Graduate Internship in Agriculture Education
AGED 539
Project Binder

Presented By: Christie Fuso
Joseph Kerr Middle School
Elk Grove Unified School District
Project Proposal
(to be completed in conjunction with AGED 539)

Quality Criteria Number Addressed: Facilities, Equipment & Materials (SA)

Goal or Purpose of the Project:
The purpose of the Project is to give students access to hands on learning. They also will learn the importance of where their foods come from and what it takes to produce it for themselves & others. They will also learn marketing.

Specific Objectives to Accomplish (Be as detailed as possible): 
- Develop skills in promoting the garden.
- The objective is to create a garden project from start to finish.
- The overall goal is to have a functioning garden that students can cultivate the school garden and produce CSA Boxes of produce for local in need families to take home.

Estimated number of hours on this project: ~500

Estimated expenditures ($) on this project (your costs): $1500 - $2000

Proposed timeline for completion of the project:
- September 1, 2015 - Dec 20, 2015 Phase 1
- Jan 1, 2016 - July 30, 2016 Phase 2

Progress Report: How will you inform the Cal Poly faculty of your progress on a regular basis?

I will inform Cal Poly by sending pictorial evidence with description that the project is in the process and progress is being made on the project. I will also update Cal Poly on contents their

For Office Use Only:

Project Approved By: [Signature]
Date of Approval: 1/20/16
Quarter student will enroll in AGED 539: Winter 2016
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Reflections on Quality Criteria Standards
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Section 1: Reflections on Quality Criteria

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Quality Criteria One

Curriculum and Instruction
Quality Criteria One: Curriculum and Instruction

At Joseph Kerr Middle School the staff and administration strive to have a quality curriculum and learning environment for all students. With the increase in the need for the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) the Elk Grove Unified School District has made it their goal to provide adequate training for teachers to properly educate their students. It is the goal of our principal to maintain the motto “Knights Show Effort, Respect, and Responsibility.”

The 7th and 8th grade Agriculture classes at Joseph Kerr Middle School accesses the curriculum by using the Holt Life Science for the seventh grade and Holt Science Physical Science for the eighth grade. To maintain the level of knowledge for the current CTE testing and for Next Generation Science the Agriculture teachers have been converting old lesson plans into NGSS common Core Lessons. One way of achieving success in our reviews and delivery of curriculum is by developing curriculum maps and course outlines for all of our courses: Ag Science 7 (Life Science), Ag Science 8 (Physical Science), and Ag Adventures a 7th grade elective course. This is beneficial in many ways. Having a curriculum outline is necessary, but having a curriculum map allows for effective planning of units of instruction and allows teachers to stay on pace, especially in courses like science where we collaborate with the other departments on campus. While some of our agriculture courses do not follow a core subject to be tested during the California Standardized Testing the 8th grade Physical Science does get tested.

Another item that the 7th and 8th grade teams have been working on other than changing lesson plans and instruction is by developing common assessments that can
be used to compare data across and drive future instruction within the classes. These common assessments had help students to be better able to understand what it is they are able to know and be able to do before they leave each class.

The sequence for classes at Joseph Kerr Middle School are similar in the fact that we do have a pathway that leads into the neighboring high school. As 7th graders students take the Ag Science 7 Life Science class that counts for their year of science in 7th grade. The content of the course is very similar to that of Agriculture Biology. The contents are as follows; characteristics of living things, Cells, photosynthesis, mitosis, meiosis, viruses and bacteria, genetics, evolution, physiology, ecology, and family life. In 7th grade teams we meet in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to develop common lessons, projects and assessments.

Then in their 8th grade year they will take AG Science 8 Physical Science class. This class also counts for their year of science. The content that is covered in this course is as follows; atoms, states of matters, measurement, density, physical and chemical properties, and elements and their properties. Much like the 7th grade team the 8th grade team meets to develop common lessons, projects, and assessments. Both classes have time to meet every other week for collaboration on Wednesdays from 2:45-3:30 to complete this collaborative time. Both the 7th and the 8th grade classes are allined to complete and participate in the Agriscience fair project as part of the curriculum.

