

April 2023

ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 53, Issue 6

VISITING THE SENECA MUSEUM: LEARNING THE IMPACT ON A LOCAL CULTURE



IMPORTANT DATES

**Saturday, April 1st -
Monday, April 10th, 2023**

Spring Break

**School Resumes on
Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

Students in the JCC College Composition I class are studying the history, efficacy, and purpose of the Kinzua Dam. They attended the Seneca Museum in Salamanca to learn more about Seneca culture and the impact the dam has had on the community.



Bringing the 2023-24 budget in focus... Exceeding the “Cap” will be necessary.

Over the past three months, the District has been diligently putting together a responsible budget for the 2023-24 School Year, and we have almost completed the process. It has taken a good deal of time, hard decisions, and patience. In this article, I’m going to provide an update where we are at and where we need to go with the budget to prepare the final edition for voter approval. In the May budget article, I will dive deeper into the actual “numbers.”

While I would like to report that ECS will be able to operate within the limits imposed by the 2% “tax cap,” I cannot, unfortunately, tell you that is the case. There are a number of reasons why ECS will need to exceed the tax cap. The interaction between these reasons (realities) can be complex, confusing, and frustrating.

Perhaps the biggest frustration has to do with Foundation Aid from NYS. This has been in the news a lot the past couple of years. Last year, and again this year, a large number of districts across NYS will see substantial increases in their foundation aid as a result of being underfunded for several years. Ellicottville, however, is one of the districts that was always “fully funded;” we have been getting our State minimum increase each year. For the 2023-24 school year, we are estimating that we will see an increase in Foundation Aid of roughly \$91,000. While this increase sounds like a big number, it is the smallest monetary increase of all public schools in Cattaraugus County. In fact, it is the smallest monetary increase of ALL public schools in the five counties of WNY! The next closest increase is \$101,000 for a school in another WNY county that has approximately 200 students. This knowledge is extremely frustrating to say the least.

Another frustrating aspect with respect to NYS aid that comes into play is the fact that often times NYS over estimates

amounts in several of our expense-based aid categories. The problem with this is it leaves us adjusting how much aid we may actually receive. If we simply used the estimates provided by the State we would end up over estimating our revenues, and, potentially over spend. Over the years, we have become quite adept at estimating smaller, more realistic, amounts, but it is cumbersome to have to do this. In addition, often times, the amount of expense-driven aid we receive is the smallest amount allowed by NYS law. For example, our BOCES aid ratio is 36%. This means for every \$100 we spend on certain BOCES programs, we will get \$36 back the following year. At the same time, a different district may have a BOCES aid ratio of 75%, which means it can spend \$100 on the same program and see a “return” of \$75 the following year. In the end, ECS pays \$64 for the same program or service that the other district only has to pay \$25 to access.

You may ask: “Why does ECS receive such a small increase in Foundation Aid and have such low rates for expense driven aids?” The answer is simple in the eyes of NYS. ECS has tremendous property wealth within the District, and, therefore, the District can raise the money needed to run the school via local taxes. This would be accurate if we had tax rates similar to other districts in the State. However, ECS has low tax rates for the towns within it’s borders when compared to other schools. In the end, these low rates make it difficult to raise enough money while staying under the “tax cap.”

Compounding the District’s financial situation is all the increases and realities that all districts are facing. ECS, like all other schools in the State, is seeing inflationary increases to expenditures. Gas prices are sky-rocketing and electric is not far behind. Health insurance costs will be increased by 10% for the second year in a row. Costs in Special Education remain high. ECS (as well as all districts) must address the ever-present increase

in salaries/wages. We have always taken pride in having a great staff that does a superior job. This means all staff.. everyone that works in the School. To provide a great education in a top-notch atmosphere, we have to stay competitive in paying employees. We have to offer salaries/wages that are competitive not only with other schools, but are competitive with the job market outside of schools.

