“The Mad Scientist” Really!!!
EIC

Using the Environment as an Integrating Context to Learning
What could we teach?
Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Thinking and Problem Solving, Basic Life Skills
Anyplace Mr. Nicklay and Mr. Starkovich, my principals, would allow me to build, use, annex, or travel to.

1. Bird Hill School Forest
2. Penny’s Greenhouse
3. Wm. Kelley School Garden
4. The Berry Patches
5. The Apple and Plum Orchard
6. Composting Area
7. Growing Centers
8. Terraced Gardens
9. Outdoor Brick Oven
10. Costa Rica
From the observation deck, the shallow pond is 150 feet below your feet. Notice the X-country trail in the background.
A 20X20 Foot Open-air Classroom

Holds about 50 students on the white pine benches
Foraging for berries, cherries, and nuts is usually a fruitful adventure

Who can pass up a plump, purple juneberry?
To create optimum growing conditions within the greenhouse the school installed an electric heater, paid for by a S.H.I.P. grant.

Penny’s Greenhouse
Wm. Kelley School Garden
5th graders planting the raised beds.
Students plant the garden
Bok Choy, a Chinese cabbage, is planted.
All the grades assist in the planting

Learning can be fun.
The Raspberry Patch

The dowels are a location device for the bare rooted raspberry plant.
Three Kinds of Raspberries
Queen Anne, Caroline, Royalty
Strawberry Patch

Kindergartners planting strawberry plants 2 years ago.
Lettuces in the Strawberry Patch
Maximizing production
Every student in the high school and elementary school took part in the planting of the 60 apple and plum trees.
Cafeteria waste is never wasted
When vegetables are served the dinner bell is rung.
Red Wiggler Worms

Eisenia fetida
Our Nurseries

S.H.I.P. Funds assisted in the purchase of this center.
My 5th graders over the last 15 years have purchased a grand total of 25 acres of land in 14 different locations around the world.
Trips to Costa Rica

Five trips in 10 years.
Our Terraced Gardens

My principal, Joe Nicklay, my Dad, and I built the 40 bed terraced garden this past summer.
It’s Pizza Time

My 5th graders along with Leah Botts 7th grade class processed 150 pounds of school garden tomatoes which eventually ended up on these artisan pizzas.
My Dad and I built this brick oven. It took us 3 months. Our school PTSO gave me $6000 to buy the materials.
Final Thought
My hardworking 5th grade class 2014