The last class that Joseph Kerr Middle School has is an elective class. The class covers the basic understanding for animal husbandry for poultry, sheep, cattle ect. Students will also be able to partake in learning about how to start and maintain a
community and school garden. This class is mean to be hands on and students are only able to take it as a 7th grader.

We have strived in the department to offer our students an agriscience pathway to meet the needs of the feeder high school that is one of the most competitive in the state for agriscience fair. PLC meetings, department meetings, and NGSS Release days all help direct our curriculum and our instruction. In addition, the agriculture teachers have also played a role in helping re-align the school district’s articulation from 7th-12th grade agricultural requirements. These success and collaboration with the other departments on campus have led to a well-rounded instructional program for our students.
Quality Criteria Two

Leadership & Citizenship Development
Quality Criteria Two: Leadership and Citizenship Development

At Joseph Kerr Middle School there is not a chartered FFA chapter at our school. The middle school programs in Elk Grove used to have a charter when the middle school was seventh – ninth grade and Elk Grove High School was tenth – twelfth grade. In 1977 the programs were no longer offered at Joseph Kerr Middle School.

However, I am currently sitting a committee for Junior High schools to get chartered for membership. This year, at the State conference in April, the members will vote on if they want middle school programs to be involved in FFA membership if they are in an Agriculture class. In order for the membership to be considered it will have the following constitutional amendments will be considered:

In article II, section A. it states, “Organized classes in the study of agricultural sciences and technology.” In current programs we have some clarity on what a program of study is and the minimum requirements for approved agriculture education programs in our high schools. What does this term mean in a Middle School or Jr. High School?

In article II, Section H the constitution states, “The advisor of a local chapter must hold a credential authorizing them to teach agriculture career technical education and currently teaching agricultural career technical education at that school.”

In article II, section I the constitution states, “For the purpose of this constitution, chapters of the California Association of FFA shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural career technical education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education.”

If these pass at the state conference in April then membership will be open for middle schools to submit a charter for membership or to be a part of a high school program for articulation for 7-12 grade.
Currently there is no Program of Work that is produced annually by students because there is no program at the middle school level only classes that they get their 7th grade and 8th grade science credit for. They also do not have any part of their grade that goes towards leadership activities. Yet, there is a club that they can participate in called the "Kerr Aggies" that meets every Tuesday after school. This club is based on voluntary participation only and has about 40 members on any given Tuesday.

In the "Kerr Aggies" the students participate in going to some of the neighboring high school FFA meetings. They also will participate in learning about California Commodities, basic animal husbandry and what agriculture means to California. They also will learn parts of the Creed, BIG, Impromptu, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and Parli pro. All of these Speaking contests are skills that the students learn in the club and they participate in club competitions. From these skills many of our students will go on to participate in a number of these contests at the high school level.

Students this year at the 8th grade level got to participate during the school day with the neighboring high school to help present at the "3rd grade field day." This is a day that schools from all over the Elk grove area bring their 3rd graders to get information about Agriculture and about what opportunities are available once they get into high school. Due to the lack of an agriculture program Joseph Kerr Middle School has adapted to make sure that students get to participate in all aspects of the three ring circle model that it agricultural education, even though there is not chartered program at the school itself. However, the future looks bright to see what is in store for charters at the middle school level after the April State convention.
Quality Criteria Three

Practical Application of Agriculture Skills
Quality Criteria Three: 
Practical Application of Occupational Skills

At Joseph Kerr Middle school we pride ourselves on learning and students' ability to participate hands on applications in the classroom. Without having students participate in hands on applications of knowledge there will be less of an understanding of the agricultural world.

Joseph Kerr Middle School does not have an agricultural program so students are not required to do a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) for credit in their class. There are students in the classes at Kerr that show animals at the fair and participate in summer gardens with their parents. However, that is less than five percent of the student populations. The projects do get visited by the teachers.