I understand that this information may not be what everyone wants at this point. I ask for your patience as the District works to assemble the final proposed budget. We will then be able to share more accurate information in the May newsletter, including final dollar amounts and the amount by which we will need to exceed the “tax cap.” I would also like to point out that while I cannot give you exact information at this time, I can assure you that the budget will be responsible and represent what is needed to provide the education that the students of ECS deserve.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller, Superintendent



*Annual Budget Day
Student Council
Hot Dog Sale*

*Come May 16th to support
the ECS Student Council!
11:00am – 6:00pm
\$5.00 donation for a Hot Dog,
Chips, Drink and dessert!
We hope to see you there!*

Caring Closet



Attention ECS Families!

We are proud to announce that the Caring Closet will soon be up and running again. This student created support system collects new or gently used clothes for free distribution among our Pre K- 12 Ellicottville Eagles.

ECS students and staff may donate directly on campus by placing items in a sealed bag and dropping them off at the Nurse's Office. Other alternative drop-offs for community members are

- The Donation Shed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.
- Warrior Fitness and Wellness
- Ellicottville Memorial Library

Please place items in deposit bags and label "ECS" and whether they have been washed. We are also happy to accept un-used, sealed personal hygiene items.

Items most requested by students are hoodies, jeans, leggings, t-shirts, sneakers and self-care items.

Any students and community members looking to reach out for clothing or hygiene items may directly contact ecscaringcloset@ecsny.org. As we are in the process of re-opening, we will work our hardest to accommodate your needs.

Thank you for supporting the program and helping it re-grow. We are excited to see the Caring Closet back in action to benefit those in need!



Yearbook News

- Old yearbooks are available for purchase, as long as supplies last. The 2022 yearbook is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10. Contact Mrs. Bauer for more details.
- There is an elementary yearbook. It is a PreK-5 pull-out of the regular yearbook. They are \$20. Contact Mrs. Bauer to reserve

one. Previous years will not be available for the elementary yearbook.

- The last day to reserve a yearbook will be May 31st. After that you can only get one a week after they come in, assuming there are any left after all reserved ones have had a chance to be claimed.



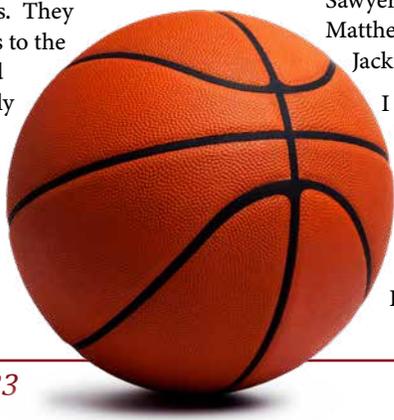
Boys Varsity Basketball

The Boys Varsity Basketball team finished their season with a record of 14-8. In league play, the Boys finished with a 10-0 record, which secured their 8th straight CCAA East 2 League Championship. The boys won their first round home playoff game against Sherman. In the Semifinals at Jamestown Community College, the Eagles fell behind early against Panama. They made a spirited comeback to get the Panama lead to 1, but came up short in the 4th quarter. This team battled all year long and made great strides to improve throughout the year. We are very proud of the Eagles..

This Eagles team will graduate 9 seniors that had outstanding careers this year. Braylon Wyatt, Caedon Wyatt, Gavin Dietrich, Giancarlo Nuzzo, Brad John, Liam Jimerson, Zac Clark, Yahir Velazquez-Garcia, and Christian Swalcy. Their leadership and efforts will be missed next season. Best of luck in the future!

The team consisted of 4 underclassman that will be the core of the team next season. Juniors Owen Chudy, Christopher Calarco, and William Benatovich all gained valuable experience this season. The lone sophomore on this year's team was Carter Smith. We look forward to working with this group for another season.

A few Eagles players were recognized as CCAA East League All-Stars. Junior Owen Chudy was recognized as a First Team All-Star. Owen led the Eagles in scoring in league play. Seniors Braylon Wyatt, Caedon Wyatt, and Gavin Dietrich were all named to the 2nd Team. All three players were key contributors and added contributions in every area of the game to help the team win the league. Giancarlo Nuzzo was named Honorable Mention. Congratulations Eagles! Thank you to all of the fans and students that came out to support the team this year. I would also like to say a very special thank you to Griffin Chudy and Zach Gelen as assistant coaches. They were great assets to the team and helped contribute greatly to our success. We will work hard on the off-season and look forward to next season!



