

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS RAINFOREST ART EXCHANGE

St. Mary School, Bethel



Grant Amount=\$1,025

Project Cost=\$1,025

PROJECT UPDATE



**23 Students Impacted
Grade 3**

PURPOSE: To create globally aware and morally courageous citizens, for which empathy and understanding of communities, culture environments and habitats are extremely important.

IMPACT: Students connected with a similar class in the heart of the Guatemalan Rainforest and partner classes both created and exchanged art. Students examined the art, gaining new insights into both their own and their partner's culture and participated in live videoconferences, sharing insights with one another. Given the rainforest location of the partnership, the dialogue focused on the vital connection between environment and culture. Students discovered the importance of farming, and found commonalities in the way we celebrate events such as birthdays, and religious holidays. The integrated curriculum has helped develop visually literate, knowledgeable students, that have a deep understanding of cultural identity, and art as a visual language. Students have become adventurers, exploring the rainforest creatures, and habitats of Guatemala and the Amazon and their way of thinking and seeing the world has been transformed.

FUTURE PLANS: The grant has not only provided this year's class with the experience of a lifetime, but has provided the materials to run this program successfully for the next few years.



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For more information on this 2018-2019 grant project or to find out how to support Innovation and Leadership projects in the Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools, contact Theresa Sciallo at (203) 416-1509 or tsciallo@foundationsineducation.org.