

Butterfly Garden

By Tamara Sasscer

20 8th grade math students planted a butterfly garden in the school courtyard. The students found the area of the courtyard and created scale drawings to indicate where to plant the plants. We were aiming to beautify the school grounds.

Meet a recognized community need: The project helped to raise moral in the students and staff of Southern Middle School and engender school and community pride in an effort to decrease vandalism and related behaviors.

Achieve curricular objectives: We incorporated area, perimeter, and scale drawings into the project.

Reflect through the service-learning experience: We discussed reasons why we should plant a butterfly garden. When it was finished, the students invited each class to a picnic in the improved courtyard.

Develop student responsibility: The students were responsible for deciding where to place the plants in the courtyard. They were also responsible for digging the holes, planting, and maintaining the courtyard.

Establish community partnerships: We established community partnerships with Chespax, who donated the plants, and we obtained shovels from Lowe's Home Improvement store.

Plan ahead for service-learning: The principal of Southern Middle School informed me of the school's beautification money. I planned the concepts that needed to be taught to prepare for the project.

Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service: As a class, we reviewed how to find area and perimeter and discussed scale drawings.