Boys JV Basketball

The Ellicottville JV Boys' Basketball team played a total of 20 games this season, finishing with a record of 8-12. It was a rough start to the season as the Eagles lost their first 7 games, but the JV boys finished the last 13 games of the season strong with a record of 8-5. The hard work the team put in was evident with the progress and improvements the boys made throughout the season. The improvements the team made were most evident in our last game of the season when we defeated Portville by 17 points after we had lost to them in our first matchup very early in the season by 18 points. Nice job boys! We look forward to watching you play in the years to come! The boys that were on the JV Boys' Basketball team this year are listed below:

Rylan Benjamin, Blake Smith, Raiddan Wilson, Cameron Mendell, Parker John, Adrian Taylor, Camden Palmatier, Chris Polino, Ryan Norton, and Ryan Metzger

Boys Modified Basketball

The Boy's Modified Basketball team finished their season with a quite successful campaign with 3 wins and 7 losses. Normally this would not qualify as a "successful" season, but the team was made up of all 7th graders except for one 8th grader. With this inexperience, wins against 8th grade teams were not likely to happen, but by the end of the season these boys put a scare into the Olean and Allegany-Limestone 8th grade teams losing by 10 points or less in these games. Against 7th grade teams, the young Eagles had 3 wins and only 1 loss, so this is why I deemed the season a success.

The lone 8th grader on the team was Reed Nazareth.

The rest of the team was made up of 7th graders; Rian Johnson, Carson Mendell, Sawyer Miller, Nigel Poulin, Payton Quinn, Matthew Rzucek, Colton Schumacher, and Jackson Tomsick.

I am very pleased with the growth these boys have shown through this short season, and even more pleased with the fact that this team was the best modified team academically that I have ever coached.

Best of luck to all of you next year!

Varsity Girls Basketball

The Girls Varsity Basketball team had a fantastic season! We were undefeated in league play (10-0) and 16-6 overall. On February 17th we played Clymer in a non-league game. We won 61-40. This was a huge improvement from our first game of the season which we lost 18-38. The girls beat Westfield in the Quarter Finals on February 23rd at home in overtime with a score of 58-52. From there we were on to JCC for the Semi-Finals. We played Sherman on March 1st where we lost 17-29. It was a tough defensive battle between both teams. Although it didn't turn out how we wanted it to, we played tough and with a lot of heart.

Leading the team this season was Allison Rowland, Ryah Quinn, and Dalayala Alexander. Dalayla Alexander led the team in points with 224 and 102 steals. Allison Rowland led the team in rebounds with 166 and also had 174 points. Ryah Quinn was close behind with 146 rebounds and 12 blocks.

The team consisted of 2 seniors – Allison Rowland and Ryah Quinn, 3 Juniors – Audrey Hurlburt, Dalayla Alexander, and Keelin Finn, 3 Sophomores – Addison John, Natalee Leiper, and Courtney Marsh. The lone freshman was Ande Northrup. We also brought up Sophomore Hailey Rzucek at the end of the season for playoffs.

Thanks for a great season! Good luck Allison and Ryah.

Girls Modified Basketball

The Girl's Modified Basketball team had a successful season. They had opportunities to play as two separate teams, 7th grade & 8th grade, at the beginning of the season which allowed the girls a lot of playing time to work on their skills. For some, this was their first experience playing basketball and for others it was an opportunity to continue to improve their basketball skills. The girls showed a lot of improvement throughout the short season and had great success in winning many games! The team members include; Ady Andrews, Trinity DeChane, Ainsley Edwards, Jailah John, Kenzie Newark, Juliana O'Connell, Ellen Quinn, Rachel Anderson, Rylie Button, Jersie Czapl, Kelsie Feldbauer, Millie Nelthrope, Karle Northrup, Riley Northrup, and Abby Rust. Thank you for a fun season ladies!

