

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

1996-1997

Log Cabin Rescue

Edison Middle School, Janesville
Coaches: Anita Fanta, Shelly Kakouris, Skinner

State Bowl: Middle Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Middle Division, Grand Champion

Janesville had acquired an Amish log cabin, but no one was sure what to do with it! The CmPS team from Edison Middle School used their problem solving skills to come up with some answers. The nineteen team members organized themselves to create an educational coloring book, instructional materials for teachers, and a video depicting pioneer life. Research, art, writing, and word processing talent were in high demand as students researched pioneer life and cabin construction, drew pictures of their research and of the cabin before it was disassembled for transport, and created a story combining their pictures and information into a coloring book. Instructional materials for teachers included background information on many aspects of pioneer life, games and activities for students, and cooking recipes. The students wrote a video script and requested permission to film at Old World Wisconsin. They also plan to do fund raising to assist with the reconstruction of the cabin. Teachers who have previewed the materials can't wait to get them! These projects will greatly enhance the education of elementary students who study the history of Janesville and Wisconsin.



1996-1997

Enlivening Head Start

Fort Atkinson High School
Coach: Vicki Wright

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place

The Head Start program in Fort Atkinson was forced to relocate to an older building with aging play equipment. Enter the Fort Atkinson High School CmPSers with plans to enliven the daily environment for the young students! The team of four wrote and received a grant to fund portions of their project. They divided tasks among themselves to accomplish their ambitious goals. During the year, the CmPS team purchased large pieces of indoor play equipment for the program, to enhance students' large motor development. They painted a large wall mural and smaller alphabet depictions, to be both colorful and educational. They presented a skit for the students about helping others. The students secured donations for a parent resource library, and recruited Spanish classes to write storybooks for the Spanish-speaking students at Head Start. The efforts of the team were presented at a local community group, and even mobilized a parent group to work for further improvements. The Head Start students have been greatly enrichment by the efforts of this CmPS team.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

1997-1998

Adopt-a-Park Program

Edison Middle School, Janesville
Coaches: Anita Fanta, Shelly Kakouris

State Bowl: Middle Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Middle Civic-Cultural Division, 2nd Place



Janesville is proud of its nickname – The City of Parks. It has more park acreage than any other city in Wisconsin. After some initial surveys and an interview with the city parks director, the Janesville Edison CmPS team realized that only a handful of the 60+ parks were actually used by citizens. Because of this, the same parks received needed improvements. The parks department also had its budget severely cut. The CmPS team began photographing and gathering information about the needs of smaller, less used neighborhood parks, and began promoting an Adopt-a-Park program. Students designed an informational brochure that was mailed to over 500 businesses and organizations. The photographs were organized into a catalog of the 32 neediest parks. A contract, worksheet, and evaluation form for groups to use when they adopted a park were developed. Teams of students began making presentations to organizations, the city council, and on the radio. A web site was created to explain the project. To date 15 parks have been adopted, with more pending. The amount of money and labor that this program will save the community will be amazing.

1997-1998

Readiness at Head Start

Fort Atkinson High School
Coach: Vicki Wright

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Human Services Division, 2nd Place

Improving the school readiness for Head Start children, with a special focus on bilingual Spanish speaking students, was the goal of the Fort Atkinson Senior CmPS students. Team members sought funding from local civic groups, recycled older but usable computers, set up a Spanish lending library, developed a learning and listening center, and organized parent reading and technology nights. A prime objective was to integrate their volunteer time into the lives of the students through involvement with reading or projects such as planting.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

1997-1998

Childhood Literacy

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



The Pecatonica CmPS team worked with the district media and reading specialists and Blanchardville librarian to improve early literacy in the children of the Hollandale and Blanchardville communities. With the help of the reading specialist, the team members sponsored a workshop for parents that stressed the importance of reading to young children and provided strategies to parents for improving literacy in their children. Pre-school story times were offered at the public library by the team members and by volunteer National Honor Society members. Members also assisted the reading specialist with the Books for Tots program. During the summer months, team members served as reading tutors for primary students needing help in maintaining their reading skills.

