



WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES \$5,000 GRANT
Lowe's Donates Money For OUTDOOR LIVING AND LEARNING PROJECT

Veronica Haile, Dyslexia Interventionist, at West Side School District has received a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant for an OUTDOOR LEARNING AND LIVING PROJECT – A covered outdoor space for student learning experiences.

We are thrilled to announce that Lowe's has awarded West Side Elementary funding for the "Outdoor Learning and Living Project". Our grant application was based on the goal of improving the learning community and enriching the learning experiences of students at West Side Elementary. We look forward to sharing the Outdoor Learning & Living Project with the Greers Ferry community. This space will be utilized in environmental education, reading, horticulture, science experiments, and natural sciences. The teachers will be able to incorporate the space into their curriculum and come up with multiple ways to make use of this space. Also, it can be used with students in our afterschool program. This project is very important for the continued growth and continuous quality improvement of the school. We envision many activities and projects that can be developed using this outdoor learning space: observation of nature as it cycles through the seasons, studying birds and butterflies, outdoor reading & storytelling, and a place to monitor the growth of the plants in the Good Food Garden, picnics, art lessons, and many more.

We plan to turn the outdoor space beside our 5th & 6th grade educational wing into an inviting outdoor classroom. We already have an enclosed garden area and additional garden boxes in this area, and it is naturally shaded with a beautiful Pin Oak tree. We will be adding a carport and concrete slab to be our outdoor classroom. By adding these elements and providing a covered area for the students to work under, we will make this area more functional. We expect that this project will be completed by the end of the 2016-17 school year.

"Living in the beautiful Greers Ferry Lake Area provides our students with the opportunity to actively learn about nature and the conservation of natural resources. The entire teaching team of West Side Elementary is excited about the enrichment opportunities having an outdoor classroom will provide." We wish to thank our friends at Lowe's for generously supporting this important project," said Principal John Long.

All K-12 public schools in the United States are eligible for the Toolbox for Education program. More information is available at www.ToolboxforEducation.com