Girls JV Basketball

The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team finished their 22-23 season with a 14-2 record. The Eagles were League Champions with a 10-0 League Record. The Lady Eagles used their tenacious defense to hold their opponents to less than 25 points in 14 games this season.

The Team was made up of two sophomores; Elizabeth Ball and Hailey Rzucek, and five freshmen; Teaghan Finn, Drew Ficek, Kaylyn Crowley, Daliana Velazquez, and Makayla Potter, and two 8th Graders; Riley Whitmer and Yani Velazquez.

Thank you Ladies for representing ECS with pride at every game!

Varsity Basketball Cheerleading

This season our squad consisted of 8 awesome cheerleaders. Returning for her second season was junior Allison Pfeffer. Joining her were the following juniors Mikaya Carney and Bailey Lewis. Sophomore Alivia Fisher was joined by freshman Izzy Coburn, Jordan O'Connell, Delaney Myers and Shyann Harber. Even though we only had one returning cheerleader the other girls stepped up to the challenge and quickly learned all the cheers and designed a great halftime show. I can not wait to see what next season brings with this squad of talented young ladies.

Bowling

The 2022-2023 Girls Bowling team consisted of one junior, Emma Lafferty; two sophomores, Siying Sun and Gracie Vassar; one freshman, Keira Baldwin; and three 8th graders, Breanna Byroads, McKenzie Green, and Ava Weber. Emma Lafferty was chosen to attend sectionals at Airport Lanes in Cheektowaga where she placed 60th out of 260 other bowlers. The Boys Bowling team consisted of four sophomores, Ben Edwards, Maddox Johnson, Merek Peters, and Parker Quinn; and two 7th graders, Coleman Milks and Blake Simons. Both teams made improvements throughout the season and set new personal records. Thank you all for a great season. We're looking forward to next year.



"Meeting the Challenge"

VARSITY BASEBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Sat. Mar. 25	11:00 AM	@ Pine Valley
Mon. Mar. 27	5:00 PM	Veterans Cup Tourn.
Wed. Mar. 29	5:00 PM	Veterans Cup Tourn.
Tue. Apr. 11	5:00 PM	BROCTON
Wed. Apr. 12	5:00 PM	SILVER CREEK
Fri. Apr. 14	5:00 PM	@ Randolph
Mon. Apr. 17	5:00 PM	PORTVILLE
Wed. Apr. 19	5:00 PM	@ Salamanca
Sat. Apr. 22	10:00 AM	HINSDALE
Mon. Apr. 24	5:00 PM	FRANKLINVILLE
Wed. Apr. 26	5:00 PM	@ North Collins
Tue. May 2	5:00 PM	@ Catt/Little Valley
Thu. May 4	4:30 PM	@ Silver Creek
Sat. May 6	11:00 AM	RANDOLPH
Tue. May 9	5:00 PM	@ Portville
Thu. May 11	5:00 PM	SALAMANCA
Sat. May 13	11:00 AM	@ Franklinville
Tue. May 16	5:00 PM	NORTH COLLINS
Thu. May 18	5:00 PM	CATT/LITTLE VALLEY
Fri. May 19	5:00 PM	PINE VALLEY

MODIFIED BASEBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Tue. May 2	5:00 PM	FRANKLINVILLE
Fri. May 5	5:00 PM	@ Olean
Tue. May 9	5:00 PM	ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE
Mon. May 15	5:00 PM	PORTVILLE
Wed. May 17	5:00 PM	@ Salamanca
Fri. May 19	5:00 PM	@ Franklinville
Mon. May 22	5:00 PM	OLEAN
Tue. May 30	5:00 PM	@ Allegany-Limestone
Thu. Jun. 1	5:00 PM	SALAMANCA
Mon. Jun. 5	5:00 PM	@ Portville

MODIFIED SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Mon. May 1	5:00 PM	FRANKLINVILLE
Thu. May 4	5:00 PM	@ Olean High School
Mon. May 8	5:00 PM	ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE
Thu. May 11	5:00 PM	@ Salamanca
Mon. May 15	5:00 PM	PORTVILLE
Thu. May 18	5:00 PM	@ Franklinville
Mon. May 22	5:00 PM	OLEAN
Thu. May 25	5:00 PM	@ Allegany-Limestone
Thu. Jun. 1	5:00 PM	SALAMANCA
Mon. Jun. 5	5:00 PM	@ Portville

