

CROP - CREATING RURAL OPPORTUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

The Harvester

CROP — CULTIVATING THE MINDS OF TOMORROW

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

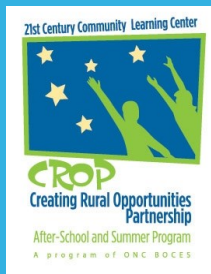
CROP Partner

Highlights:

- Catskill Mountain Foundation
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Hanford Mills Museum

Updates from all fourteen CROP sites

Needs Assessment Survey— Share Your Voice



Program Manager's Corner

This year, CROP programs at our fourteen schools are finding unique ways to support students and families during the pandemic.

CROP is again operating in-person afterschool programs at many sites while also offering Zoom clubs, homework support, send-home project kits, and evening family cooking events. CROP staff continue to find creative ways to support student learning and engage families.



This winter, we continued our site-based Advisory Meetings by Zoom. These meetings bring together school administrators, CROP staff, program managers, and parents to discuss issues at individual schools. Topics ranged from sustainability and student engagement to student mental health. Thanks to everyone who participated in these meetings.



We want to thank school administrators, staff, and CROP families for their ongoing resourcefulness and support of CROP during this unique time.



Carolyn Cooper
Prog. Manager



Chris DeCesare
Asst. Prog. Manager



Liz Forster
Data/Budget Coordinator

Thank you, Parents & Caregivers!

We appreciate your support

This year, your support of your school's CROP program is more important than ever. Thank you for supporting your child's participation in both virtual and in-person

CROP. Your child's CROP activity logs help us document participation hours in the program and shows support for the CROP grant in our schools.

Activity Name	How did you like the activity?	How often? (1-5)
Reading	Love it!	5
Art	Like it	4
Music	Love it!	5
Math	Like it	4
Science	Love it!	5
History	Like it	4
Physical Education	Love it!	5
Language Arts	Like it	4
Other	Love it!	5

Tell us what you think!

We are currently in the fourth year of our five-year grant cycle. Help us prepare to write the CROP grant this coming fall by completing our Needs Assessment Survey. Tell us why CROP is important to you and what you'd like to see in future years.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/YQUTaeaVX7Frw5Sd8> or ask your Site Coordinator to share.

CROP PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Catskill Mountain Foundation



This year CROP students were treated to two virtual puppet show performances from No Strings Marionette Company. Through Catskill Mountain Foundation, puppeteers Daniel Baginski and Barbara Paulson brought two tales to life through puppetry and live music. Students enjoyed *Treasure Hunt*, an adventure story featuring mermaids and sea creatures, and *The Snowmaiden*, a traditional Russian tale. After the performances, students went behind the scenes at their Vermont studio to see how the puppets were made and how the puppeteers bring stories to life. Thank you, Catskill Mountain Foundation for bringing the arts into students' homes and classrooms this year!



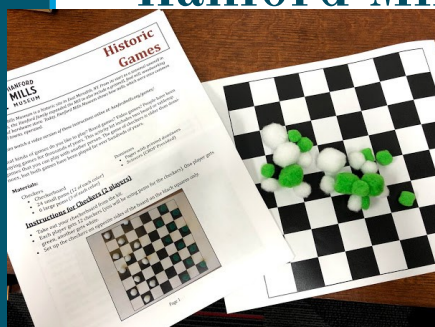
Cornell Cooperative Extension



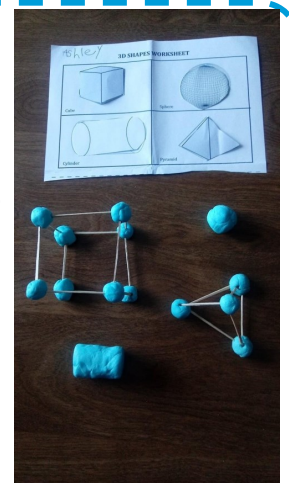
A long-time CROP partner, CCE is putting a new spin on their evening family cooking and nutrition programs this year, offering 30 Minute Meals for students and parents via Zoom. Families pick up ingredient kits for each week's recipe and log on in the evening for a 6-week series. Fun, interactive sessions include nutrition education, cooking tips, and food safety advice in the comfort of families' own home kitchens! Thank you, CCE, for adapting programming to meet families' needs this year.



