

## ***Sample School Story Projects Design***

**TO:** [REDACTED]  
**c.** [REDACTED]  
**FROM:** Jerry Huntley, [REDACTED]  
**DATE:** August 28, 2021  
**RE:** Proposal for Keene Central School 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Story Projects

During Spring 2021 the Story Team was pleased to develop and record stories from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Keene Central School. Jerry Huntley generated a podcast posted on the *Adirondack Community* website at [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org). Although a few families would not agree to allow release of their students' stories, the learning exercise was valuable to every student and the resulting recordings and podcast were appreciated by students, parents, and teachers.

Thanks to this initial success we'd like to collaborate annually with the KCS team in producing another 8<sup>th</sup> grade project, as well as initiating a 12<sup>th</sup> grade story project, as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have supported. Shown below, this memo lays out ideas for implementation, starting with the 2021-22 school year.

### ***Project Description***

Each 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grader will learn about storytelling and the *Adirondack Community* story project, then create and record a one-to three-minute (8<sup>th</sup> graders) or three- to five-minute (12<sup>th</sup> graders) story, and have stories posted on [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)

### ***Learning Objectives***

1. Recognize the importance of storytelling
2. Learn how to construct a compelling story and be able to create an outline for one
3. Gain communication skills that will be useful in college, career, and any communications, including essay organization, sequential thinking, and presentation skills
4. Develop ability in the context of sharing not only experiences, but also ideas
5. Learn about their Town of Keene neighbors and history by listening to stories on [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)
6. Demonstrate the skills needed to tell an audio story by having their stories recorded
7. Learn from the experiences of classmates and neighbors, as told in their stories

### ***Guidelines***

1. Each student would be required to participate
2. Each child's family will decide whether their story is published, by completing the consent form on a timely basis (attached)
3. Teachers will decide whether each student's participation is graded (preferable)

### ***Responsibilities***

Teachers/ [REDACTED]

1. Organize the project and timeline, keeping others with responsibilities informed
2. Help draft the introductory letter, parent consent form, and student form, then distribute and collect, as relevant.
3. After the initial introductory lessons by [REDACTED] and Jerry Huntley or [REDACTED], work with students to prepare individual stories (review the document “Sample School Assignment” in the Teacher’s Guide at [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) for guidance). They should not write out their stories, just first line, last line, and a few bullets on things to remember as they talk (as on the attached form). For 12<sup>th</sup> graders, a good prompt might be a discussion of what they will prepare for college application essays, thinking about their life in Keene.

### *Students*

1. Listen to at least five stories or podcasts on [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) to understand what a story is
2. Return consent form, on time
3. Complete the form about themselves and their stories, on time
4. Create and practice individual stories a few times before recording

### *Library/[REDACTED]*

1. Provide a lesson on storytelling for 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, at times suggested by the teachers. This should include the importance of storytelling, elements of a compelling story, and examples

### *Adirondack Community/Jerry Huntley and [REDACTED]*

1. Work with the teachers on technology needs, scheduling, and organizing the projects
2. Provide a lesson for each grade, once a year, on the *Adirondack Community* story project and the role of students in storytelling
3. Work with the students to record the stories
4. Attend a class for each grade, once a year, to play the student’s stories for them and discuss the students’ experiences
5. Publish the stories, individually or as podcasts, as appropriate
6. Help draft the letter and forms

### *Questions*

1. Can we do this for 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the spring?
2. If so, what should the schedule be for 12<sup>th</sup> graders this fall?
3. An expansion of the project could include listening to selected stories and discussing them in class, writing about common themes in them, or other ideas. We can work with you on that as well. We can even suggest specific stories that might be interesting to 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
4. Do we need the school’s lawyer to look at the consent form? Both the consent form that was used last spring taken from boilerplate on the Internet and a second example, perhaps too detailed, are also attached.
5. Who should take the lead on updating the letter and forms?

6. Jery and [REDACTED] can take the 12<sup>th</sup> grade stories starting October. Jery can do the 12<sup>th</sup> grade lesson before October 15. Can we schedule these soon?

We are looking forward to long term collaboration with the school to develop a robust program of enrichment through the story program. We look forward to discussion in this proposal on September 7 with [REDACTED] and anyone else available, plus other input you would like to provide.

*Path Forward/Action Items*