2023 SPRING SPORT SCHEDULES

VARSITY SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Fri. Mar. 31	5:00 PM	Pine Valley
Wed. Apr. 12	5:00 PM	@ Pine Valley
Thu. Apr. 13	4:30 PM	@ West Valley
Sat. Apr. 15	11:00 AM	CATT/LITTLE VALLEY
Tue. Apr. 18	5:00 PM	@ Salamanca
Thu. Apr. 20	5:00 PM	PORTVILLE
Sat. Apr. 22	1:00 AM	@ Olean
Tue. Apr. 25	5:00 PM	FRANKLINVILLE
Thu. Apr. 27	5:00 PM	@ North Collins
Mon. May 1	5:00 PM	WEST VALLEY
Wed. May 3	5:00 PM	@ Catt/Little Valley
Fri. May 5	5:00 PM	SALAMANCA
Sat. May 6	11:00 AM	LAKE SHORE
Sat. May 6	1:00 PM	LAKE SHORE
Mon. May 8	5:00 PM	@ Portville
Fri. May 12	5:00 PM	@ Franklinville
Mon. May 15	5:00 PM	NORTH COLLINS

JV SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Wed. Mar. 29	4:30 PM	CATT/LITTLE VALLEY
Tue. Apr. 11	5:00 PM	SPRINGVILLE-GRIFFITH
Thu. Apr. 13	5:00 PM	WEST VALLEY
Fri. Apr. 14	5:00 PM	OLEAN
Mon. Apr. 17	5:00 PM	@ Gowanda
Sat. Apr. 22	11:00 AM	@ Salamanca
Tue. Apr. 25	5:00 PM	@ Springville-Griffith
Thu. Apr. 27	5:00 PM	SILVER CREEK
Fri. Apr. 28	5:00 PM	ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE
Sat. Apr. 29	11:00 AM	@ West Valley
Tue. May 2	5:00 PM	PORTVILLE
Wed. May 3	5:00 PM	GOWANDA
Mon. May 8	5:00 PM	SALAMANCA
Wed. May 10	5:00 PM	@ Olean
Thu. May 11	5:00 PM	@ Silver Creek
Tue. May 16	5:00 PM	@ Portville
Fri. May 19	5:30 PM	@ Allegany-Limestone

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Water Beads: Harmful if Swallowed, Put in Ears

Water-absorbing gel beads sold as sensory toys and used in vases and gardens are a growing problem among young children.

What are water beads?

Made of superabsorbent polymer chemicals, water beads are also known as jelly beads, hydro orbs, crystal soil and gel beads. They are also called sensory beads, used as play ([/English/family-life/power-of-play/Pages/3-ways-your-child-builds-important-life-skills-through-play.aspx](#)) tools for children with autism and other developmental conditions. When the tiny, hard plastic balls are placed in water, they can grow up to 1,500 times their size. The clear, colorful beads can then be dried out and reused.



Why water beads can be dangerous for young children

The problem is that because water beads look like candy, young children may be tempted to swallow them. Kids also have put them in their ears, and even inhaled (<https://bmcpediatr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12887-020-02168-9>) them. The beads can continue to grow once inside the body, causing blockages and life-threatening damage. And the beads may not be visible on X-rays.

Recently, while the beads are labeled as "non-toxic," concerns also been raised about the safety of the chemical acrylamide used to make them.

Water beads safety tips

If you are interested in buying water beads, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:

- Consider waiting until all the children in your household are at least 3 years old.
- Only use water beads on a table over a hard floor. Sweep or vacuum immediately afterward. Because some are the size of a pinhead when dry, they are difficult to find or notice if they fall on the floor.
- Store the water beads in a tightly sealed container kept in a safe place that young children can't reach.
- Supervise children when using water beads.