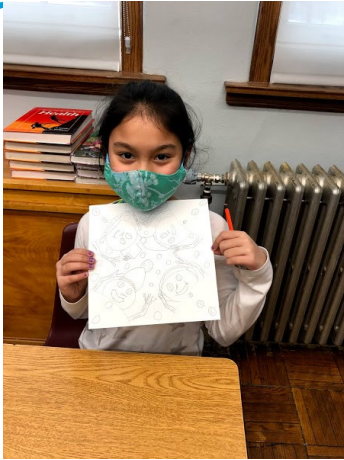
Hanford Mills Museum



HMM has sent many fun, hands-on kit activities to CROP students over the school year. From ice houses and historic games to seed starters, mapping and shape activities, HMM makes hands-on learning fun and interactive. Many students have also logged on from home or their CROP classroom to do kit activities with Luke Murphy, Hanford Mills Educator.

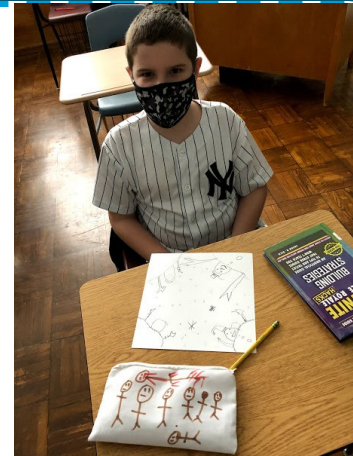


NEWS FROM OUR SITES, PAGES 3- 7



Andes

Andes students are back at in-person CROP Monday- Thursday each week. Students are enjoying Mindful Monday activities including yoga and breathing exercises designed to calm their minds and bodies and help them to focus on the present moment.



Roxbury

Roxbury CROP students enjoy hands-on tech projects. The student at left uses a 3D doodle pen to create a pair of glasses and the student at right shows off a project from her send-home Snowflake Kit.

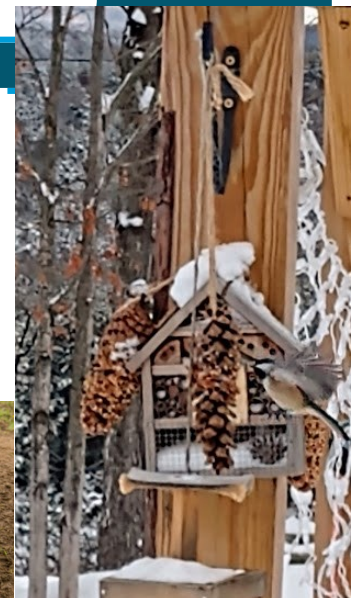
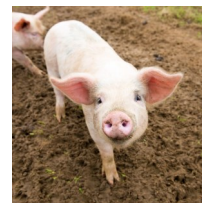


As the weather warms, students are getting back into the school garden to begin planting that will continue through summer and fall CROP.



Hunter-Tannersville

Hunter CROP students are enjoying virtual clubs such as Animal Talk, Sign Language, Craft Club, and more. The student at right makes a pinecone birdfeeder as part of Craft Club. Students in Animal Talk travel virtually to guidance counselor Jaime Churchill's farm to learn about behavior and care of animals such as pigs, goats, and tortoises. Students can also log on afterschool for virtual homework help from teachers.



Worcester

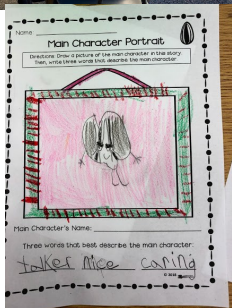
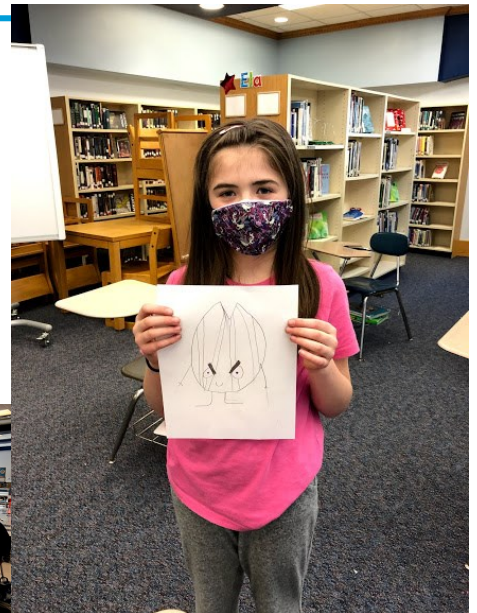