In April the FFA members will be voting on whether or not they was to allow membership to middle school students. If this passes then the SAE portion of their grade to start will be of the exploratory type. They will be able to have plans for an SAE and some will have SAE projects of their own. Only then will it be able to be required to make it part of their grade. Because there are no SAE projects the teachers have no projects to visit.

At the seventh grade level students do have the opportunity to participate in an elective class that is only for one term during the school year and they rotate to three other classes throughout the year. This class is brand new this year, and they are participating in developing a school and community garden. In this case the class SAE is part of their curriculum and grade to participate in the garden activities. There is a strip of land that is behind the science wing and in the past teachers have used it as a garden for the Special Education classes. However, the garden has never been
maintained and has been an eye sore for the school and community. This past year students from the elective class have been some of the first to bring back the garden project. This project has brought back the SAE and hands on portion to working outside for this elective class.

Outside of the elective class, the Ag Science 7th (Life Science) and the Ag Science 8th (Physical Science) classes focus on hands on learning. In the Ag Science 7th class students get to do hands on learning when it comes to doing labs in our community lab classroom. Students get to complete a lab every day on Wednesday's in both the 7th and 8th grade classes. Some of these labs include dissections (flower and fetal pig). Other labs include cheese and root beer making and much more. Students also get to participate in the 7th grade class to see how the incubation process works for chicken eggs. This lab allows students so see and compare how chicken embryos look similar to human ones at the beginning stages of life as they study evolution.

If is very important to our classes that students gain occupational skills and get hands on experience in all of our classes, especially in our science classes. The students need life skills and that is what our teachers strive to deliver. We hope to continue and strengthen this even more in each of our classes to give students those hands on experiences.
Quality Criteria Four

Qualified & Professional Personnel
Quality Criteria Four: Qualified and Professional Personnel

At Joseph Kerr Middle School there are two agriculture teachers. One of the teachers teaches 8th grade for five sections of a six period day and the other teacher teaches five sections of 7th grade and one section of a 7th grade elective class. Therefore, both of the teachers teach full time in their positions one with and overload schedule.

Both of the teachers hold the proper California Agriculture Single Subject Credential with a Clear Specialist credential. The 8th grade teacher attended Oklahoma State Undergraduate degree and the attended Chico state University for his teaching credential courses and student teaching. He was hired as a intern at Liberty Ranch High school and taught there for two more years where he finished his BTZA Program. He then came to Joseph Kerr Middle School this year as an addition to the agriculture classes. The other teacher attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for her undergrad and credential. She then student taught at Hilmar High School followed by a long term Substitute position for Atwater FFA. From there she did her first year teaching at Central Valley High School where she completed her first year of BTZA then transferred to Joseph Kerr Middle school to finish the BTZA program to clear her credential.

The two teachers have regular meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesday after school to collaborate about curriculum and regular club practices. On Tuesday's after school the two teachers participate in putting on a club called the "Kerr Aggies." The teachers meet after the club meeting to collaborate for the next club meeting to plan activities. The Wednesday meetings are meetings that the other science teachers meet together after school. These meetings include collaborative time to discuss lessons,
common assessments, and unit planning. Other times the meetings focus science
departmental topics that are passed down from administration. During these meetings I
take detailed minutes. After the meetings I send the minutes to the other teachers and
the Principal. This keeps us all accountable and reminds us of what needs to get done.

At Joseph Kerr Middle School both agriculture teachers are very involved in the
California Agriculture Teachers Association (CATA). Both teachers regularly attend all
sectional and regional meetings and the annual summer conference. During the
summer CATA conference we all register and attend the AgriSkills sessions to enhance
our knowledge and skills. In addition to attending CATA meetings, we all attend different
trainings throughout district and county. Money for these events are paid out of site
allocated CTE money for substitutes and conference fees.