1998-1999

HELP for Middle Schoolers

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Human Services Division, 2nd Place

The Luxemburg-Casco High School CmPS team determined that there is a need to better prepare middle school students for success at the high school level. It appeared the best way to achieve such goals would be to create a tutoring program at the middle school. In addition to tutoring in academic areas, emphasis is placed on good study habits, organization skills, and self-confidence. An FPS program for 7th and 8th graders was also started to encourage creative thinking and participation in extra-curricular activities. Allowing students to get involved in school activities at an earlier age may increase the success of the students at the high school level. Each program has had success in its early stages, and there have been many positive effects on all those involved. The program has been set up for sustainability and will continue to thrive in the future.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

1998-1999

Imagine All the People

Fort Atkinson High School
Coach: Vicki Wright

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place

Due to the growing number of ethnic minority children entering the Fort Atkinson School District, high school team members saw a need for increasing multicultural awareness in our community. Because they felt the most important way to improve our world is to cherish our similarities, an exchange program was established between the three elementary schools in Fort Atkinson and a primary school in Kingston, Jamaica. Each team member adopted a classroom in which they coordinated a cultural exchange for fourth grade students. The project connected to the reading and language arts curriculum through the preparation of a classroom book, a box of cultural artifacts, and the preparation of pen pal letters. Three team members traveled to Kingston to work with 10-year-old Jamaican students in preparing similar materials for the exchange. Team members also prepared an early childhood training manual for the Jamaican teachers.



1999-2000

Into Africa

Edison Middle School, Janesville
Coaches: Anita Fanta, Shelly Kakouris

State Bowl: Middle Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Middle Division, Grand Champion

Through “Into Africa,” team members from Edison Middle School in Janesville have been supporting Peace Corps member and former FPSer, Alyson Carr, in Namibia, Africa for two years. Alyson is working with teachers in five schools helping them teach English. Namibia has few educational resources, so the team committed themselves to helping improve the education in Alyson’s schools. Students sent maps, handmade flash cards, playground balls, homemade jump ropes, and tons of school supplies and books. They prepared phonics materials and collected hundreds of t-shirts. They set up a writing project between third graders in Janesville and Namibia. Third graders wrote letters and sent Valentines and plastic Easter eggs. The team raised \$5000 for the postage to send the resources to Namibia.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

1999-2000

Project YOUTH

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Human Services Division, 1st Place



High school students from Luxemburg-Casco recognized a generation gap between Elders and Teens, but felt that each group has a wealth of knowledge to share with each other. Through Project YOUTH (Young and Old Understanding Their History), the team increased opportunities for social interaction between elders and teens, in order to better establish a mutual understanding. Teens met with Elders to share stories and experiences with one another. The team organized projects involving education, entertainment, and history that brought the whole community together.

1999-2000

Adult Computer Literacy

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



In response to the problem of inadequate technology education for adults in rural areas, the Community Problem Solving team from Pecatonica High School in Blanchardville accepted the challenge to make some changes. Their best solution was to offer a series of evening computer classes. They began with very basic sessions for adults who had never used a computer before. Other sessions taught basic word processing and managing windows skills. The response was so overwhelming that by the third session the class had to be divided into two sections and a second computer lab used. Additional classes focused on the Internet, searching techniques, and specific application programs.

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2000-2001

Project H.E.L.P.

Fort Atkinson High School
Coach: Vicki Wright

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place

Attacking the problem of latchkey children, who come home to an empty house after school, the Fort Atkinson Community Problem Solving Team established the Homework and Educational Learning Program (H.E.L.P.). The first step in the implementation of the program was forming a partnership with St. Peter's Episcopal Church, which was interested in a community outreach project. Community Problem Solving members then consulted with the school superintendent regarding the legal aspects associated with developing an after-school program. Getting started required finding and hiring a supervisor, purchasing supplies, recruiting volunteers, determining rules, finalizing a schedule, and making parent contacts. After two successful semesters of H.E.L.P. with students from one elementary school in Fort Atkinson, it was expanded to another set of days and a satellite program at another elementary school in Fort Atkinson. The program is now running successfully and is planned to continue for several years into the future.



2000-2001

Teen Center


Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas


State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



In the small rural communities of Blanchardville and Hollandale there are few recreational and educational activities available for elementary and middle school students once the school day has ended. Many students of this age group are unsupervised for several hours after school. The Pecatonica High School CmPS team decided to address this problem by setting the long-term goal of establishing a youth center in Blanchardville. Recognizing it would take a great deal of time and money to reach this goal, the team members decided to start with the first phase of the project. This included starting an after-school youth club for 5th - 8th graders, which was held twice a month. Activities included Tae Kwon Do, science experiments, art projects, and cooking. The CmPS team members also participated in a mentor-training workshop. The team applied for and received a mini-grant from the Department of Public Instruction to fund this project.