Worcester CROP found a way to engage students in service learning in their remote program this February. Students learned about the needs of seniors isolated in Fox Nursing Home during COVID. CROP Students created over 100 colorful cards and letters to be delivered to seniors. On February 10, Dawn Handy posted to WCS CROP Facebook: *Cards, pictures, and bookmarks all delivered! A card and goodies for the staff also delivered! Thank you to everyone who participated! WCS CROP will be making a lot of people feel very special! Thank you, Worcester CROP Students!*



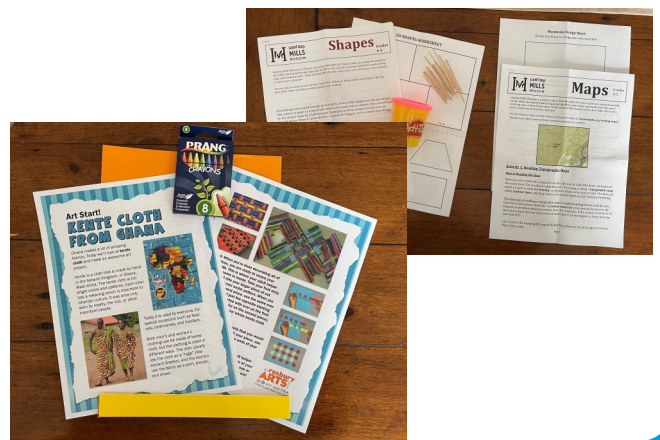
Morris

Morris CROP students are happy to be back in person 2 days/week! Students enjoy a wide variety of activities such as themed literacy activities, homework support, virtual field trips, STEM, and more. Students receive fun bi-weekly project kits for days they can't attend CROP in person. Thanks, CROP staff, for your creativity, flexibility, and dedication to students in this unusual year.



Windham-Ashland-Jewett

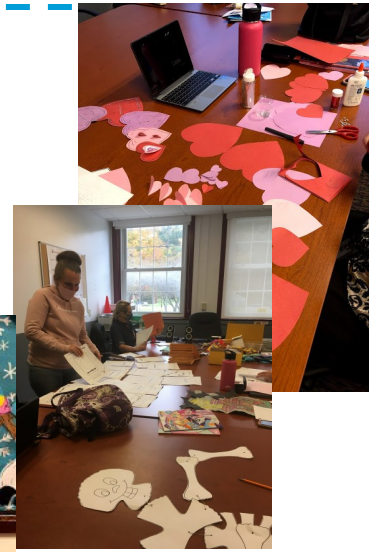
This winter, WAJ CROP students received colorful, interactive end-home project kits from CROP partners Hanford Mills, Roxbury Arts Group, and Schoharie County Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (SCCASA).



Charlotte Valley

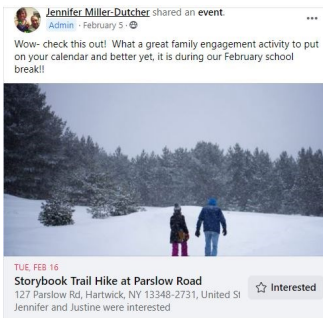


Charlotte Valley CROP staff have been hard at work all school year providing online homework support and creating themed send-home project kits with hands-on activities. CVCS CROP looks forward to re-opening a hybrid, in-person after spring break.



Milford

Milford students in the virtual CROP program receive project kits like the STEMsGiving Kit, Jolly Jolly Holidays Kit, New Year's Kit, and more featuring virtual contests and hands-on activities. CROP students also learn about virtual and outdoor events through a CROP google classroom page just for CROP students and their families.



Laurens

Laurens CROP students attend in-person two days/week and receive science project kits for days they can't be at school. Thanks, Laurens CROP staff for your energy and creativity!



Gilboa-Conesville

In addition to online homework help, CROP students at Gilboa love project kits with projects like make-your-own board game, fake snow science experiment, and Lunar New Year math facts.

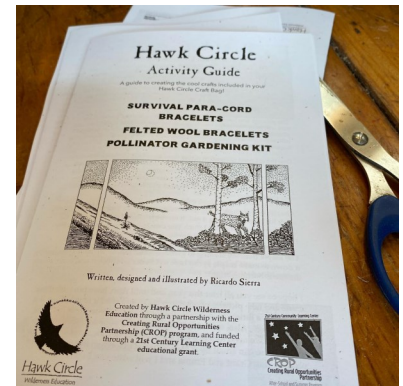


South Kortright



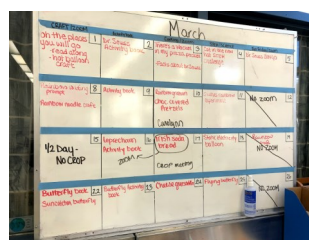
South Kortright CROP staff and students are eager to return to in-person CROP in mid-April.

