

December 18, 2023

Dear Board Members of the Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County,

What a privilege it is to be able to teach students in Edgefield County. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to better serve my students by supporting my classroom with a variety of materials students can use to create models of phenomena and systems in 8th grade science. One of the science and engineering practices most commonly used in 8th grade science is to construct and use models to explain science concepts. The creation station you funded for my classroom provides students with a central location where they can find the supplies needed to create models, practice concepts, and be creative, all of which support learning in science as well as other academic areas.

When students have the opportunity to create their own models to show their learning they are more engaged. Creation of models supports student creativity, promotes student mastery of a concept because modeling a concept requires you to first learn about the concept, and it generates curiosity which promotes self-led student learning. My students used the materials in the creation station not only for science class but also to support their learning in other classes such as ELA.

The resources have been used to support students as they designed solutions to lessen the impact of two colliding objects, create anchor charts for visual reference in the classroom, and model scale properties of objects in the solar system. The materials have supported students in making posters for assignments in our social-emotional learning activities as well. These materials will continue to support my students in many ways as they continue to learn new and wonderful things.

With Much Appreciation,

April Tomkinson

J-E-T Middle School, 8th grade science







