



## Mini Grant Program Application

**Project title:** Earthy Eagles

**Amount Requested:** \$500

**Teacher or Leader's Name:** Courtney Schrand

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**School or Organization Name & Complete Address:**

Independence Middle School  
1370 Dunstan Ln  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

**Subject/Grade/Age Range:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, cross-curricular      **Number of Children:** 100

**Goals & Objectives:** (Include Standards of Learning if they apply.)

During the 2016-17 school year, Independence Middle School will begin Eagle Enrichment, a program designed to support the VBCPS strategic framework, "Compass to 2020: Charting the Course." Eagle Enrichment focuses on two goals of the VBCPS Strategic Framework, including Goal 2: Multiple Pathways and Goal 3: Social-Emotional Development. Through mini-courses designed and taught by IMS teachers for 30 minutes per day, four days per week, students will have the opportunity to gain life experiences and begin to identify their passions. Students will self-select a mini-course from a broad range of options for each nine week period during the year.

One mini-course offered to 8th grade students will be Earthy Eagles, a gardening class. Up to 25 students per nine week period (about 100 students per year) will be involved in the entire process of growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers, from planting the seeds to tasting the produce. Gardening practices will stress water conservation through rain barrel water collection. Half of the garden area will be dedicated to vegetables and herbs, while the other half will be dedicated to native plants. This garden project has connections to cross-curricular Virginia SOLs, as described below.

- Through participation in this course, students will take an active role in using scientific reasoning and conducting investigations in order to determine the most effective growing conditions for their plants (SOL PS.1).
- As students investigate photosynthesis, they will learn about changes in matter (SOL PS.5) and energy transformation (SOL PS.6).
- While learning about the needs of plants and soil students will investigate the nature of matter including elements, compounds, mixtures, acids, bases, and salts (SOL PS.2).
- Students will apply geometry skills including finding area, perimeter, and volume as they complete activities such as determining the amount of soil needed to fill beds and containers and create hoop houses to cover their plants (SOL Math 8.6).
- As students keep track of data from their garden, they will create graphs to make predictions, comparisons, and inferences (SOL Math 8.13).
- Students will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to research practices for their garden (SOL English 8.9).
- By donating the bulk of the produce to IMS families in need, students will have the opportunity to practice service to the local community (SOL CE.4).
- Students will examine the environmental impact of various farming techniques, enabling them to practice decision making, responsibility, and respect for the rights of others (SOL CE.4).
- Students will examine the nutritional benefits of fresh produce as a means of preventative health measures (SOL Health 8.2), as well as learn about the effects of pollutants found in water and soil can impact the human body (SOL Health 8.1).

In addition to Earthy Eagles, other students at IMS will be involved with the learning garden in various ways. The Environmental Club take an active role in developing and maintaining the garden. Another course being offered through Eagle Enrichment later in the year will focus on upcycling. These students will be involved with the garden by creating needed elements for the garden, such as trellises, cold covers, or a fence out of previously used materials.

**Project Timeline:** (Include start date, end date and summary submission date.)

August: Build raised beds, prepare garden grounds

September: Design garden layout, begin planting

October – June: Continue harvesting/plating, utilize grow lights to start seeds, build hoop houses/cold covers during colder months, donate produce

May – Project summary submission (to be submitted by May 31, 2017)

July: Determine how to extend garden for use by more students/classes, maintain plants, determine changes for improvement after completing first year

**Project budget:** (Provide a detailed breakdown and indicate if you are receiving or applying for additional funds and if so, from whom and how much.)

Pine lumber for six 4'x10'x1.5' raised garden beds (\$408)

Deckmate screws for raised garden beds (\$49)

Mulch for covering (\$43)

**Please also complete the Signature Form and submit both forms via email to HRGreen@hrpdcva.gov or mail to Attention: askHRgreen.org Mini Grant Program, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake VA, 23320.**