



Olentangy Orange High School
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To whom it may concern:

I am writing you today in order to express my support and request your consideration to dramatically contribute to the ongoing success of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources program, Project WILD. Project WILD is a program with the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and its mission is to provide biodiversity-based conservation and environmental education opportunities to students in the state of Ohio. They have collected a diverse and scientifically sound set of curricular materials that educators may implement within their classrooms. These resources are vital in fostering a holistic and environmental responsibility in our young people, as they will be tasked with tackling new problems (and therefore, new solutions) that are complex and involve a diversity of studies, such as economics, legislation and government, as well as geology, biology, and ecology.

I am an 18-year veteran teacher in Olentangy Local Schools, where I have taught the Life Sciences, including AP Environmental Science. Years prior to Covid-19 and the sub shortage, I was granted the opportunity to become trained as a facilitator for this program. The 2-day experience from that training was inspiring, invigorating, and collaborative. I learned from the ODNR trainers, learned from the various presenters, and most importantly, I learned from fellow educators from around Ohio. I forged relationships with people who I have since bounced ideas off of, collaborated with in lesson/activity development, and even presented with at a conference where I shared how I manipulated the activities from this resource to become inquiry and project focused. Project WILD has the capacity to grow and become even more impactful for Ohio communities if they were given additional funds to increase staff, provide further opportunities for professional development, and expand grant access.

Project WILD's work represents multiple professionals within not only the fields of natural resource management, but also education from creative individuals across the country. It demonstrates an authentic and effective collaboration between scientists and the people who are trying to inspire and elicit curiosity in students across the state. I can assure you that the additional funds you put towards this program will be thoughtfully and creatively spent. I feel as though past and progressive performance is often an honest indicator of future potential. I can, without hesitation, request that you please consider awarding additional funds for Project WILD. This would make an excellent addition to our already energetic and passionate group of people in Ohio who care deeply about the learning opportunities of our students. If you have any questions regarding Project WILD and the experiences I have had, please contact me at jessica_timmons@olsd.us or (740)-657-5100. Thank you very much for your valuable time.

Jessica Price Timmons
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