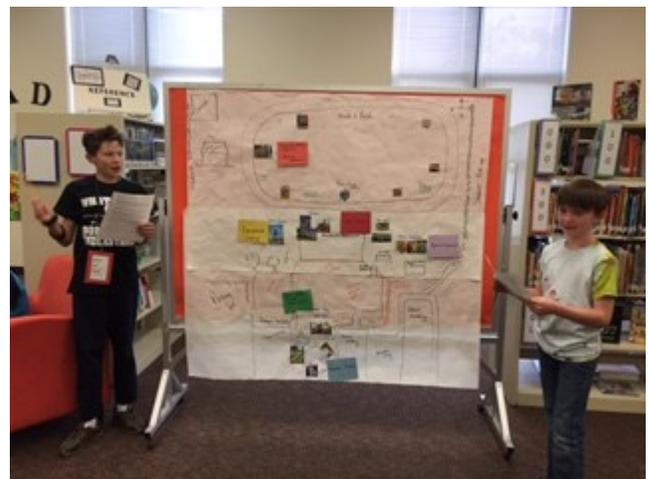
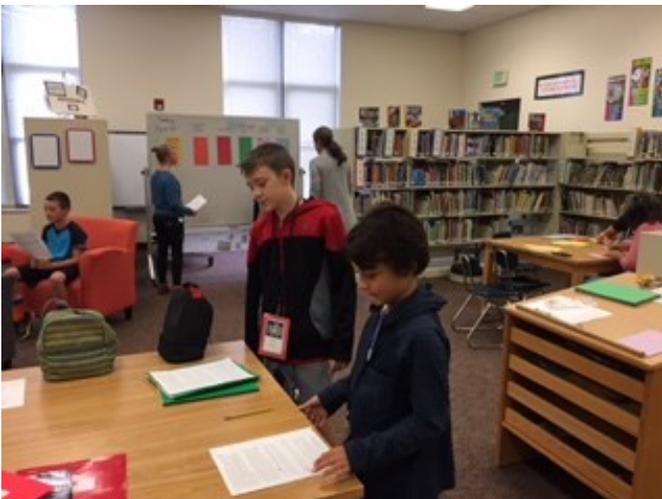
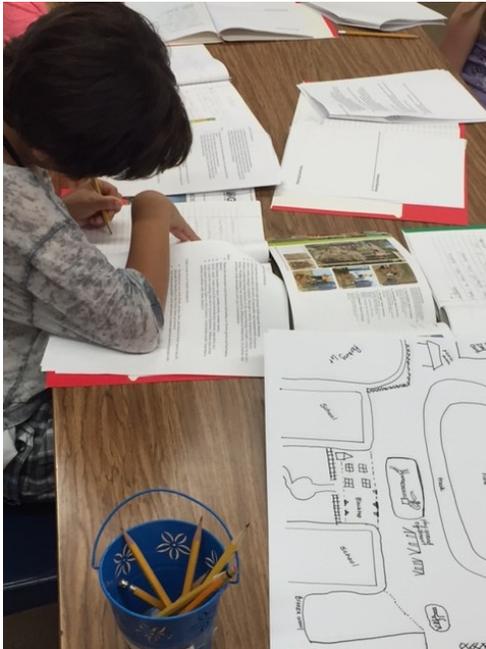


Student Council at Work on The GOCO Schoolyard Grant



The script student council members used to present to classes follows on pages 2,3, and 4.

My name is _____ and I am one of your student representatives for your Student Council. We are applying for extra money for our school from something called a Great Outdoors Colorado Grant or GOCO grant. This will revitalize our outdoor playground and Science Learning Garden. The grant **requires us** to make it a ***nature based play and learning environment*** that improves our outdoor learning space – our Orchard Avenue Playground. Many of you helped us raise \$6,500 from our cookie dough fund raiser to support this redesign of our playground! (possibly write this on the white board, or write on a piece of construction paper ahead of time)

A Nature Based school play yard might include outdoor activities that involve learning and play. A great example of a nature based play area would be the new Lincoln Park Playground. How many of you have been there before? What is it like? Yes, the play area has forest features that let you have many of the same sights and experiences you would find in nature. If you have not been there, you should take your family and see for yourself. This makes playing fun - as though we are in the mountains or on the monument.

