

Education

Common Ground Receives Grant to Create Exhibits

Common Ground High School in New Haven recently received grants from The American Honda Foundation and the Toshiba America Foundation in support of Lessons on Land, a project through which students will create outdoor interpretive exhibits on the school's site.

"Our site is an amazing learning laboratory," said Oliver Barton, Common Ground's director. "These exhibits — on our farm, in the forests adjoining West Rock State Park, on the end of the city — will help make the lessons from our site available to a far larger audience, and let visitors learn at a much deeper level."

The exhibits, which will be developed over the next two school years, will

explore topics ranging from alternative energy, to plant breeding and genetic engineering, to biodiversity and succession in the New England forest, to nature journaling and illustration.

Staff from the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History will guide Common Ground High School during each stage of exhibit development. "This project gives us the opportunity to participate in a truly unique, multifaceted educational initiative," said David Heiser, head of education and outreach at Peabody. "These permanent outdoor exhibits will educate future students and the general public for years to come."


Nearly every student will play a role in


planning, researching, writing, designing and installing these exhibits. Groups of students in a course called Documenting New Haven have already begun to explore how history has shaped the land through a pilot version of the project.


Junior Carlos Catalan, wants to conduct a small archaeological dig as part of his research, exploring what is buried beneath several old foundations on the site. "I'm a little nervous about how big a project this become, but also excited," he said.


Common Ground High School is located at 358 Springside Avenue in New Haven. For more information, call 203-389-0823 or visit www.nhep.com. ♥


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 200 High St., Milford, CT 06460
 (203) 877-2786, x125 www.lauraltonhall.org

 Connecticut's oldest Catholic college preparatory school for young women in grades 9-12. The school offers a values-centered liberal arts curriculum designed to nurture mind, heart and spirit within a community of faith. Advanced placement/honors courses avail.


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 (203) 787-1584

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