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2001-2002	STEPS: <u>Spanish Teaching to Erase Prejudicial Segregation</u>
Fort Atkinson High School Coach: Vicki Wright	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place International Conference: Senior Civic/Cultural Division, 1st Place	
<p>In recent years, the population of Spanish speaking residents in the community of Fort Atkinson has increased. In order to bridge the gap between the two cultures in our city, we undertook a multi-faceted project. In the schools, we hung signs in Spanish in common places, such as bathrooms and the library. We bought books in Spanish for the libraries. Team members taught English-speaking elementary students basic Spanish. We sponsored Spanish classes for staff and teachers to improve communication with parents and students. A Spanish Reading Fiesta was held for all students. We are helping our community take "S.T.E.P.S" toward breaking cultural barriers.</p>	

2001-2002	Computer Literacy for Rural Adults
Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville Coach: Irene Middlemas	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place	
	<p>The Pecatonica CmPS team members decided to help improve computer literacy in the adult population of their rural community. They applied for and received a \$12,000 Youth Connecting Communities grant to help fund the three-year project and service-learning training for the team. The group has held several series of computer classes and workshops. Several members of the community have helped by presenting at some of these workshops. The CmPSers will be helping local business owners computerize their records and promote their businesses via the Internet. With the help of area agencies, future classes will target the elderly and single parents.</p>

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2002-2003

Promoting Life Activity in Youth

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Education Division, 1st Place

Given that many children in the school district tend to make unhealthy nutritional and lifestyle choices, the Luxemburg-Casco Community Problem Solving Team created a project called PLAY, Promoting Life Activity in Youth. The program targets fourth and fifth grade students in the Intermediate School. Through fun-filled sessions and organized activities, held weekly for over a year, PLAY teaches children the importance of healthy food choices, moderation when eating, regular exercise, and the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Walk Across America, nutrition logs, a healthy kid's cookbook, and a reward program for purchasing healthy foods at the local grocery store were some highlights. The team hopes to instill healthy habits for the students to carry with them throughout their lives.



2002-2003

Multicultural Awareness

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



The Pecatonica CmPS team members noticed that their community was lacking in cultural diversity, and that students had few opportunities to gain an understanding of other cultures. In order to promote this understanding, the team connected with school groups in Chaco Province, Argentina. They conducted fundraisers to directly support education in Chaco Province, and communicated with through the schools to learn about the lives of the children. Presentations to fourth grade students were conducted to get them involved in the project and to learn in a “first-hand” way about the lives of children in another culture, as well as to see what a difference we can make for others.

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2003-2004

Partners in Global Solutions

North High School, Appleton and Schuchye, Russia
Coach: Marlyce Reed & Masha Byvakina

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Civic & Cultural Division, 1st Place
IC Beyond Award



What inspiration we all felt as we listened to eight students from Appleton and four students from Russia talk about their efforts to keep the Russian citizens of Schuchye safe from a nearby stockpile of chemical weapons. The comparison of safety measures in effect in the United States versus Russia was very powerful in highlighting the significance of the problems. Led by coaches Marlyce Reed and Masha Byvakina, the students made extensive contacts with officials in both countries while researching and implementing solutions to the dangerous situation in Russia. The team split up duties appropriate to each of their locations, and worked together tirelessly on their project. We were thrilled to welcome the Russian team to our State Bowl in

April. In addition to presenting their CmPS project, the Russian students participated in both the team booklet and skit competitions. The team implemented these solutions:

- Effective warning system – As a gift from the city of Appleton, the team presented the leaders of Schuchye with a large warning siren
- Obtain gas masks – The team set up a SASY website for donations that were used to obtain gas masks to supplement those on hand. These were distributed to residents.
- Evacuation plan – Although an evacuation plan existed, the residents were not aware of it. Using software from local resources, the plan was elaborated. Residents were provided with magnets giving directions for evacuation.
- Practice drills – The team initiated practice drills at the nearby Green Cross camp.
- Public education – Many residents were uninformed about the chemical weapons threat. Package labeling for children was designed to provide factual information.