There are 10 student council representatives in grades 3, 4, and 5 who have been listening to their classmates about what they would like in our playground. We put the lists together from these ideas and found that many kids want to replace our climbing bubble and that you want to make changes to our garden where you can be more involved. They had other ideas too.

Today, we are here to share these ideas and have you tell us what you are most excited about for your playground based on these ideas we are sharing. This is a map of our school yard.

[Point to the map](#)

The area where the bubble used to be is a perfect place to put a new piece of **climbing equipment** that kids could climb on to build strength, balance, and practice climbing structures like you would if you were rock climbing on the Monument.

In our Science Learning Garden, learners have said that they would like to be able to **observe organisms** such as insects, flowers, plants, trees and birds in their natural habitat. We might place paver stones so children can actually walk into each bed without damaging plants or squishing bugs to make observations. Children also want to **grow edible plants** like pumpkins, tomatoes, or other vegetables or fruits.

We would also like to add **native plants** that you would find on the Monument. Did you know these desert plants require less water because they grow in a desert climate? We would need to put signs in the garden to help everyone understand what is in our garden.

One thing gardeners do is to make **weather observations** such as the movement of the sun and how it affects the growing seasons. There would be pieces added to the garden to help us keep track of the weather.

The last addition to our schoolyard is a **Green House** called a “Hoop House” made with curved hoops and heavy plastic. An advantage of the “Hoop House” is that we could start our plants from seed early in spring. This would support our science kits when learning about seeds.

If you look at the top you will see our track. You will notice that we have placed **exercise fitness stations** around the track so that you will not only be able to run the track but incorporate different exercises that work on different parts of your body to build strength and coordination. We might include a sit up bar, or a pull up bar. Activities you can do alone or with a friend.

We hope to include a **See Saw** or Teeter Totter to give kids a chance to experience what happens when force is applied to one side of a plane, we call that cause and effect! Remember learning about Force and Motion in second grade?

Kids have to work hard and cooperate so that the flat plane they are sitting on will balance.

We all love music because of our lively music program!! Several learners wanted to see a piece of **musical equipment** that is interactive. We found a piece of equipment that you can hear sounds of nature with a friend by moving different parts. You can use our imagination when you hear the sounds.

In order to play **basketball, four square, or other activities on our black top**, we would need to improve our black top area. This would add blacktop all the way to the primary tether poles, and build a curb along the sidewalk from the West Hall to the swings. The curb would hold back the gravel that slides on the sidewalk and under the basketball hoops; it would also help to contain the water after a storm.

This is the design that was made from classmates in grades 3, 4, & 5. We want to hear from everyone by having you pick 2 of these ideas that is your favorite. Please decide for yourself – think about what you are most excited about. You will get 2 dots: you can place both dots by the same item or you can choose 2 different play area items.

You can also talk more with your classmates after we leave about these ideas and share your thinking as a classroom. Did we forget anything? Do you have an idea we didn't think of?

REMEMBER: These changes will only happen **if** Orchard Avenue Elementary is chosen to receive this GOCO Grant. The changes would happen next school year when you are in the _____ grade.

Thanks for listening!!!!

With the teacher's help, have each student think about the 2 areas they like the most. Each student should be allowed to place their 2 dots on 1 or 2 areas of their choosing. (using construction paper, have each team of 2 write the options separately so that the students can place their dots accordingly)

Selection Options:

Climbing Equipment

Grow vegetables and native plants

Weather Observation

Green House

Exercise Fitness Stations

See Saw

Musical Equipment

Blacktop Improvement