I have attended the annual CATA Conference since I began my teaching career.
I have attended the New Professionals conference for the past two years. I have
attended many professional development sessions on Common Core and Next
Generation Science Standards. Our school also has active Professional Learning
Communities (PLCs). We meet once a week for an hour in our PLC groups. This allows
us to collaborate on intervention strategies, share common labs and practices, analyze
data, and much more.
Quality Criteria Five

Facilities, Equipment & Materials
Quality Criteria Five:
Facilities, Equipment and Materials

At Joseph Kerr Middle School there is very few pieces of equipment and facilities for the students to access that are outside the classroom. The reason for this is that it is a middle school program that receives a fraction of the funding for the classes and there is a lack of available space on campus in the middle of town.

The school does not have any agriculture mechanics shops or school farm like the traditional High School setting. However, with two agriculture teachers and the other four regular science teachers we share a common classroom to be used as a laboratory. This room houses the following community items within the science and agriculture departments; microscopes, dissecting scopes, lab chemicals, glassware, and much more. The teachers share a calendar in the lab where they sign up for times to use the lab so that everyone knows when it is available and when it is not. There are also two other storage rooms that have classroom materials and other lab materials in them. It is also where the department printer is for all the science and agriculture teachers. There is a decent amount of storage in the lab and in the storage rooms however there could be more so that the lab materials are more easily accessible.

When laboratory equipment needs to be fixed, for example microscopes, the department gets together once a quarter and go through all of them to see if they need to be repaired. We do the same with all of the other laboratory equipment as we. If lab equipment needs to be fixed I mark all of the damages and make an inventory. I then submit that to our principal and department head. From there our principal uses site funding to hire a specialist that we have used in the past to repair the equipment.
Aside from the common lab and two storage rooms, there is a strip of land that is roughly 25 x 100 feet in area. The land is fenced in and has a locking gate on it at one end. This land in the past has been used for storage and there was several attempts to produce a garden in that area. However, in the last five years the land has sat vacant and had been an eye sore to the school since it backs up to a beautiful park area. This strip of land also has a 10x10 shed with a locking door for storage that is in very good condition. The extent of the senior project will be focusing in the rehabilitation an improvement for the program in this area to create a community garden for students to participate in a classroom based SAE.

This year is my second year at Joseph Kerr Middle School. One detail that I have learned in the past year working with the department is that the laboratory materials and the storage rooms and the garden area have been very poorly maintained. There is too much lab equipment that is old and need to be recycled because it is no longer of use to the department. There has also been very little effort to have organization within the common areas of the department. For these, reasons I see that this is a major area that needs improvement at our school site. In addition to cleaning up the garden this year I will tackle the task of organizing the materials so that they are better accessible to all teachers in the department. In addition, the organization of the classroom will lead to a safer environment for the students as well.

The agriculture department has e-mail capabilities and can communicate with one another regularly as we are all located in the same wing of the school and we all have the same lunch period which is helpful for collaboration.
Quality Criteria Six

Community, Business and Industry Involvement
Quality Criteria Six
Community, Business and Industry Involvement

At Joseph Kerr Middle School there is no Advisory Committee. The reason that there is no Advisory committee is because our school has not had a charter for membership or to be a program since 1977 when the middle school had grades 7-9 and the high school was 10-12. However, the community is very involved in the education of the students and believe that their involvement in agriculture classes is valuable as they move on to the high school level.

In the future, this April it will be voted on by the members of the FFA to allow middle schools to have membership within the FFA. Then we will be officially partnered with Elk grove FFA our neighboring high school. We will then be governed under their Advisory Committee which is very rich in industry and business involvement.

Elk Grove FFA’s Advisory committee is strong and believe in what the students are doing. At their first meeting every year before they meet they help to do a practice round of judging for these students agriscience projects are going to the national contest. This is just one example of how the members of the Advisory committee and community members really value what the program is doing with the students. Elk grove FFA’s Advisory committee meet all of the criterion that is provided in the FFA Incentive Grant Checklist. It will be telling to see if the members vote in the middle school students as members how our classes and become part of the Elk Grove program to make both schools stronger and more desirable for all students.