UPDATE: As of March 2013, all of the chemical weapons in the stockpile had been destroyed!



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2004-2005

New Student Welcome

Randall Elementary School, Madison
Coach: Wenda Minberg

State Bowl: Junior Division, 1st Place



As a 3-5 school, every year all of the 3rd graders are new to the school. In addition, new students also come from many cultures and speaking other languages. The team wanted to create a stronger feeling of welcome for all new students. They gathered data from surveys in three languages, the past and current principal, a parent group, many alumni, and the school archives. They asked the PTO for help with funding, and presented their plans to students and parents at a school carnival. To implement their plan, they created

a welcome video highlighting the history of Randall School and what it is like today. They also created welcome postcards and Randall t-shirts for all new students.

2004-2005

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren, Jean Hildreth, Becky Rozz

Multi-Year Project
State Bowl 2004: Senior Division, 2nd Place
State Bowl 2005: Senior Division, 1st Place

Project RESPECT – Realizing Extra Service Promotes Excellent Community Togetherness – was started by the Luxemburg-Casco Community Problem Solvers when we noticed that middle school students in our community didn't have opportunities to volunteer, which was resulting in a feeling of indifference towards the community. We hoped that by offering the students different project options, such as painting murals, visiting the elderly, collecting teddy bears, or raking the lawns of community members, they would be likely to volunteer for one or more of these projects. The response to these projects has been excellent, and the students are now very eager to help.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2004-2005

Local History Project

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



Team members created digital images of photographs borrowed from individuals and the Blanchardville Historical Society. The images were used to create a video documentary on the history of the Pecatonica area. The team also conducted video interviews with several older members of community. This video footage was used for video clips and narration in the finished project. Copies of the completed video were donated to the area historical society.

2005-2006

R.O.A.D. Reading Opens All Doors

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren & Mike Gaedtke

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Education Division, 3rd Place

Reading is essential for every aspect of life, for comprehending the world and for making intelligent choices. Increasing amounts of computer and video entertainment make it difficult to encourage children to be enthusiastic readers. Through the R.O.A.D. program (Reading Opens All Doors) we seek to motivate students to enjoy reading more and to encourage the community to read with and to students. To accomplish our goals, we used after school themed reading events, book swaps, community events, and a number of other activities to promote a love of reading for all.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2005-2006

Library Outreach

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place

The Pecatonica High School Community Problem Solving team is worked with the staff of the Blanchardville Public Library to expand the outreach services of the library. Team members developed an after-school activities program for children in grades 3-6, an evening teen program that included activities and movie night, a digital camera class for community members, and a Family Olympics Event with a Valentine's Day theme.



2006-2007

Courtyard Renovations

Purdy Elementary School, Fort Atkinson
Coach: Melissa Meyerhofer

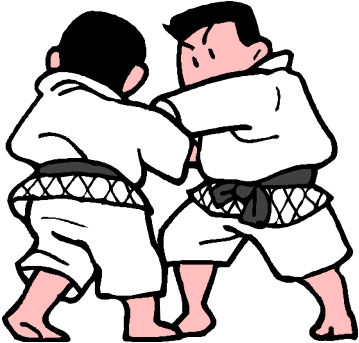
State Bowl: Junior Division, 1st Place




With this project the team worked on the cleaning and organizing of an inner courtyard in their school. The courtyard had a small pond, walkways and random plantings of trees and shrubs. The team was able to remove fallen trees and weeds as well as clean up the area. When they were finished, it was once again able to be used for reading and relaxing.


Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2006-2007	<h1>Wetlands Wonders</h1>
Fort Atkinson Middle School, Fort Atkinson Coach: Melissa Meyerhofer	
State Bowl: Middle Division, 1st Place	
<p>The team's project was to clean up a wetlands area that is between two grade schools in Fort Atkinson and had been designed to act as an outdoor classroom. Because of the lack of upkeep the area was not used. The team worked to clear brush and open a walkway to an existing boardwalk. While the project was not as successful as the team would have liked, it did pave the way for future groups to continue with the maintenance of the area.</p>	