Signs your child may have swallowed water beads

- Refusing to eat
- Lethargy
- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Wheezing
- Complaints that something is stuck in the throat or chest
- Abdominal pain
- Constipation
- Abdominal swelling and soreness



If you suspect your child swallowed or placed water beads into their ears, seek treatment right away. You can also call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

Have some water beads been recalled?

A decade ago, deaths of children overseas and injuries in the U.S. prompted a voluntary recall (<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2012/dunecraft-recalls-water-balz-skulls-orbs-and-flower-toys-due-to-serious-ingestion>) of several types of water-absorbing balls, beads and toys shaped like fruit and animals. Similar products still are sold in craft stores and garden centers.

A website created by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (<https://saferproducts.gov/PublicSearch/Result>) (CPSC) has documented many reports of children being injured after ingesting water beads. Many recent cases reported to the CPSC involve young children under 3 years old swallowing water beads given to their older siblings. At least one case led to a death. Poison Control (<https://www.poison.org/articles/are-water-beads-toxic>) reported a 6-month-old who needed surgery after swallowing a water bead; the baby later died from an infection.

In two CPSC reports, children were treated for ear infections (</English/health-issues/conditions/ear-nose-throat/Pages/Ear-Infection-Information.aspx>) when doctors couldn't spot clear beads in their ears during an exam. The delay in finding the beads allowed them to grow until the kids, who were 5 and 7 years old, needed surgery. Both have ear drum damage, and one hearing loss (</English/health-issues/conditions/ear-nose-throat/Pages/Hearing-Loss.aspx>).

More information

- Home Safety: Tips for Parents of Young Children (</English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Home-Safety-Heres-How.aspx>)
- Dangers of Magnetic Toys and Fake Piercings (</English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Dangers-of-Magnetic-Toys-and-Fake-Piercings.aspx>)
- Amber Teething Necklaces: A Caution for Parents (</English/ages-stages/baby/teething-tooth-care/Pages/Amber-Teething-Necklaces.aspx>)
- Button Battery Injuries in Children: A Growing Risk (</English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Button-Battery-Injuries-in-Children-A-Growing-Risk.aspx>)
- Are Water Beads Toxic? (<https://www.poison.org/articles/are-water-beads-toxic>) (Poison Control)

Last Updated 2/2/2023

Source American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Injury, Violence & Poison Prevention (Copyright © 2023)

The information contained on this Web site should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

ELLCOTTVILLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

ECS ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Tannenbaum Lodge · Upper Holiday Valley
Ellicottville, New York

More information will be in the later newsletters

PTO NEWS

Upcoming Events:

- **PTO Meeting**
Wednesday, April 19th @
4:30pm in the Elementary
Art Room
- **Spring Book Fair**
"Buy 1 Get 1 Free"
Thursday, April 20th &
Friday, April 21st 8:00 - 3:00
Friday April 21st, 6:00 -
7:30 (During the King and
Princess Dance)
- **Dime Carnival**
Friday, May 19th, 5:30pm -
7:30pm
- **Field Day**
Thursday, June 15th, 8:30 -
10:30

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events or have questions, please contact Diana Olson at dolson@ecsny.org or 716-378-6698.

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Administration

Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent
Mr. Erich Ploetz, 6-12 Principal
Kathryn Mendell, Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum



MAKER SPACE PROJECT

Mrs. Farnum's Maker Space Project was chosen as this year's recipient of the Wolfinger Grant. The Wolfinger Family Fund provides grants to benefit students in Coudersport, Smethport, Northern Potter and Ellicottville. Sandy and Connie, the benefactors of the grant, believe in creating meaningful learning opportunities for students whenever possible. Mrs. Farnum's project focuses on inquiry-based learning as a key component of effective STEM instruction for elementary students. This approach encourages students to ask questions, investigate, and explore concepts on their own. By engaging in hands-on activities and experiments, students develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of



the material. She has used the funds provided from the grant to purchase materials to create STEM challenges. These challenges provide students with real-world problems to solve using STEM skills and encourage

collaboration and creativity. By incorporating inquiry-based learning into STEM instruction, she hopes to empower her students to become independent thinkers and problem solvers.