Overall, Joseph Kerr Middle School strive to continue in building community relationships and ties to help support the achievement of our students through the middle school opportunities that are provided.
Quality Criteria Seven

Career Guidance
Quality Criteria Seven
Career Guidance

In Elk Grove Unified School District, there are nine different high schools. Of these high schools there are four of them with agriculture programs. At the middle school, teachers and counselors do their best to make sure that students are well informed about the opportunities that students have in the district for all programs.

At Joseph Kerr Middle School we are very fortunate to have a team of counselors that support agriculture. They not only support agriculture at the site level but for student's futures as well. Currently at Kerr there is only one pathway in agriculture that students can take and that is Agriscience. This pathway is seventh grade Ag Science followed by eight grade Ag Science. As seventh graders there is also a quarterly class that students can take for exploration of agriculture.

Even though students only have one pathway at the middle school, we educate them about the four different agriculture programs in the district and what opportunities that they will have at each school. We are able to give students the opportunity to go to different high schools because Elk Grove Unified is an open enrollment district. Our counselors are a great resource for the agriculture teachers to help educate the students on the opportunities. Working together we are able to make sure that students receive the best fit for them.

In the classroom, both seventh and eighth grade agriculture teachers educate students on careers and opportunities in agriculture. As an extension of the classroom we do more with the students to really narrow interest in our Aggies Club. This is where we can really educated students on their opportunities in agriculture through hands on experiences. Additionally, in the courses we let students look at the Ag Careers
network. This lets them do their own research about careers in agriculture that they may not have known about.

All students at Kerr fill out a Student Data Sheet. The purpose of the data sheet is not used for the R-2 because middle school students are not seen as members. Kerr uses the data sheet to gauge student interest in high school course pathways. This information is calculated and then passed on to the neighboring high schools to use. These data sheets are repeated annually to keep records on students and their interest.

At Joseph Kerr Middle School we have made beginning steps to articulate classes with the high school closest to our school. There is currently no articulation of classes between any middle school and the high school programs. In the 2016-2017 school year Elk Grove High School and Joseph Kerr Middle School will be making strides to articulate the agriculture science pathway. This will be the only 7-12th grade articulated program in California.
Quality Criteria Eight

Program Promotion
Quality Criteria Eight
Program Promotion

At Joseph Kerr Middle School does not have an agriculture program. The reason for this is because we are not bound by the agriculture incentive grant. To date middle school students are not members of the FFA which makes us not a program. However, we do have eleven courses that are taught by two credentialed agriculture teachers. In addition, Kerr is an open enrollment school which makes recruitment necessary for our school.

This year Joseph Kerr Middle School made several activities with Elk Grove FFA. Within the Kerr Aggies after school club students have been able to attend FFA meetings, participate in a leadership day conference, and visit the school farm. Our eight grade students have also shadowed an FFA officer at a meeting to see what it is like to be a leader in the FFA. These activities are entirely free to students as well as transportation. However, some activities are limited to students due to space and limited funding.

Kerr agriculture this year created a T-Shirt for students to purchase to also promote the program. Students really enjoy showing off their school pride and they are proud of being in agriculture. The t-shirts themselves have gained interest of other students to join agriculture.

Another advantage that Kerr has is that it is an open enrollment school. Any Student that lives within the Elk Grove Unified School District can come to Kerr if they choose. This year currently there are 947 students on campus. This number has been growing every year since the open enrollment period. With the great advantage of being
an open enrollment school, recruitment is a necessary part of getting students to come to Kerr.

One way that the agriculture classes promote to Kerr is through Elementary school Outreach. There is a week during the year in March that the school counselors go to each of the elementary schools in the district to talk to them about Kerr. During this week the agriculture teachers will attend these days and talk to students about what is offered in the agriculture classes. This is an opportunity to get students excited about what they can expect in the classroom and they get to meet the teachers. This tool has been large part of the success in increasing enrollment of agriculture students. The second way that the agriculture program recruits students is to have and incoming 7th graders night. This is a night that the students and parents that are interested in attending Kerr can come to the campus and hear from the teachers. At this event the agriculture teachers are able to meet families, answer questions, and show some of the things that we do in class.