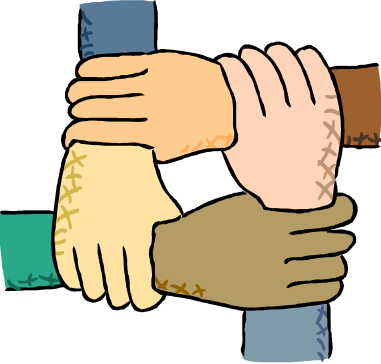
2006-2007	<h1>PROTECT</h1> <h2>Pecatonica Reaching Out to Educate Children and Teens</h2>
Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville Coach: Irene Middlemas	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place International Conference: Senior Education Division, 3rd Place	
	<p>In our rural community there is relatively little crime or danger. This project focuses on educating students about situations they could face outside our community, or sometimes within, and how to protect themselves in those situations. Activities included a speaker on dating violence for all high school students in our district and a neighboring one, presentations on internet predators for all middle and high school students and parents in both districts, self-defense classes, a ceremony honoring veterans, and classes on protective behaviors (including cyberbullying) for elementary and middle school students.</p>


Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2006-2007	(TLC)2 Teaching and Learning Cultures Together
Luxemburg-Casco High School, Luxemburg Coach: Sandy Ehren, Mike Gaedtke, Jean Hildreth, Jodi Kinnard, Stephanie Schauer	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place	
<p>Recent newcomers have broadened the ethnic diversity in our small community of predominantly Northern European heritage. To encourage multicultural understanding and acceptance in our community, we have implemented Teaching and Learning Cultures Together, an after-school program available to our children in grades K-6. During our bi-weekly sessions, we explore cultures currently represented in our district, featuring hands-on multicultural activities, ethnic foods, guest speakers, and member presentations. Since (TLC)2 began, our youth have demonstrated a newfound interest and enthusiasm for other cultures, a receptiveness which shows indications of spreading to their families and community.</p>	


2006-2007	Community Arts Initiative
Wrightstown High School, Wrightstown Coach: Becky Stellmacher	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 3rd Place	
	<p>In the small community of Wrightstown, there is a much stronger focus on sports than on arts. The team undertook a variety of activities to promote the arts. First we increased attendance by promoting all of the holiday concerts in the school district. We started a drama club for young students. The Fine Arts Family Extravaganza in March showcased local artists and performers. A group of elderly jazz musicians performed at a “Senior Ball” for assisted living residents that we held; the DVD of the event is played frequently. We worked with the music and drama departments to collaborate on producing a musical with community participation; then the district increased drama funding by 400%. We used money from our fundraising efforts to provide scholarships to students planning to major in the fine arts.</p>


Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2006-2007	<h1>Imagine</h1> <h2>Initiating Multiculturalism Among Great youth In order to Never stop seeking Equality</h2>
Wauaukee High School (Danielle Breidung) Coach: Martha Barlow	
State Bowl: Senior Division Individual, 1st Place International Conference: Senior Division Individual, 3rd Place	
<p>In the rural village of Wauaukee, Wisconsin, the number of residents of multicultural backgrounds has been steadily increasing since 1990. Ten years ago multicultural students composed only 1.8 percent of the student population, and today they make up 4.9 percent. A need for Project IMAGINE – Initiating Multiculturalism Among Great Interested youth who Need Equality was identified as a result of the limited knowledge white students of the Wauaukee Community School district have of people with multicultural backgrounds. A multicultural club, field trips, and guest presentations addressed the goal of fostering inter-racial dialogue and creating a more accepting atmosphere within the district.</p>	

2006-2007	<h1>We Recycle</h1>
Luxemburg-Casco High School (Nick Jacques) Coach: Sandy Ehren	
State Bowl: Senior Division Individual, 2nd Place	
	<p>“We Recycle” established a recycling program for aluminum cans and plastic bottles at Luxemburg-Casco High School, where no recycling program existed. Through cooperation with the high school administration and faculty, I was able to successfully deploy recycling bins in hallways around the school and use various methods to “advertise” the project to the students and staff. I also wrote a pamphlet that described the effects of recycling or non-recycling. The students have become much more environmentally responsible, and the recycling program has expanded to the classroom level due to the success of the project.</p>

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2007-2008	RESPECT
Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville Coach: Irene Middlemas	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place	
	<p>The FPS team focused on the problem of bullying by raising awareness of the effects of bullying on the victims and encouraging bystanders to do something if they witness another student being harassed. Team members worked with the elementary guidance counselor to develop appropriate curriculum for elementary and middle school students and activities for all students K-12. The team declared the week of February 11-15 RESPECT WEEK. At the Middle/High School, activities included a video presentation by John Halligan whose son, a bullying victim, committed suicide followed by small group discussions, and a mix-it-up lunch day. Special activities were also held at the elementary school. All students received RESPECT wristbands to remind them that respectful behavior is the key to eliminating bullying.</p>

