

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Helps Fund Gunnison Middle School Sign Project



In 2021, under the leadership of Renee Brekke-Ebbott and other middle and high school teachers, seventh grade students at Gunnison Middle School embarked upon an interpretive sign project along the Van Tuyl trail system. The students helped create an introductory weather-proof sign stationed at the Gunnison Community School pond and then developed five more of these educational signs positioned along the Van Tuyl trail to help the entire community have an enjoyable

learning experience about the watershed and ecology in the Gunnison River Basin.

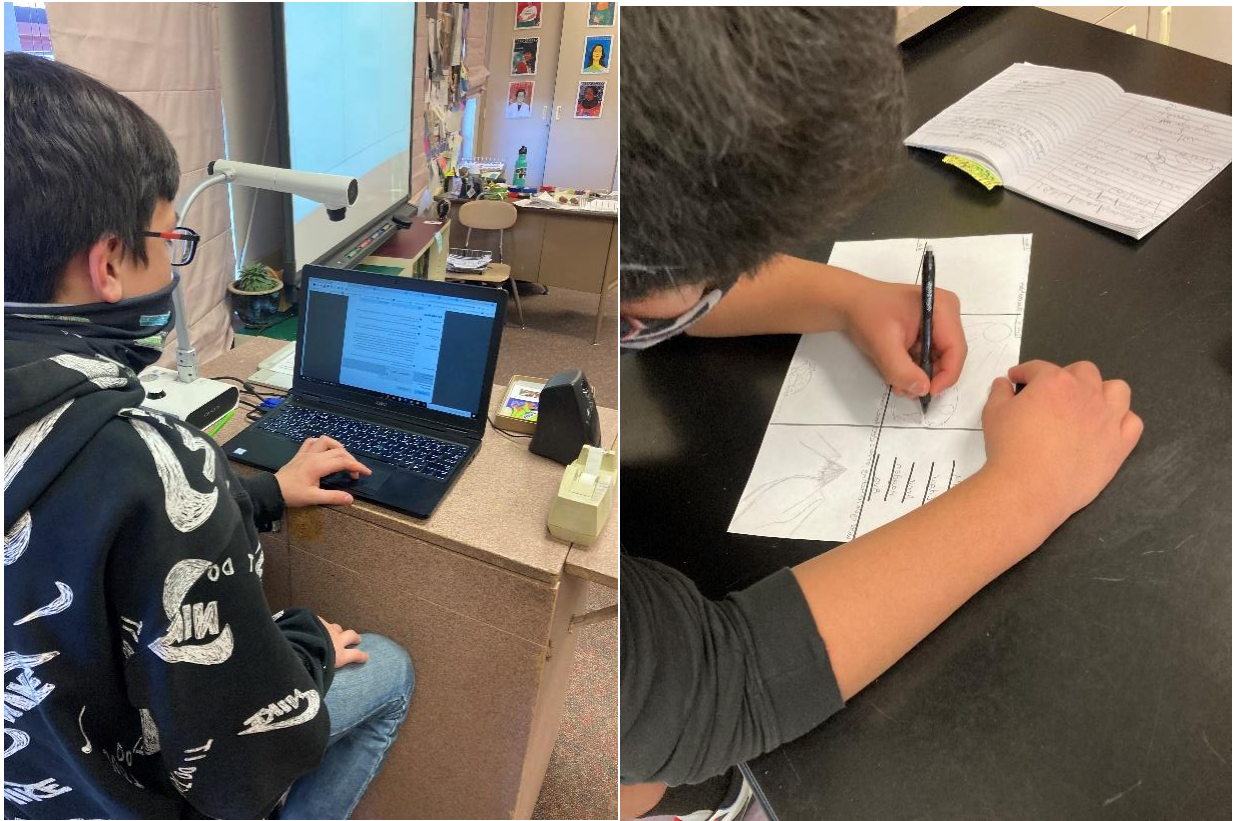
“Our goal was to encourage community members of all ages to enjoy the outdoors while also learning about the importance of water and how it is crucial in continuing the growth of our valley,” said Renee, the lead teacher for the project. Renee explained how the development of this interpretive sign walk also enhances the outdoor classroom space that surrounds the Gunnison Community School, while also being accessible to Lake School and Gunnison High School classes.

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) assisted with funding of the sign project through its “Mini-Grant Program,” a simplified grant application and review process that is available for private citizens, school or university faculty, home schools, preschools, watershed groups, art centers, or other resource organizations that have a message to share about water. The Mini-Grant program can provide up to \$300 annually per applicant to support projects designed to expand awareness of water-related issues in the District. To apply, or for additional information about the District’s Mini-Grant Program, please contact Sue Uerling at sue@ugrwcd.org or call her at (970)641-6065.

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Seventh grade student work on the design and concepts of the interpretive signs.



Students used science, art, literature, mathematics, geography and industrial arts in the creation of the signs.

Photos courtesy of Renee Brekke-Ebbott