Another way that Kerr recruits students is through the articulation with Elk Grove High School. Any student can come to the FFA meetings at Elk Grove High School. This is a new recruitment tool that has been used to get students interested in agriculture not only at the middle school level but the high school level as well. The students this year have gained so much more knowledge about the FFA and are more excited for future in the program.

At Kerr there is a “Kerr Aggies Club.” This club takes place every Tuesday after school. It is open to all students on campus, even if they are not in an agriculture class. During the club the students get to experience fun hands on activities that they would
not get to see in class. It is a fun after school activity that has helped to gain students outside of the agriculture classes.
Quality Criteria Nine

Program Accountability & Planning
Quality Criteria Nine
Program Accountability & Planning

In Elk Grove Unified School District there are four Agriculture programs in the district. All of them have a Comprehensive Program Plan on file with the regional supervisor. Kerr does not have a program plan because we are not seen as a program in the eyes of CATA. Therefore, we do not adhere to all of the same agriculture incentive grant pieces that high school programs do.

Kerr does however have a “wish list” or a 5-year acquisition plan for what equipment we would like to acquire for our school and community garden. In the future, if middle school students are granted FFA membership, our membership will be joined with Elk Grove High School which is the neighboring school. We do not have the following pieces of a program plan: Chart of responsibilities, FFA Program of Work, Advisory Committee Roster and Advisory Committee Minutes.

Currently at Joseph Kerr Middle School there is no follow up program that gathers information for the agriculture classes. However, both agriculture teachers pose all students with a survey of student interests in agriculture. This is a simple online survey that students take that generates information about their favorite labs that they have done, to what pathways they would be interested in at the high school level. The retention of students has been outstanding in the last 3 years. The classes have gone from five agriculture classes to eleven this year, to sixteen courses for the 2016-2017 school years.

Being that Kerr is a middle school there is no graduate follow up data that is collected and entered online. Our school does not have an R-2 Roster.
At the end of every year, the agriculture teachers meet with the counseling staff to see the amount of students interested in taking agriculture from seventh grade year to eighth grade year. As of this school year (2015-2016) to (2016-2017) the projection of students moving on to the eighth grade course is 87 percent retention rate. The counselors help to generate these reports.

Being that Kerr does not have an agriculture program there is no AIG Expenditure Report that has to be sent to the Regional Supervisor.
Quality Criteria Ten

Student-Teacher Ratio
Quality Criteria Ten
Student-Teacher Ratio

Unfortunately, this is an area of much needed improvement for our program. However, I do not see this as something that we can overcome any time soon. All classes at Joseph Kerr Middle School have a maximum of 36 students per teacher regardless of the subject. The portable classrooms on our campus are really only fit for 32 students comfortably.

Joseph Kerr Middle school does not have a shop class but there is a woodshop on campus. That class exceeds the 20-1 ratio that is required for safety and materials. Especially with the wood shop being as old as it is. We have made strong recommendation to administration and counseling to consider lowering the class size in the shop. It is simply an unsafe situation for the teacher and students.

Our Ag Adventures class which is an elective class is my largest class at 37-1. There are several activities that these students participate in. Largely these students work in the school garden. In the garden there is not enough room for that many students. However, this will not be changed soon because the ag adventures class is a quarterly wheel class that rotates. The counselors need to fit these students into the schedule and limiting my class would not work with the wheel system.

There are not many elective classes that are hands-on and career oriented in our school. Therefore this makes some of our agriculture classes more desirable to students and they are requested regularly. This has greatly helped with students wanting to switch into agriculture mid-year.

Having the larger class sizes that has several hands on materials is an issue when it comes to funding. Especially at the middle school level where we do not receive
Perkins grant money. It is difficult to supply all students with materials without needing to charge a lab fee. I have worked on getting funding for the Ag Adventures class this year. Currently, to date I have received $800 dollars for the school garden from outside sources.