2007-2008	Extreme Makeover: Park Edition
Luxemburg-Casco High School Coach: Sandy Ehren, Jill Gilson, Mike Gaedtke, Jean Hildreth, Stephanie Schauer	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place International Conference: Senior Education Division, 2nd Place	
	<p>To honor Luxemburg's Centennial, our team is transforming our outdated, unsafe, and rarely-used village park into an inviting location for family recreation. We demolished old park equipment, spread two semi loads of mulch beneath new equipment, built ten children's picnic tables, painted recycling barrels, and constructed park benches and a project sign. We will construct a fire truck climbing toy, paint the older play equipment and the park shelter, and seal/paint the basketball court. We have obtained funding for new lighting and a security camera. In May, we'll encourage public participation with our second "Music in the Park" event.</p>

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2008-2009

DRIVE

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Grand Champion

A survey showed that an alarming number of our high school students engage in risky driving behavior. Our project DRIVE – Driving Responsibly In Vehicles Everywhere - aims to increase driving safety in our student population. Events included a DRIVE Day with a speaker and activities that showed students how certain behaviors can affect one's ability to concentrate while driving. We also taught students at the elementary school the importance of being a good passenger and buckling up. Our final event involved more speakers and a mock accident staged with the help of local emergency services and law enforcement agencies.



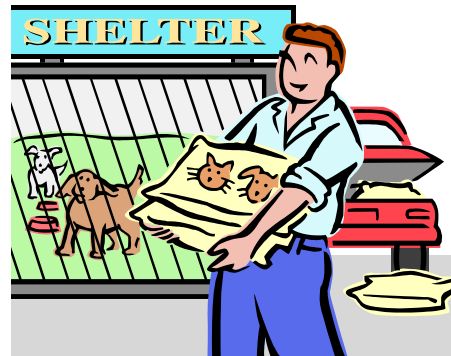
2008-2009

The RIPPLE Effect

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren, Mike Gaedtke, Jean Hildreth, Stuart Russ, Stephanie Schauer, Alex Stodola

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place

Because many of our members are inexperienced in leading service activities, we designed a project to help them now and into the future: The RIPPLE Effect, Reaching Inward to Promote Positive Leadership Experience. Through a survey, we discovered that more people would be willing to volunteer if they knew what and how to do it. Using this information, we created a leadership guide for community service which explains how to plan and manage a volunteer activity. Using this guide we planned, organized and implemented varied community projects. We also compiled a list of the volunteer opportunities available in our area which were placed on the school website and available in pamphlet format.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2009-2010

Honor Our Veterans (1)

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren, Mike Gaedtke, Jean Hildreth, Stuart Russ

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place



Our community often fails to show our veterans and active soldiers the degree of respect they have earned. Our community is rapidly losing a generation of veterans and their stories so we wanted to inspire our community by example so that community members would show our veterans and active soldiers the respect they deserve. We videotaped veterans telling their stories, collected troop supplies, helped with the LZ (Landing Zone) Lambeau which welcomed home Viet Nam veterans, and held celebrations and receptions honoring our veterans. We made teaching booklets for K-8 students to

help them understand Veterans Day and attended welcome home ceremonies for WWII Honor Flight veterans, published a book of veteran interviews, and performed at King Veterans Home.

2010-2011

Be the Hero

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place
International Conference: Senior Education Division, 2nd Place

In some schools, bullying has resulted in cases of suicide. Some of our team members became concerned about the personal safety of fellow students when they noticed bullying and harassment occurring among our students, especially on Facebook. The team planned a series of activities that would make students and adults more aware of the consequences of bullying, how to stand up to bullies, and how to seek help when bullying occurs. The slogan “Be the Hero” was chosen to encourage bystanders to step up and intervene when they witness cases of bullying.



Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2010-2011

Honor Our Veterans (2)

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren, Mike Gaedtke, Stephanie Joniaux

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place

Our veterans told us that we could not let our last year's veteran project die, but we must teach our community about veterans' experiences. Everything we did this year revolved around sharing what we learned last year about our veterans and how to show them the respect they deserve. We taught our K-8 students about veterans and national traditions. We taught through example by attending and assisting at veteran-related events. As a result, we now have people and clubs in our community who will ensure that honoring our veterans will continue to be a strong tradition in our community.



2010-2011

Volunteer Connect

Wauunakee High School
Coach: Martha Barlow

State Bowl: Senior Division, 3rd Place



An area needing attention in our school was the involvement of our student body in volunteer activities. Although many of us want to volunteer, or need the hours for something, we often never get it organized. Our goal was to connect students with volunteer opportunities. We planned a different theme each month, and then we both created and found volunteer opportunities to offer to students. We created a website for students to sign up for the activities, and employed a variety of ways to advertise our project to the student body.

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2011-2012

Middle School Mentoring

Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place

Middle school can be a very stressful time for many students, both academically and socially. We decided that it would be helpful for all our middle school students to have a high school student who would be their mentor, someone to help them when needed. To do this, we are establishing a sustainable student-to-student mentoring program. We held a kick-off event in the fall that involved team building games, a service activity, and an introduction to the project. In November, we began weekly homework help sessions after school. We began our mentoring sessions in January during a weekly advisory period.



2011-2012

We Care

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren, Mike Gaedtke, Stephanie Joniaux

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



“We Care” focuses on the elderly in our community. With this project, we learned from our elders, became more appreciative of them, better understood their difficulties, and tried to make their lives more enjoyable. In order to meet our goals, we visited the three local assisted living homes as a team once a month to entertain and interact with the residents. Each team member also visited a friend from one of the homes on a regular basis and documented their stories and experiences. We will continue to visit our friends and learn from them.

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2012-2013

To the Moon and Back

Luxemburg-Casco High School
Coach: Sandy Ehren, Heidi Bader

State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place

Some of our community members are not using proper nutrition and adequate movement to maintain a healthy lifestyle. We created movement calendars, nutritional guidelines, and a health-oriented recipe book to help encourage members of our community – especially the youth – to incorporate healthy habits into their lives now and in the future. We hosted activities such as “Rocket Boosters,” sledding, swimming, and roller skating for the youth. To get everyone involved, we used “To the Moon and Back” to visualize the amount of minutes we needed to reach our goal of 477,714 miles, in which one minute of movement equals one mile to the moon.



2012-2013

Just for the Health of It


Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville
Coach: Irene Middlemas

State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place



Recently, there has been a national push to encourage healthy eating and active lifestyles, especially in youth. Many students at our school participate in sports, but are not educated about proper nutrition. Other students do not practice active lifestyles. Commonly, adults do not make time in their busy schedules to exercise or prepare healthy, well-balanced meals. Lack of exercise facilities adds to this problem. It is the goal of our team to join the movement to promote the principles of healthy lifestyles by providing nutrition education and opportunities for physical activity for students and community members.

Wisconsin FPS Community Problem Solving Projects

2013-2014	Is It Worth It?
Pecatonica High School, Blanchardville Coach: Irene Middlemas	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 1st Place	
	<p>Many automobile accidents occur, especially with teen drivers, because the driver is distracted by cell phone use, music devices, or other passengers in the car. Injuries caused by an accident are often more severe, even fatal, because the passengers were not using seat belts or approved car seats. Our team posed the question “Is It Worth It?” Is engaging in these risky behaviors worth risking a life or severe injury? The project included a mock accident and distracted driving presentation for secondary students, buckle-up and good passenger activities with elementary students, and accident avoidance training for team members.</p>

2013-2014	Believe in Green
Luxemburg-Casco High School Coach: Sandy Ehren, Heidi Bader	
State Bowl: Senior Division, 2nd Place International Conference: Senior Environmental Concerns Division, 3rd Place	
<p>In hopes of promoting environmentally sustaining lifestyles to our school community, we are trying to become certified as a "Green & Healthy School" by the Wisconsin DNR. The certification includes nine focus areas – Community Involvement, Energy, Environmental and Sustainability Education, Recycling and Waste Management, School Site, Water, Transportation, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Health. In order to make achievements in these areas, we planned environmentally-related activities for the younger students, informed the older students on ways they can positively affect the environment, and removed invasive species and planted native species several times at Baird Creek.</p>	