

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 24, 2021

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#### **Grant helps fund outdoor classroom at Haller Middle School**

ARLINGTON- A new outdoor classroom at Haller Middle School is allowing students to take a mask break and interact with each other in a unique learning setting. Current Department of Health guidance allows students to remove facial coverings when they're outside.

Last year, Haller Science Teacher – Rachel Harrington – applied for and received a \$5,000 Ellison Foundation grant. The grant paid for a gazebo, shed and learning materials for the outdoor classroom. The district added a concrete pad and fencing to enclose the area.

“I think it’s important to branch outside the four walls of the classroom and allow students to experience a different learning environment where they can work on projects with their classmates,” said Harrington. “When we were learning virtually, it was very challenging for students to interact with each other. Socialization is such a big part of learning and this setting really allows for that.”

All classes at Haller can utilize the outdoor classroom and students seem to really enjoy the unique classroom.

“I wasn’t a huge fan of Zoom classes last year,” said sixth grader Logan Cardoso. “I really like this outdoor classroom. It’s a great way to talk with friends while working on projects.”

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Haller Middle School sixth graders work on a class project in the school's new outdoor classroom.