At Joseph Kerr Middle School the student to teacher ratio, while not in compliance with this criteria standard, is still providing academic achievement. The administration and counselors work very hard for our students. They understand the issues that face working with several kids in one class. However, they are bound by certain guidelines as well but they do their best to help us reach at least closer to compliance.
Quality Criteria Eleven

Full Year Employment
Quality Criteria Eleven
Full Year Employment

At Joseph Kerr Middle School there are two full time agriculture teachers, Both me and my teaching partner have a Clear Sing Subject Teaching Credential in agriculture. As well as a Clear Specialist Credential in Agriculture.

Currently at Kerr there are eleven agriculture courses that are being taught. At the seventh grade level there are five sections of Ag Science seventh grade and one elective Ag Adventures class. For the eighth grade, there are five sections of Ag Science eighth grade. From those eleven sections there are roughly 400 students between two teachers. Because we are not a high school program, we do not adhere to the 75 students to teacher with 2000 dollar compensation. Nor do we have summer contracts to meet those standards.

In addition to not having to adhere to the student to teacher ratio, we also do not have a project supervision period. Being the nature of the middle school there are no SAE projects or Leadership CDE events. Therefore, there is no reason for us to have a project supervision period at the school. In fact, I currently do not even have a preparation period because of so many students interested in taking agriculture.

Kerr agriculture teachers are not required to assist with any type of CDE or SAE event but we do anyways. My teaching partner and I are often at the school farm associated with the neighboring high school, helping local 4-H groups, judging speaking contests, and even coaching teams for the high school. The expectation of excellence in agriculture within our middle school and the high school is so strong within the community. There is a great connection that we have made between schools to make
sure that the tradition continues and that students' feel valued for their efforts and experiences in the FFA Program.
Quality Criteria Twelve

Program Achievement
Quality Criteria Twelve
Program Achievement

Within Joseph Kerr Middle School there are many aspects of our school and classroom education of students that would coincide greatly with an FFA program. Because we are not considered a program, we do not meet all aspects of the Quality Criteria 12 checklist. Additionally, this makes us limited in the pieces that make certain programs excel.

Despite the fact that we are not a program we excel in several aspects of agriculture with in the school, district, and community. For example, all of our students participate in the Agriscience fair program. All 400 students will come up with a project and duplicate what done at the high school level. We are so proud of what these students are able to accomplish. This year the students competed at the local science fair with all of the projects in their perspective categories to showcase their projects. From there we took the top seven projects to the district science fair completion for the first time ever this year. One of the students projects this year won second place over all in the middle school division and the other six received honorable mentions. These projects take time and dedication from the students and they are so proud of what they have accomplished at the end.

Another way that our classes have success is through the “Kerr Aggies Club.” This club is dedicated to extra hands on learning that cannot be done inside the classroom. Ever Tuesday these students meet to learn more about the FFA and production agriculture. This year the program is bigger than ever with an average of 35-40 students at any given meeting. The students also decided that they wanted to
promote the club even more by getting their own t-shirts. They are proud of them as they wear them every Tuesday on campus.

More ways that students have success at our school is they compete in a small Opening and Closing Ceremonies speaking competition. This is mostly voluntary. However, we gained interest this year from students winning their prospective positions in the contest. Students got to work as a team and learn and use public speaking skills in a friendly competitive way. The winning team also presented the opening and closing ceremonies at the staff meeting in front of all the school staff and administration.

Kerr students also added a new piece of agriculture to their campus and that was the school garden. There was a piece of land behind the agriculture science wing and students had an interest to do something with that area. Shortly after we were cleaning out the area and fabricating raised garden beds to plant vegetables. Students cleaned, fabricated raised beds, filled them with soil, planted seeds, fertilized and watered the garden into what it is today. Because of their hard work they have received two different grants totally $800 dollars to help support the growth of the garden Those students could not be more proud of being able to sell their products and give back to those families in need on our campus.

Even though we are not considered an agriculture program, Joseph Kerr Middle School has so much to be proud of as far as an agriculture program in concerned. The students work hard and are dedicated to their school and their education. They are very proud to be a model program in the State of California and they look forward to the day that they will become FFA members.