Over the school year, South Kortright CROP participated in virtual field trips such as The Snowmaiden and Treasure Hunt puppet shows and sent home kits from partners such as the pollinator gardening and felted bracelet kits from Hawk Circle Wilderness Education.



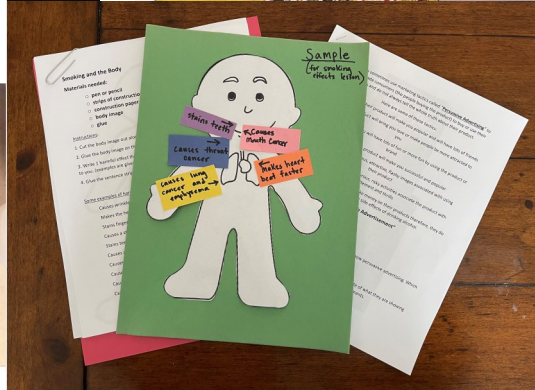
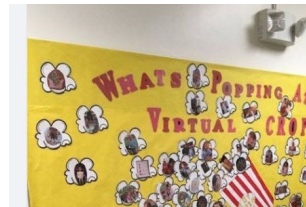
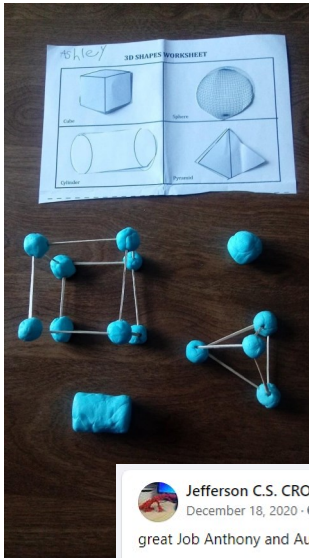
Margaretville

Margaretville staff are keeping student connections strong with an engaging virtual CROP program. Students take home kit materials and log on with their Activity Leaders on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for themed reading, cooking, science, and craft projects.



Jefferson

Jefferson CROP students tune into CROP TV for unboxing videos of their project kits, homework help, and more. All Jefferson K-8 students have the opportunity receive send-home kits from CROP with projects like birdseed ornament math, string art, a CROP's Got Talent Video Project, wind chimes, suncatchers, and more. Students find their work displayed at school on the virtual CROP bulletin board. Keep up the creativity and energy, Jefferson CROP!



Stamford

CROP students at Stamford log on daily for extra help with their academic work from 3-5pm. In addition to sending home project kits, Stamford CROP has seized the opportunity to prevent COVID learning loss by providing online homework support with Activity Leaders and math tutoring with teacher Mr. Mattsson after school. Thanks, Stamford CROP for taking advantage of a unique year to support students!



Evidence of CROP Program Success

One of the requirements of our grant is that we receive an evaluation from an external evaluator each year. Bluepoint Consulting performs 56 site visits each year and analyzes surveys, attendance data, and other outcome data for this report. Our 2019-2020 report from Bluepoint Consulting concluded:

The CROP Programs offer a large variety of engaging lessons and activities that help students increase academic achievement and develop skills of social and personal responsibility while improving emotional well-being. Students report satisfaction with CROP programming as 87% reported finding CROP activities interesting while over 90% tried at least two new things during the year. Parents also felt CROP was beneficial to their students as 95% reported they felt that CROP helped their students do better in school and 94% saw an improvement in their students' grades. CROP participants also saw an increase in grades between the first and fourth quarter as 60% of students that needed to improve in English Language Arts did improve by the 4th quarter, and 57% of students that needed to improve in math improved their math grades. The Evaluation Team of Bluepoint Consulting concludes with certainty that CROP programming is having a discernible and measurable positive impact on the academic and social performance of CROP participants.

21st Century Community Learning Center



CROP
Creating Rural Opportunities
Partnership
After-School and Summer Program



CONTACT US:

Carolyn Cooper, Program Manager
Chris DeCesare, Asst. Program Manager
1914 County Rte. 35, Milford, NY 13807
607-286-7715 ext. 2610
ccooper@oncbores.org
cdecasare@oncbores.org

Follow us on Twitter!
@CROPAfterSchool

