

Pilot Name: Sparking Innovation

School/District Name: Jonesport-Beals High School (Moosabec CSD), Jonesport Elementary School & Beals Elementary School (Union 103)

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Overview:

In order to spark innovation across all three schools in the Jonesport and Beals community, this initiative will support creative opportunities and innovative practices for students and teachers. At Jonesport, all students and staff in the district will have access to a new greenhouse which will foster creativity and learning through aquaponics and aquaculture. This greenhouse will also allow students to see their hard work in action as they learn about and grow food for the community and create new recipes within a refurbished kitchen. With an outdoor lab, students will also take part in a space dedicated to learning in ways not yet offered inside the four walls of a classroom, such as a native pollinator garden, raised beds, and fruit trees.

At Beals, a new learning lab with access to a multipurpose classroom will provide a much-needed creative and innovative space for students. This space will provide students and teachers with flexibility to help spark creativity and experiential learning as they continue to foster initiatives throughout the year with involvement in marine science activities with Downeast Institute and author visits each year. All students will also have the opportunity to explore a new walking path and outdoor learning trail around Beals Elementary School. This will be a space for students to observe nature, practice mindfulness, as well as support their physical health. This trail will be open to the schools and community for all to use.

In sparking innovation within the district, the students will inevitably benefit from real world, hands-on opportunities. Teachers and students will benefit from thinking and approaching education in new ways, thus providing the freedom and flexibility for students to take ownership in their own education. From this we spark new mindsets and prioritize the students and community as a whole.

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